

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 24, 1969

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

### QUESTIONS

#### GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Commonwealth member for Grey (Mr. D. S. Jessop), the Premier, and the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport (Mr. Sinclair) are publicly reported as having made statements about the standardization programme regarding the line from Port Pirie to Adelaide and the new line from Whyalla to Port Augusta, and the member for Grey is reported as follows:

Mr. Jessop said he understood that the Prime Minister (Mr. Gorton) and the Premier (Mr. Hall) had agreed that the question of standardizing the line between Adelaide and Port Pirie should be referred to consultants for an independent study, with limited terms of reference. "In accordance with this agreement, in March the Commonwealth Government submitted terms of reference to the State Government for consideration, together with a short list of consultants. The State Government has apparently decided that more than just the Adelaide to Port Pirie link should be considered at this time, which is quite contrary to the Premier's agreement with Mr. Gorton. While it is appreciated that small branch lines to serve certain country areas would have to be considered . . . it is difficult to understand that the State Government has not been able to agree to those terms of reference relating purely to the Adelaide to Port Pirie line."

The article continues:

As Chairman of the Government Members' Transport Committee, Mr. Jessop has received Ministerial assurance that the Commonwealth is doing everything possible to expedite a decision on the matter.

The Premier is reported as having denied that a report on the standardization project had been delayed by his Government. The article then states:

"The responsibility rests with the Commonwealth Government, and I understand that it is considering proposals before it," he said. The Minister for Shipping and Transport said that the disagreement on the terms of reference for a study of the Adelaide to Port Pirie railway standardization "should be resolved shortly".

What the people in South Australia would like to know is just what is the position. Will the Premier say whether the Government is agreeing that the Adelaide to Port Pirie

standardization project should be referred to a firm of consultants? If it is, why is it so agreeing? On my information, the South Australian Railways Commissioner has sufficient engineers and design staff to be able to discuss any of the details necessary to the Adelaide to Port Pirie standardization project and, in fact, proposals in detail on the time-tabling of standardization projects and the necessary phasing in of various standardization projects to ensure that Wallaroo, for instance, and the farmers were not put at a disadvantage by a standardization project to the north—

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not think the Leader can debate the question.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Well, Sir, I am simply pointing out that this was ready before the Premier took office, and I am interested to know why the Government should agree that the project should now be referred to a firm of consultants. Is it the case that the Government is agreeing to a firm of consultants but has not agreed with the Commonwealth Government on the terms of reference to go to the consultants? Is it the case that the State Government is unable to agree to the terms of reference suggested by the Commonwealth Parliament? If that is so, why are members of the Commonwealth Government suggesting that the fault in delay lies with the State Government? And what in all this is the position regarding the Port Augusta to Whyalla rail link? At the moment we want to know exactly what is the position in regard to action being taken on standardization projects to the north.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Leader has become rather tangled in asking his question, and I am tempted to ask him to put it in notice so that I may resolve the various points contained in his remarks. The Leader may not have been in the House last week when I replied to a question which referred to something Mr. Jessop had said and which was asked by a member from his side. Indeed, he may not have been in the House earlier this year when it was announced by the Government (I am quite sure in the House) that the Government had agreed to appoint a firm of consultants to investigate the connection of Adelaide with the standard gauge railway at or near Port Pirie, and other lines associated with that connection. If he has not received that information, I repeat that the Government has agreed to consultants being appointed and that in fact last week in this Chamber I said that the delay had not been caused by

the State Government but was the result of the Commonwealth Government's considering a number of proposals and that the State Government was awaiting a reply from the Commonwealth.

#### STOCKWELL MAIN

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I understand from His Excellency's Opening Speech that the new Swan Reach to Stockwell main has now been connected with the Warren system. Can the Minister of Works say when a reticulated service can be provided from that main to the area *en route*, particularly to landowners whose properties adjoin the main?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: As was stated in His Excellency's Speech, the main has been connected to the Warren trunk main. In order to give the honourable member the full details he has sought, I think it would be better if I prepared a full statement, which I will bring down as soon as possible.

#### CELLULOSE AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Mr. CORCORAN: The Treasurer will be aware that for some time now negotiations have been taking place regarding a take-over of Cellulose Australia Limited by Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited. I understand that shareholders have been circularized formally on this matter by A.P.M. As the Government holds about 12 per cent of the shares in Cellulose Australia Limited, can the Treasurer say what decision it has made regarding those shares?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: What the honourable member has said in the preamble to his question is correct. The Government has no desire to prejudice negotiations in this matter between the ordinary shareholders and the company, and it does not wish to throw the weight of its 12 per cent holding one way or the other. We are awaiting the outcome as a result of the circular sent to shareholders about which, of course, we were fully aware, and we will reserve our judgment until we know just what is the shareholders' position. I think the honourable member will appreciate that the block of shares held by the Government could be a material factor in deciding the issue. The Government has no desire to indicate just what it intends to do, and I do not think it would be proper for it to do so at this early stage in the consideration. For that reason we are awaiting further information from the company about the result of the circular issued to the ordinary shareholders.

#### NANGWARRY HOUSING

Mr. RODDA: In raising the matter of increased rents at Nangwarry, I am sure that my colleagues from the South-East will not mind my referring to the areas they represent. In view of the matters raised concerning housing standards and the reply of the Minister of Housing in debate last week, can the Minister say whether Housing Trust officers will carry out soon an on-the-spot inspection of the matters raised?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes. In accordance with the undertaking I gave honourable members last week, I have discussed the matter with the forestry authorities and with the General Manager of the Housing Trust, to whom I sent this morning a formal request for his officers to return to Nangwarry and Mount Burr to make a check assessment of the assessments they made earlier. Having agreed, the General Manager will despatch his officers as soon as he can make them available.

#### TEA TREE GULLY SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of June 17 about the future of the Tea Tree Gully Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The acquisition of the land to which the honourable member has referred has been a long process involving compulsory acquisition. The legal proceedings are still going on but the Education Department has access to the land. Plans for its clearing, grading and developing at an estimated cost of \$9,800 have been prepared by the Public Buildings Department. The proposed development will be considered in relation to the overall development of the school in the plans which have been prepared for its rebuilding. A schedule of requirements has been drawn up and consideration is being given to the possibility of including Tea Tree Gully in the current Loan works programme.

#### SUPERPHOSPHATE

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Premier a reply to my question of June 18 concerning the future of Nairne Pyrites Proprietary Limited and any effect that a subsidy or bounty may have on the price of superphosphate in this State?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The price fixed for superphosphate in South Australia is based on the total cost of production a ton. The cost of sulphuric acid included in the cost of production is arrived at by taking the weighted average of the prices of all acid used in

manufacture and includes acid produced by Sulphuric Acid Limited from iron pyrites, Broken Hill Associated Smelters Limited from sinter gas, and Cresco Fertilizers Limited from imported sulphur. Sulphuric Acid Limited receives a bounty which at present amounts to \$5.00 a ton of acid produced. The bounty expires on June 30, 1969, and the Tariff Board recently heard submissions from interested parties. It is understood that the South Australian submissions sought continuation of the bounty in its present form and that protection in the form of a tariff on imported sulphur was not sought. The expiry date of the bounty may be extended pending completion of the Tariff Board inquiry. Refusal to extend the bounty could result in some increase in the average cost of sulphuric acid to be used in the manufacture of superphosphate for the 1969-70 season depending on the variation in costs and quantities of the various raw materials to be used.

#### EASTERN STANDARD TIME

Mr. RYAN: Several recent press reports made by the Premier have stated that he favoured a trial period for the adoption of Eastern Standard Time for South Australia, and I think I read one report in which it was stated that the Premier was prepared to give it a three-month trial in order to gauge its effect and to see how many complaints he would receive. Yesterday, I met representatives of an organization that strongly protested against a trial period being introduced, because its employees now start work at 7.30 a.m. and on mornings such as yesterday morning and this morning there would be heavy traffic on the road during the hours of darkness when the men had to start work in heavy industry, because the conditions would be equivalent to those of 7 a.m. this morning. Can the Premier say at whose request he decided to introduce a trial period of E.S.T., and whether it will be introduced during months which could prove it to be unfavourable (such as the middle of winter) or at some other period of the year?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: My personal statements concerning the possible trial of E.S.T. in South Australia have no relation to any specific request but are the result of a study of the situation over several years during which this matter has been raised in many quarters in South Australia. One reason, which I have repeatedly stated, for raising this question is to ascertain public opinion. I repeat that when this matter was raised (I think it must

have been during the summer, although I do not recollect exactly when I brought the subject to life) there was little public involvement in the question. However, the opposite applies now as there is much more public interest, no doubt because it is the winter season, which has drawn attention to the fact that, if E.S.T. were now operating, we would be rising half an hour earlier by the time of the sun, thus causing the inconvenience associated with this move during the winter. At present, I am receiving some mail and one or two telegrams about the possibility of establishing E.S.T. in this State. No decision has been made, and I await with interest further representations of the kind I am now getting. If a time change is made, I cannot give an indication of the season in which it may be made. However, until South Australians experience this change in some practical measure I believe that they will be unable to form a proper opinion on it. I repeat for the honourable member's edification: no decision has been made, but I am still receiving with interest various representations on this matter, both for and against.

Mr. RYAN: Yesterday I had discussions with employer and employee representatives of the shipping industry, who were very much against E.S.T. being introduced in this State. As the Marine and Harbors Department administers the movement of ships, will the Minister of Marine ask the department for a report on the effect that the introduction of E.S.T. would have on shipping at Port Adelaide, especially in view of discussions with the representatives of the employers in the industry?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will investigate what effect this is likely to have and consider the matter in conjunction with the other requests to which the Premier has referred.

#### GLOSSOP HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. ARNOLD: Two or three months ago, the Minister of Works, a member of the school council and I inspected the few fire hydrants that are provided at the Glossop High School. As there are several temporary timber classrooms at the school, will the Minister say what steps, if any, have been taken to increase the number of hydrants?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I recall visiting the school in company with the honourable member and I was struck by two things on that occasion: first, the many timber frame classrooms in close proximity to one another; and secondly, the apparent marked

lack of fire protection. I have already authorized the installation of additional service mains and hydrants at strategic points around the school property, and these, I believe, will be effective in countering any fire that may occur there and so act as fire protection. I expect this work to be carried out fairly early in the coming financial year.

#### HOUSING TRUST RENTS

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: A constituent of mine who lives in a railway house built by the Housing Trust some years ago, namely, Mr. I. Duncan, 6 Gurr Street, Prospect, has drawn my attention to the statement made by the Minister of Housing that no tenant in a Housing Trust house of a certain age would pay rent of more than \$8 a week. He says the rent for his house, which is comparable to a Housing Trust house let to a man working for private enterprise, has been increased from \$5.76 to \$8.43 a week which, he claims, is an increase of 33 per cent. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport why an employee (I understand that Mr. Duncan is a railway employee) must pay more rent than a person working for private enterprise pays for a comparable house? Will he also ascertain why it has been made necessary to increase the rent of my constituent's house to the extent that it has been increased?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask Mr. Hill about the matter.

#### FARM MACHINERY

Mr. EDWARDS: Farmers today are very worried about the condition in which farm machinery has been sent out from factories over the last 12 months. When one gets a new implement home, before one can use it almost every nut and bolt on the machine must be checked, otherwise at the end of the first day several nuts and bolts may have been lost, and these must be replaced by new ones. Will the Minister of Labour and Industry ask the manufacturers whether they can have their employees make sure that all bolts and nuts are tight before the machines leave the factory?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I shall consider whether something can be done about the matter. I may add, however, that investigations are being made regarding the safety of some of these appliances, particularly tractors, and next week I will attend a conference at which the matter will be discussed.

#### PORT PIRIE OIL BERTH

Mr. McKEE: This morning I received a letter from the Town Clerk, Port Pirie council, asking whether I would find out from the Minister of Works details of the safety precautions applying to the discharging of fuel at the oil tanker berth at Port Pirie and whether the Minister deems these precautions to be adequate. Can the Minister give the House this information?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will get these details for the honourable member as expeditiously as possible.

#### ABORTION LEGISLATION

Mr. FREEBAIRN: As I understand from the Attorney-General that certain Christian denominations have made representations to him about the legislation to change the law regarding abortion, can the Attorney name these denominations and indicate to the House the main points in their representations?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I think that only two denominations, as such, have made clear their positions. The Roman Catholic Church, as a church, is completely opposed to an alteration of the law, as I understand. The honourable member knows that, during the hearing of evidence by the Select Committee, His Grace the Archbishop nominated several witnesses to give evidence, and that evidence is printed and freely available for members to study (I hope that they are studying it). I have had, as other members and the House have had, petitions from people interested in this subject, and I think it fair to say that most of these petitions (although not all) have been from Roman Catholics and have been opposed to any change. Apart from that, I have had letters from priests and other ministers of religion, usually personal friends, who have put to me their point of view, whatever it may be. These have been from several denominations. The honourable member himself has transmitted to me a resolution of the Congregational Union, following a debate, I understand, at the Annual Assembly about a week ago, and this resolution was very constructive and helpful. I am most anxious (as I think are all other members) to hear all points of view on this matter so that I may be as well informed as possible when the debate is resumed.

#### DOCTORS' FEES

Mr. GILES: I, like most other South Australians, am stunned at the announcement that doctors' fees in South Australia may

increase. However, I have received a complaint about the present fees. Recently a local councillor and his wife visited a doctor's surgery for vaccination before going overseas. This man had to supply the vaccine for the injections and he and his wife sat together in the surgery and each received two injections, the giving of which took about five minutes. The account from the doctor (and I have it with me) refers to four consultations for these two injections received by each person. Can the Premier say whether this is allowed, and can he also say what is the general position regarding visits to a doctor at present?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am not sure what the honourable member asks regarding being allowed. However, he refers to the increased doctors' fees that were announced yesterday, and I have already publicly commented on this matter.

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

The Hon. R. S. HALL: In fact, I have written to the President of the Australian Medical Association (South Australian Branch) and, if I may quote over the interjections of the honourable member for Glenelg—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Premier must ignore interjections.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am trying to, Mr. Speaker, but that is difficult.

The SPEAKER: Only one question at a time is allowed. The Premier is replying to a question asked by the honourable member for Gumeracha. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: With the permission of the member for Glenelg, I shall read my letter, which states:

The Government has noted with some concern the announcement in the press this morning that members of your association proposed a substantial increase in fees as from July 1, 1969. Whilst it is recognized that costs have risen generally since fees were last raised in 1967, I can see no justification for raising the amounts to those operating in Victoria merely to reach some semblance of uniformity for medical fees throughout Australia. I believe that medical practitioners are entitled to adequate fees in relation to the cost of operating their practices. As the costs of a number of factors concerned in the establishment and operation of a practice in South Australia are significantly lower than in Victoria, there does not appear to be justification for an increase in fees to the Victorian standard. Because of the lower costs operating in South Australia I point out that total income in relation to salaried and wage earners in South Australia

is less on average than those of Eastern States residents. I recognize that the decision on fees rests with the members of your association, and not with the Government. However, I feel I would be lacking in my duty in the interests of the total community if I did not bring before you my views on this matter.

Having made my views plain to the association, I cannot give a specific reply to the honourable member about the account rendered for giving injections. My knowledge of medical terminology and the operation of medical services is not sufficient to enable me to give an informed reply to the question, but I repeat that I see no justification for increasing doctors' fees to the amount to which they have been increased or for increasing them to the amounts charged in one of the higher cost areas of Australia. As I said yesterday, these increases will require the South Australian worker to pay, for doctors' services, a greater proportion of his total income than is paid by his counterpart in other States.

Mr. BROOMHILL: It seems that the Premier is simply grandstanding on this matter, because he points out the severe disadvantages that the South Australian community will suffer because of the increases. Can he say whether, in view of his statement, he will refer this matter to the Prices Commissioner for consideration?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I remind the honourable member, if he does not already know, that doctors' fees in South Australia are not subject to price control.

Mr. HUDSON: May I say that I am extremely disappointed—

The Hon. R. S. Hall: You aren't allowed to say that. Question!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HUDSON: I will ask my question. In view of the South Australian public's disappointment at the adoption of Andrew Jonesian tactics by the Premier, will the Premier ask the Prices Commissioner to investigate whether or not doctors' fees should be brought under price control? Will the Premier ensure that Cabinet discuss the issuing of a proclamation under the Prices Act to bring doctors' fees under price control, and will he do these things in order not only to provide some real assurance for members of the public that their interests are being looked after but also to stop the Andrew Jones tomfoolery type of publicity that we have become used to?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will not reply to that question.

Mr. HURST: The Premier has said that he does not consider the fees intended to be charged by medical practitioners to be justified, and that view is also held by my constituents. In the event of the Premier's representations to the Australian Medical Association being rejected, will he consider referring this matter to Cabinet with a view to having these fees brought under price control?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This question was previously asked by a colleague of the honourable member. I have stated that at present the fees that may be charged by medical practitioners are not under price control. In fact, I know of no other body of professional people whose fees are controlled. However, having made a representation to the President of the South Australian branch of the A.M.A., I do not intend to anticipate what the reply to that might be.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: The Premier has said that he would not be prepared to consider the charges that have been determined by the doctors' organization, giving as his reason that no other professional body comes under price control. I draw his attention, however, to the fact that members of many professional bodies have their salaries determined by independent authorities, but possibly the Premier had forgotten that. In view of that circumstance and in view of the reported desire of the spokesman for the Australian Medical Association in South Australia (Dr. Steele) to achieve what he terms stability and to get on common ground with other professional people, will the Premier reconsider his reply and agree to put all doctors' fees under price control?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I do not know how many times I shall have to repeat myself to get this information through to members opposite, but I have said that I will not anticipate the reply that I will receive. Subject to that, I will not lay down a course of action.

#### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Mr. WARDLE: I have received a letter from a primary school committee in my district regarding religious instruction in schools generally, with a request that the relevant Act be changed in order to allow some type of set syllabus to be used for religious education in schools. Having discussed this matter previously with the Minister of Education to give her an opportunity to bring to the House a considered reply, I now ask whether she has a reply for me.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: When the honourable member discussed this matter with me last week I said that, although I could give him an answer on the spot, I would prefer to give him a considered reply, because I believed the matter was of general interest. Following the withdrawal from religious instruction in schools by the Methodist Church and also by the Presbyterian, Congregational, Churches of Christ and Baptist Churches, there was some uncertainty. The situation was complicated by the fact that, although the Churches of Christ, Presbyterian, Baptist and Congregational Churches indicated that they were withdrawing from religious instruction, at the same time they stated that this decision could not be binding on individual churches and that individual ministers would make their own decisions as to whether or not they would participate. In fact, most have withdrawn although individual ministers have continued.

An agreement has operated in the past that if the Methodist, Churches of Christ, Congregational, Baptist, Presbyterian Churches or Salvation Army approved an instructor, the other churches also automatically approved such an instructor. This allowed grouping of these denominations together. With the withdrawal of five of these churches, the agreement has lapsed and heads of schools have been instructed that children from them may be instructed by instructors only of their own denomination. Some parents have asked for their children to be sent to religious instruction in a denomination different from that in which their children are registered. However, under the Education Act, the head of the school is responsible to see that each child attends the denomination, and only the denomination, for which the child is registered in the school register. A parent may have the recorded denomination changed, but must request this in writing. The Salvation Army has not withdrawn and is providing instruction where there are sufficient children of the Salvation Army denomination.

The Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches continue to provide instructors in most schools where there are children belonging to their church. A random sample of schools indicates that the percentages of children receiving instruction vary by up to 75 per cent. In the majority, it seems that about 40 per cent are receiving instruction. Children not receiving religious instruction do other work under supervision, but no new work is undertaken so that children taking religious

instruction are not disadvantaged. Schools have made the necessary adjustments to allow the present situation to work without many major problems. However, many parents are perturbed at the situation, but there does not appear to be any real church unity on the matter, nor does there appear to be any substantial public or political demand for action. Any change in the system will require an amendment to the Education Act, and in my view such a change cannot take place until there is strong pressure from the general public, church and Parliament.

#### CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

Mr. JENNINGS: My question concerns a matter to which the Attorney-General alludes when he has nothing better to do but about which he forgets, as far as I can see, most of the time. I refer to compensation for innocent victims of assaults.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: Victims of crimes of violence.

Mr. Clark: Helpful!

Mr. JENNINGS: Thank you; I like to get a little assistance from my friends occasionally.

The SPEAKER: Order! Question!

Mr. JENNINGS: Yes; thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently a constituent of mine who was attacked by someone living outside my district—

Mr. Corcoran: He wouldn't be living inside it!

Mr. JENNINGS: No; the assailant may have been a refugee from Mitcham for all I know. My constituent, having been assaulted and battered badly, was in Queen Elizabeth Hospital for a long time. When he came out he had medical and hospital bills amounting to several hundred dollars, and he now has considerable legal expenses. He was referred to me, in fact, by his lawyer, because it was found, when damages were sought from the attacker, that the latter had absconded to somewhere in England, taking his wife and six children with him. Therefore, there seems to be little hope of getting any money from that person, and there probably would not have been a great chance of getting much from him in any case, irrespective of a judgment of the court, because the person concerned was only an ordinary person and obviously not a very responsible one. Will the Attorney-General say what progress is being made now regarding this problem to which he refers occasionally?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I assure the honourable member that the matter is still under active consideration.

#### CLARE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked last week about a residence at the Clare High School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The Housing Trust states that the contractor concerned in the building of a solid construction residence for a high school teacher at Clare has experienced difficulty in obtaining suitable labour, and this has delayed the building. The trust expects the house will be completed in six to eight weeks' time.

#### CHILD-MINDING CENTRES

Mr. LANGLEY: I have received letters containing nearly 100 signatures of people residing in the Unley District, which state:

I am in favour of State-wide legislation for the compulsory registration and inspection of child-minding centres.

Knowing that the Minister of Social Welfare and members on both sides have received correspondence on this matter, I ask the Minister whether the Government has considered or intends to consider introducing legislation accordingly.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, the matter, as with the one about which I was asked previously, is under consideration. Although there are difficulties associated with the matter, I am sympathetic to the proposal. I think this would be a good thing in many ways, although one might argue that local government is a better organ to exercise supervision of child-minding centres within the various council areas. However, there are several reasons for making control State-wide. We have two practical difficulties at the moment: first, staff would be required within the Social Welfare Department to carry out the supervision; and secondly, of course, inevitably the question of more staff goes to the question of paying them—in other words, money. These are the practical difficulties in the way of doing anything at present. However, the matter has not been overlooked, forgotten or pigeon-holed, and if we can find any way around these difficulties I will make a recommendation to Cabinet.

#### HEART APPEAL

Mr. RICHES: I ask this question by request. I feel sure the people of South Australia are gratified at the success of the heart campaign appeal. In my district the

appeal is continuing with employees making donations from their pay envelopes. It has been reported to me that a spokesman for the heart campaign said at a meeting that the South Australian Government contributed \$40,000 towards the first campaign but had reduced its contribution to \$7,000 for this appeal, announcing at about the same time a \$10,000 prize for an air race from England to South Australia. Finding this a little difficult to believe, I promised I would ask the Treasurer to explain the real situation. Will he now do so?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: If I remember correctly, the Government's contribution on this occasion is \$7,500 and not \$7,000, but that is not a matter of great moment. The person who spoke to the honourable member apparently related in his mind two matters and suggested that the Government had given undue weight to one as against the other. The Government's contribution to the first campaign was much higher; I think the sum mentioned is correct. However, I think (again, if my memory is correct) that the State's objective was also much higher on that occasion.

Before coming to a decision on the matter, we consulted other States to see what they intended to do so that we could try to keep somewhere in line. I believe one State, after telling us what it intended to do, eventually decided to increase its contribution above the figure previously indicated to us. However, the appeal having gone extremely well, I think everyone is gratified that once again the people of South Australia have responded very generously to an appeal of this nature. As citizens, I think we have a reputation for doing just that, and we have lived up to our reputation amply on this occasion. The Government makes financial contributions to the various spheres of health and other matters. If any comparison is to be made (and I think that is probably not applicable in this case), one could take 12 similar cases and apply one's judgment to the decision that should have been made. However, I do not think this is strictly relevant; it is a matter of opinion.

The Government supported this appeal to the extent it did feeling that it was giving a lead and, indeed, as I have said, the public has followed the lead. On other occasions there will be other appeals when the Government will do its best to lead and to give support. I do not think I can make any further

comment on the matter. Although the person who raised this matter with the honourable member may think that in his judgment the relative donations by the Government to which he referred were not in line, I do not necessarily accept that view; that is the position as he saw it. I do not apologize for the Government's contribution in this case.

#### WALLAROO HARBOUR

Mr. HUGHES: I have in my hand a copy of a telegram forwarded to the Premier yesterday from the Wallaroo District Progress and Development Committee as a result of an urgent meeting of that committee in the Wallaroo Town Hall on Saturday night. I think it must be obvious that the meeting was considered urgent in view of its being held on Saturday night. The meeting was called to protest against the reply given to me in the House last Thursday by the Minister of Agriculture through the Minister of Lands in which the Minister said he had approved of an additional grain storage at Ardrossan for 2,000,000 bushels. This appeared in the press last Friday. I was invited to the meeting by the Chairman of the committee who, incidentally, happens to be the President of Zone 5 of the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia Incorporated. Among others who attended the meeting were the President of the Northern Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, representatives of councils, and primary producers representing 300 growers. The speakers at the meeting said they believed that, before approving the building of any additional storage at Ardrossan, the Minister of Agriculture intended to await the decision of the Minister of Marine on the deepening of the Wallaroo harbour. I was requested by the meeting to ask at Question Time today the Premier, as Leader of the Government, to take steps to prevent the building of additional bulk storages at Ardrossan that would be to the detriment of primary producers and the port of Wallaroo. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Agriculture to take the necessary steps to prevent South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited proceeding with the building of additional bulk grain storage at Ardrossan pending the decision of the Minister of Marine to deepen the port of Wallaroo? If the Minister of Agriculture will not take the necessary action, will the Premier himself comply with the request?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The short answer is "No": at the moment I will not do that. To amplify that and put it in a positive sense,



because of the difficulties of primary producers in disposing of their grain and in storing grain from one harvest to another the Government wants to encourage the building of as many storage facilities for grain as it possibly can. Having said that, I shall be pleased to get a report from the Minister of Agriculture concerning the subject raised by the honourable member. I will obtain a report without prejudice to any possible result that may ensue from it. The honourable member and his constituents should not place the extension that has been referred to in the context of a decision to develop one port rather than another. This is a controversial issue and it should not be hidden behind any particular aspect of building up one port or another. Various groups contend that one or another port should be developed, but the honourable member should not see the question in that light, because it is a bigger question than merely that of storage. However, plans are in hand to provide additional storage at Wallaroo. I do not have that information in writing but, having been told informally and privately that more storage will be built there, I will obtain a report from the Minister concerning storage facilities at both ports.

#### WHEAT QUOTAS

Mr. CASEY: Last week I asked the Minister of Lands to obtain information from the Minister of Agriculture about wheat delivery quotas for farmers who could not fulfil the five-year average quota, and since then I have noticed that the wheat delivery committee has been shocked to find about half the statements so far received are appealing against wheat quotas. Has the Minister a reply from his colleague?

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

I emphasize that the implementation of the wheat delivery quota scheme will be the responsibility of the industry itself, and for that purpose a representative committee has been set up. All wheat farmers will be required to complete and return to the Wheat Delivery Quota Committee the form provided. The committee will then fix a quota. I believe that the South Australian basic quota of 45,000,000 bushels will be calculated on the average wheat deliveries over a period of five years, less a proportion of between 8 per cent and 12 per cent, part of which will be held to adjust anomalies and special cases such as the one referred to by the honourable member. However, I should make it clear that the basic quota represents slightly less than the mean wheat deliveries in this State over the past five years, and an adjustment will need to be

made to reduce the actual delivery figure to the 45,000,000 bushels allotted to this State. The methods to be used to determine quotas in the cases of farmers who have not delivered wheat in each of the past five years, and the actual proportion of the total delivery figure to be held in reserve to adjust anomalies, cannot be determined by the committee until it has received returns from all growers (due on July 11) and assessed the extent of such anomalies. However, I have no doubt that the committee will take full account of the merits of each case in deciding individual quotas, and will bear in mind the degree of hardship involved.

#### JURISDICTION OF MASTERS

Mr. CLARK: Has the Attorney-General information concerning the maintenance orders that may have been invalidated by a recent judgment of His Honour Mr. Acting Justice Zelling?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am obliged to the honourable member for asking this question, which follows one that was asked of me (unfortunately in my absence) by the Leader of the Opposition last Thursday. However, I hasten to make one correction in the statement by the honourable member and in that made by the Leader last Thursday: no maintenance orders have been invalidated.

Mr. Clark: I said "may have been".

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I want to make it clear that they have not been invalidated, and I hope that this statement will receive publicity, otherwise many people in the community may be perturbed about their legal position: no cause for worry exists. The matter to which the Leader referred is *Ullbrich v. Ullbrich* but from the terms of the question he asked I think that he has probably not read the judgment of His Honour Mr. Acting Justice Zelling in that matter, because if he had he would have seen that His Honour based his judgment entirely on the provisions of the Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act, which, because it is a Commonwealth Act, we as a State Parliament have no power to amend. Therefore, the short answer to the question asked by the Leader last Thursday is that we, as a Parliament, can do nothing about the matter. However, there are one or two other developments of which I should like to acquaint members.

There was no appeal from His Honour's judgment in *Ullbrich v. Ullbrich*, but Mr. Justice Hogarth has referred the same question, which has come up in another matter, to the Full Court, and the hearing of that reference will

take place on July 1. The South Australian Government has arranged for the Solicitor-General to intervene at the hearing and, indeed, the court has invited Mr. Wells to intervene as *amicus curiae*. I understand that the Commonwealth Solicitor-General (Mr. Ellicott, Q.C.) also intends to intervene on behalf of the Commonwealth, and I have today spoken to Mr. Irwin (President of the Law Society) and have agreed to a request by the society that special arrangements be made to pay senior counsel to represent the petitioner in the matter, as the petitioner is receiving assistance through the Law Society, under the poor persons legal assistance scheme. The short answer to the question is that we can do nothing as a Parliament, but the Government has done everything it can to ensure that the matter is fully and fairly argued on both sides. When the Full Court has given its decision the matter will be further reviewed. However, this is a matter of Commonwealth responsibility.

#### BOGUS SALESMEN

Mr. VENNING: For some time, throughout country areas at least, there have been bogus door-to-door salesmen selling various equipment, but I am concerned particularly with bogus inspectors of electrical equipment. These people, having selected their victims (mainly elderly people), have told these people that they are inspectors who have come to inspect the electrical equipment in the house. They have said that certain elements and other equipment are defective and that it will be necessary for them to replace the equipment, such as refrigerators. These bogus inspectors have condemned the items and have taken orders and also money for new equipment, but have departed without leaving the goods. Will the Premier take up this matter with Cabinet or the Attorney-General to see what can be done to protect people against these bogus inspectors and whether the Book Purchasers Protection Act could be extended to cover this situation?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It would appear that strictly this is an illegal practice of misrepresentation if a salesman calls and says he is some kind of official inspector. I will refer that point to the Attorney-General for his legal opinion (which, of course, is always good). I will ask him whether this is, in fact, a breach of the law in South Australia. On the other hand, one cannot lightly extend the type of provision in the Book Purchasers

Protection Act which legislation, as the honourable member may know, I initiated in South Australia. That legislation was aimed at the widespread and specific problem of selling books from door to door. When one examines the implications of restrictions on legitimate trading (and in the honourable member's district, being a country district, stock agents and petrol sellers leave goods on the very day they call), one realizes how trading would be limited if provisions similar to those in the Book Purchasers Protection Act applied. The provisions in that Act could not be lightly extended without disrupting legitimate trading in the country. I am sure that the Attorney-General will be happy to give me an opinion and, if the honourable member can supply me with the names of the individuals who have been victimized and those who have preyed on them, I will do my best to achieve justice.

#### ASCOT PARK SCHOOL

Mr. VIRGO: The Minister of Education may recall that on many occasions, and as late as last week, I have raised the question of the unsatisfactory conditions existing at the Ascot Park Primary School. I refer the Minister to a reply she gave me on October 24, 1968, when, in speaking of general matters associated with the school, she said:

As I also said in my previous reply, proposals were submitted for the conversion of the woodwork centre to a headmaster's office and two classrooms.

Up to the present, however, nothing has happened; in fact, the Headmaster's office I think would be far better termed a book room, storeroom or even a pantry, as it is so small. Will the Minister take up with the appropriate authorities the question, particularly, of the most unsuitable accommodation provided for the Headmaster with a view to having the undertaking she gave me in October last given effect to?

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

#### FISHING VESSEL SURVEY

Mr. CORCORAN: The Minister of Marine will be aware of the activity regarding the regulations for the survey of fishing vessels. Will he say what progress has been made and whether or not during the next few months every vessel (irrespective of size) employed in the industry will be subject to survey?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I can give only a partial answer to the question. Intensive investigations have been made and meetings have been held, as the honourable member will be aware, with representatives of the Fisheries Department, the Marine and Harbors Department and fishing industry representatives, and several draft regulations have been drawn up but, in each case, there were differences of opinion. The last meeting was to have been held on June 23, but I have not yet heard the result of it. It was desired at that meeting to achieve finality on the regulations so that they could be promulgated. I am not aware what scope of vessels has been recommended and accepted by the representatives of the industry to cover the whole of the industry. The honourable member will perhaps recall the letter that was sent out under my name to fishermen some time last year in which it was stated that they would be relieved of the mandatory survey until June 30, 1969, or until the promulgation of the new regulations, whichever occurred the earlier.

As a matter of administration, and in the interests of the fishermen themselves, while we have been waiting on the fishing industry and the other delegates to come to a decision on the regulations, it has been necessary to forward the notice requiring the survey to be carried out to those who were previously covered. This has to be done in any case, but I cannot comment further on the other recommendations of the committee because I have not seen them. However, I point out (and I am sure that the honourable member realizes this) that it is physically impossible to survey all the vessels necessary to be surveyed, unless we spread the surveys throughout a certain part of the year, because of the number of surveyors available, and that it is in the interests of fishermen to advise the department and to co-operate with it in this regard. This is the reason for the notice going out and, as soon as I have the information from the fishing industry committee, I will inform the honourable member direct.

**AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that the Minister of Agriculture has established an advisory committee on agricultural education. There is now a vacuum in agricultural education because the Roseworthy Agricultural College wants to become a tertiary college and the Education Department is still evolving a course in agriculture. Because of the

necessity to take action quickly, will the Minister of Lands ask his colleague when this advisory committee expects to report?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will find out, if the information is available.

**FISHING INDUSTRY**

Mr. BROOMHILL: A press report of a function that the Premier attended recently in relation to the fishing industry states that the General Manager of South Australian Fishermen's Co-operative Limited wanted the Premier to answer these questions:

Were there commercial, fishable quantities of scallop in South Australia, where were they, what was the best time of the year, in terms of maturity and conservation, to catch them, and what was the best type of fishing gear to use?

The General Manager also said:

We are interested in getting the answers to these questions so that we can develop the scallop industry here and further increase our exports.

The press reports the Premier as stating:

The suggestion made by Mr. Fowler will certainly get the full attention of the Government. I will take up the matter with the Minister in charge of fisheries (Mr. Story) immediately. The questions Mr. Fowler raises highlight the need for South Australia to be in on the \$500,000 offer the Commonwealth has made concerning fishery research.

Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to report on the result of his investigations into providing some of this Commonwealth grant money for research into the scallop industry and also on whether he has considered providing much-needed research into other sections of the fishing industry?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

**KIMBA MAIN**

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked last week about work on the Polda-Kimba main?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Because of the early availability of heavy section pipes, work was commenced at a location about eight miles east of Lock, and progress to date has been:

Pipes delivered . . . . .	7 miles
Route clearing . . . . .	2 miles
Excavation . . . . .	1 mile 2,900ft.
Pipes laid . . . . .	1 mile 2,800ft.
Backfilling . . . . .	1 mile 1,000ft.

Heavy rock excavation has limited output in this particular section to date.

### WEST CROYDON SEWERAGE

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked last week about sewerage work being carried out in and near West Croydon?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The Rosetta Street subway was opened for traffic on Wednesday, May 28, although there was no access between Blandford Street and the up track of the Port Road. This is still closed and it will remain so until Friday, June 27. Rosetta Street and the up track will be cleared of all obstructions on June 27. On the down track major works, allowing only two lanes of traffic, will be in progress for a further three weeks. This will be followed by another three weeks of minor works, with some obstructions. The Port Road crossings should be completed early in August and work on the trunk sewer will continue to Grange and South Roads. The co-operation of residents and shopkeepers in Rosetta Street during this difficult period is greatly appreciated, and every effort has been made to reduce inconvenience to a minimum.

### ROAD ACCIDENTS

Mr. GILES: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked last week about the availability to various bodies of the film "08", which deals with the effects on drivers of various percentages of alcohol in the bloodstream?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The film shown in the police auditorium is the property of Ansvar Insurance Company Limited and the screening was arranged by the Temperance Alliance of South Australia, with which Ansvar is associated. I understand it was televised by channel 2 in December last. It is quite possible that the Temperance Alliance would be prepared to arrange for a wide viewing of the film, particularly if the request were made by the Government. In view of the film commentary, no explanation or attendance by a member of the breathalyser squad is considered necessary.

Mr. GILES: The Premier said that if a request was made by the Government it would be possible that this film would be made available to various groups. As it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to reduce the number of road fatalities (and this film could possibly help), will the Premier ascertain whether this film could be made available, and whether a qualified officer could show the film, as I believe its screening would evoke many questions?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will examine these points and let the honourable member have a reply.

### PRICE CONTROL

Mr. CASEY: Last year the Treasurer provided me with a statement setting out those items that had been removed from price control by his Government since it came into office and gave other information about items still under price control. I understand that, since that information was given, further items have been decontrolled. Will the Treasurer indicate the items that have been decontrolled and give information on other matters pertaining to the Prices Branch?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As I am not sure when I prepared the list for the honourable member, I cannot say whether any other items have been decontrolled since. However, I have received from an Opposition member a request (I think by letter) that a full list be supplied, and this is being prepared. I can supply the honourable member with a copy of that when it is available.

### SUGAR AGREEMENT

Mr. ARNOLD: On April 24, I wrote to the Minister of Agriculture stressing the importance of the sugar agreement to the canning fruit and citrus juice industry in this State. At present the Commonwealth Government, in conjunction with the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee, is reviewing the agreement. In view of the importance to South Australia of this agreement, I ask the Premier whether he has received any reply to the letter he wrote to the Prime Minister regarding the matter.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I wrote to the Prime Minister following the representations made by the member for Chaffey to the Minister of Agriculture. (When the Minister of Agriculture received the honourable member's letter, he sent a docket to me informing me of the problem, and I then wrote to the Prime Minister asking that this concession be renewed and stressing its importance to South Australia, specifically to the fruit canning industry of this State and to the community represented by the honourable member.) As the honourable member knows, the existing concession has an important bearing on the price structure applying to the industry. However, as the existing agreement expires on June 30 next, its renewal or otherwise becomes a matter of some urgency. Therefore, I wrote to the Prime Minister (I do not have the date on the copy of my letter). I will now ask the Prime Minister's Department where the matter stands, and I will try to obtain a reply for the honourable member as soon as possible.

## SEATON CROSSING

Mr. HURST: The Seaton Boys Technical High School, the Seaton North Primary School and the Queen of Peace School at Albert Park collectively have about 309 pupils who are required to cross Tapley Hill Road. Parent organizations connected with these schools have requested my assistance in trying to have a suitable school crossing installed, preferably near Glenburnie Street, to afford help to children crossing this busy road at that point. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to have this matter investigated by the Road Traffic Board?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask Mr. Hill to consider the matter.

## HILLS BRIDGE

Mr. WARDLE: My question concerns the road bridge two miles west of Gumeracha and near the weir. While I realize that this bridge is outside my district, it is necessarily used by my constituents, because it forms part of the main road from Mannum to Adelaide. The bridge has a 25-ton load limit applying to it but, as it is obvious that most trucks that have three main axles and are carrying 24 tons maximum, with a three-ton maximum on the front axle, have an overall load of 27 tons, I should like the Attorney-General to ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to consider re-assessing the capabilities of the bridge with a view to extending its load limit at least to 27 tons or 28 tons.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask Mr. Hill to do so.

## KESWICK INTERSECTION

Mr. LANGLEY: Since the Keswick bridge has been built, it has been the scene of many accidents, many of which seem to happen in similar circumstances and, according to reports of constituents, in the one spot. These accidents happen mainly as a result of motorists proceeding from the city trying to beat the lights, their vehicles colliding with cars turning right into Greenhill Road. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to consider phasing the traffic lights at this bridge so as to provide an arrow sign similar to that being used already at several intersections, particularly the intersection of Cross Road and South Road? Will he have this matter examined in order to ensure the safety of traffic turning into Greenhill Road and of traffic proceeding to Keswick?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will ask Mr. Hill to consider the matter.

## PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL

Mr. RICHES: Can the Minister of Works say yet when tenders will be called for the building of the Port Augusta Hospital?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Last week I undertook to obtain a reply for the honourable member. I regret that I do not have it with me now, but I will try to expedite it.

## LYNDOCH SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked on June 17 about staffing the Lyndoch Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The Lyndoch Primary School, with an enrolment of 59 at the moment, is in the charge of a head teacher and an assistant. During the first term the school was over-staffed, on the basis used for allocation of teachers in primary schools at present, as it had two assistants as well as the head teacher. Because of an urgent need for a teacher at the Gawler Primary School at the beginning of this term, one teacher was transferred there. I had inquiries made into the matter of over-crowding, which the honourable member suggested existed at Lyndoch. The grades 1, 2 and 3 classroom, measuring 20ft. by 24ft., complies with normal standards of accommodation for a class of 27. The furniture that had been placed near the fire exit has been removed so that access to the exit is not impeded in any way.

The unoccupied classroom at the school is available for any educational activities for which there is insufficient space in the grades 1, 2 and 3 room. True, the re-organization of the school in 1968 and at the beginning of 1969, when the staff was reduced from three to two teachers, has on each occasion affected grades 3 and 4. This is unavoidable when a three-teacher school loses a teacher during the year. However, in each year the school was generously staffed according to present standards. The school is functioning efficiently and can continue to do so with a staff of two teachers. In these circumstances, it is not intended to appoint another teacher at present, but the staffing of the school will be reconsidered if there is an increase in enrolment later this year or when schools re-open in 1970.

Mrs. BYRNE: As no specific number of children is given as a pre-requisite for an increase in the number of teachers, can the Minister say how many will be required to attend this school before a third teacher can be appointed?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I cannot give the honourable member the exact information

but I will obtain it for her. Obviously, two teachers would be the normal staff limit of a school of 59 pupils, which is the present enrolment. It may be more than that, but I will ascertain the exact number.

#### TEACHER HOUSING

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked of the Minister of Housing last week about additional rental houses for teachers in Kadina?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The reply to the honourable member's question, which I believe in the first instance should have been referred not to the Minister of Housing but to me as Minister of Education, is as follows:

The Headmaster of Kadina Memorial High School has stated that the position relating to the housing of male teachers on his staff was satisfactory at the beginning of the present school year and is at the present time satisfactory. Because the lease of the house at Moonta Bay rented by a teacher on his staff was nearing its end of term, the Headmaster had asked his council members at their last council meeting for assistance in obtaining a rental house for this teacher when the lease of his present residence ceased. Through the good offices of a council member this teacher will have available to him, when required, a rental house. At Kadina, at the present time, there are seven high school rental houses, the normal number for a school of its size. Because of the expected growth in enrolment of the school it is intended to place a request for an additional high school residence at Kadina on the next housing return for new residences in country towns.

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Mr. VIRGO: On January 30 we were informed of the last appointments of justices of the peace made by the Attorney-General. As several applications have been referred to me which I have forwarded to the Attorney-General and concerning which there is a degree of urgency, will the Attorney-General say when he next intends to appoint further justices of the peace?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I hope to bring down within the next few weeks the various district files containing the applications that have accumulated since the last appointments were made. I hope to be able to do what I did about 12 months ago soon after taking office when I found an enormous number of applications had banked up. I hope to go through with members the nominations in the files of the districts, and that thereafter appointments can be made.

#### EUDUNDA SCHOOL

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Several times I have made representations to the Minister of Education on behalf of the Eudunda Area School Committee for the sealing of the bus turn-round area at the school. As I realize the Minister cannot give an answer off the cuff, will she give me a progress report in due course?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I believe that officers of the Education Department planned to have a meeting with the council and the school committee to try to solve the question of the bus turn-round. I do not know what was the outcome of the meeting or whether it has yet been held, but I will obtain a report for the honourable member as soon as possible.

#### PORT PIRIE HOUSING

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my question of last week about rental housing at Port Pirie?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The General Manager of the Housing Trust has reported that approved applicants for rental housing in Port Pirie are at present being offered tenancy six to seven months from the date of application. There are at present 27 houses under construction in Port Pirie and a further 35 houses are intended to be commenced in the coming financial year. Rental houses will be included in this programme.

#### STRATHMONT SCHOOL

Mr. JENNINGS: Recently I received from the Strathmont Girls Technical High School Committee a letter complaining about the Municipal Tramways Trust bus service to the school and stating:

Three buses pick up our girls in the morning, one along Hampstead Road, and two along the Main North-East Road. These do not arrive at our school more than a minute or two before 9 a.m., and frequently they arrive shortly after 9 a.m. As we are due to begin classes at 9 a.m., girls arriving by these buses are at least five minutes late reporting to class. Apart from this, at the time when the school should be settling down, general disturbance is caused by late girls going to lockers, and moving about in corridors.

I think the Minister could well understand the general confusion this would create. The letter continues:

All this is not very satisfactory. We need buses scheduled to leave the city at least 10 minutes earlier than at present, that is, by 8.20 at the latest. As all our efforts in the past have been of no avail, I am now making this appeal for your assistance.

If the Minister wishes, I will hand the letter to her. Will she ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether assistance cannot be arranged so that better transport is provided for girls at the school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I can well appreciate the concern of the school committee at the late arrival of the girls and the disruption of classes. If the honourable member will give me the letter, I will have the matter followed up to see whether I can do anything to remedy the situation.

#### GAWLER BLOCKS SCHOOL

Mr. CLARK: The Minister of Education will recall that last year I asked her two or three questions about the situation at the Gawler Blocks Primary School where in the lower grades most of the children were of Italian extraction. I suggested that possibly a teacher with some knowledge of the Italian language could be appointed to the school. Although she was particularly sympathetic to my request, the Minister said that at the time this was not easily possible. I understand that since then a teacher with a knowledge of the language has been appointed, and I am told by the parents that this has been a signal success. Has the Minister anything to report on the matter and can she say whether this system has been tried in other schools?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I can well remember the representations made on this matter by the honourable member. Of course, as is always the case in this type of situation, the difficulty is to get teachers who can speak the language in question and who can be employed in the schools. Some national communities offer to provide people with teaching ability to undertake the teaching of languages in departmental schools. Probably the honourable member is aware that, through the generosity of the Italian Government, a Chair of Italian has been established at Flinders University. This could mean in the future that the kind of situation with which the honourable member is concerned may be resolved. However, it will be some time before this will have any effect. I will ascertain for the honourable member what is the present position regarding the matter.

#### PRISONS

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I recently watched on ABS 2 a programme about overcrowding in prisons on which it was suggested that overcrowding often resulted in first offenders becoming hardened criminals through associating with the wrong type of person.

While overseas some years ago, I learned that in some European countries a system commonly known as deferred sentences was used. In the case of first offenders, the court imposes a sentence that is not served until a second offence is committed. Although I do not know whether the Attorney-General heard about this while he was overseas or knew about it before he went on his trip, can he say whether he or the Government has considered introducing such a system in South Australia?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: So far as I know this suggestion has not been considered but this is primarily the responsibility of the Chief Secretary, who is responsible for prisons. I will bring the suggestion to his notice, and if I have any information to give the honourable member I will give it to him.

#### HORMONE SPRAYS

Mr. WARDLE: My question concerns a committee that I believe the Minister of Agriculture set up late last year to examine the matter of hormone sprays in horticultural areas, because in several areas fruit crops had been annihilated by hormone sprays. I believe that much information will come from this committee, because all aspects of the industry have been represented on it. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the committee was set up only to guide the Minister in drawing up suitable legislation to prohibit hormone spraying in certain horticultural areas, or was it established to investigate and report any beneficial findings as well?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will bring this question to the notice of my colleague.

#### HONORARY PRACTITIONERS

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to abolish the honorary system of medical practitioners at teaching hospitals in favour of a salaried staff and, if it does, when this proposal is to become effective?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will obtain a reply from the Chief Secretary.

#### NUCLEAR POWER

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the capacity of nuclear power stations and the demand for power in South Australia, particularly in the South-East?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I have a list of existing or planned nuclear power stations having reactors of capacities between 300 megawatts and 550 megawatts (electrical), extracted from the *Power Reactor Survey in*

*Nuclear Engineering, International*, February, 1969, and I ask permission to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

Country	Name of Plant	Output MW	Actual or Planned Date of Regular Power Operation
Argentina	Atucha CNA	319	Mid 1972
Canada	Pickering 1 and 2	2x508	1971
	Pickering 3 and 4	2x508	1972-73
France	Chinon 3	480	August 1967
	St. Laurent 1	480	1969
	St. Laurent 2	515	1972
Japan	Tsuruga	325	April 1970
	Mihama 1	340	June 1970
	Mihama 2	500	April 1972
	Fukushima 1	380	October 1970
	Chugoku	460	1974
Pakistan	Rooppur	400	1969
Spain	Santa Marie de Goronia	460	March 1970
	Vandellos	500	1972
Sweden	Oskarshamm	400	August 1970
Switzerland	Beznau 1 NOK	350	October 1969
	Beznau 2 NOK	350	November 1972
	Muhleberg 1 AKM	306	October 1971
United Kingdom	Oldbury	2x300	April 1968
	Sizewell	2x312	January 1966
U.S.A.	San Onofre	450	January 1968
	Robt. E. Ginna	450	October 1969
	Monticello	470	May 1970
	Point Beach 1	454	May 1970
	Point Beach 2	454	April 1971
	Ford Calhoun 1	481	August 1971
	Fort St. Vrain	330	1972
	Malibu	490	June 1967
	Bailly	500	March 1975
	Vermont Yankee	537	July 1971
	Kewaunee	527	March 1972
	Duane Arnold 1	515	December 1973
	Shoreham	523	May 1973
U.S.S.R.	Shevchenko BN350	350	December 1969

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: The maximum demand for electricity in South Australia was 775 mw. in 1968 and is expected to exceed 800 mw. this year. By 1975 it is expected to be about 1300 mw. and by 1980 should be about 2000 mw. The maximum demand for electricity in the South-East of South Australia at present exceeds 50 mw. It is expected to be about 110 mw. in 1975 and 170 mw. in 1980. Figures are not available for Victoria between the South Australian border and Geelong, but the power demands would exceed those of the South-East of South Australia.

A nuclear power station needs to operate at high load factor for economy and therefore

minimum demands for electricity are important as well as maximum demands. The minimum demand in South Australia is at present about 270 mw. and will no doubt rise in proportion to maximum demands. A nuclear power station in the South-East of South Australia would face a more than adequate minimum load situation by being connected to both Melbourne and Adelaide.

#### IRRIGATED PLANTINGS

Mr. ARNOLD: In recent months the Lands Department has been studying the feasibility of granting further permanent plantings in suitable sections of the department's irrigation areas. Can the Minister of Irrigation say whether this study has been completed and,



if it has, when will its results be known, as the planting time for the coming season is drawing near?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have not received the determination of this report yet, but I should think I would have it soon.

#### ROBE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. CORCORAN: Will the Minister of Works obtain a progress report on the exploration work being done on a reticulated water supply for Robe?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### NATURAL GAS

Mr. HURST: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry a reply to my recent question about converting appliances to use natural gas?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: As the conversion is the responsibility of the South Australian Gas Company, I obtained a report from the General Manager.

Mr. Virgo: Aren't you still a director of that company?

The SPEAKER: The honourable Minister must ignore interjections.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: That is just what I was doing, Sir. The General Manager reports that his company is co-operating closely with the gas utilities in Melbourne and Brisbane and that there is no doubt that the conversion operation in South Australia will be considerably assisted by the lessons to be learned from Melbourne and Brisbane. Simulated natural gas conversions have already been carried out at Christies Beach and do not seem to have caused any serious difficulties. At Elizabeth, when domestic appliances were converted for the use of simulated natural gas, the number of callbacks for additional service represented only 10 per cent of the 2,350 consumers converted, which is considerably below the percentage of consumers who have required further service when conversion to natural gas was undertaken in the United States and Canada.

The actual conversion of domestic appliances will be undertaken by Stone and Webster Services Proprietary Limited, which company has had considerable experience in this work. Mr. Floyd Dunn, Job Supervisor for that company, has had 27 years' experience in natural gas conversions: he is assisted by a staff of American supervisors. The Gas Company has also appointed a Gas Conversion

Engineer to work in close co-operation with Stone and Webster Services Proprietary Limited and a team of the company's service fitters will be specially trained as inspectors to check the efficiency of the Stone and Webster conversion crews. The General Manager of the Gas Company concludes his report as follows: follows:

As a public utility, we fully recognize our obligation to the community, but we hope our consumers will show a degree of patience and tolerance during the 12-month conversion period. The long-term benefits of natural gas to South Australia will, we hope, be sufficient recompense. Our study of the problems of natural gas conversion in America indicated there were many teething problems, but the natural gas industry is now the sixth largest industry in the United States and the American housewife has complete confidence in gas. Plenty of documented evidence is available indicating that natural gas is a safe fuel, comparing more than favourably with any other form of energy. We are fully aware of natural gas conversion problems and will do our utmost to minimize inconvenience to gas consumers.

#### COURT ACCOMMODATION

Mr. BROOMHILL: My question concerns an article that appears in the *Honorary Magistrate* for the month of May to June. I noticed in a press report this morning that the Attorney-General has inquired into this question. In part, the article states:

It has been noticeable on several occasions that some suburban courts have had four justices sitting where proper accommodation for two would be the limit. Not only does the court lose its dignity in such circumstances but the justices are not able to have any discussion without the defendant and the prosecutor being within hearing . . . The amount of revenue received from court proceedings surely must warrant something more in keeping with present-day demands.

Has the Attorney considered this matter? If he has, and if his investigations have revealed a problem as serious as that pointed out in the article, what does he intend to do to solve it?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Before making a statement on the matter I wish to discuss it with the Justices Association. I intend to do that next Thursday.

#### CITRUS INDUSTRY

Mr. CASEY: Over the last few months I have received letters from citrus growers regarding the present position of the citrus industry in this State. These growers are concerned about returns for their citrus crops, and I understand that many growers have withdrawn their support from the scheme for the orderly

marketing of citrus in this State. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture for a report on the present situation of the industry, including how many growers have withdrawn from the scheme and what steps, if any, the Government has taken to see that these people are brought back into it?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will ask my colleague for a report.

*At 4 o'clock, the bells having been rung:*

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

#### ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (on notice): What is the total cost to date of the Select Committee on Welfare of Aboriginal Children?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The total cost to June 24, 1969, of the Select Committee on Welfare of Aboriginal Children is \$4,670.55.

#### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Marine and Harbors Department Building,  
Port Adelaide,

Tailem Bend to Keith Trunk Water Main  
and Associated Works.

Ordered that reports be printed.

#### PARLIAMENTARY DRAFTSMAN

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General) moved:

That Standing Order No. 83 be so far suspended for the remainder of the session as to enable the Parliamentary Draftsman and his assistants to be accommodated with seats in the Chamber on the right-hand side of the Speaker.

Motion carried.

#### SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from June 19. Page 127.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I support the Bill. While it is a relatively simple one it is important because it empowers the Government to appoint an acting judge for such period as it thinks fit. As the Attorney-General said in his second reading explanation, the Bill will overcome a difficulty that exists because much work has built up and it will be a means of solving the present problem.

I am pleased to see that clause 3 provides that where a person is acting in the place of the Chief Justice or a puisne judge he or she will be paid the appropriate salary. I believe that, when a person is acting in a position higher than the one he normally occupies, he should be paid additional salary.

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

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Consideration of committee's report.

Mr. GILES (Gumeracha): It is indeed an honour to be asked to move the adoption of the Address in Reply to the excellent Speech of His Excellency the Governor (Sir James Harrison). This is the first opportunity that we here have had to congratulate Sir James on his appointment as Governor of South Australia. We are very pleased to have such a distinguished Australian as Governor of this State. His achievements in his military career bear witness to his ability in leadership and steadfastness. In 1929 His Excellency entered Duntroon, and he graduated three years later, in 1932, in the Royal Australian Artillery. For a time before the Second World War he was attached to a British Artillery Regiment in India. During the war His Excellency gave distinguished and meritorious service in the Middle East and the Pacific. After the war he was Commander of Staff, Appointments Institute, Queenscliff, Victoria. Later, in the 1950's, he was General Officer Commanding, Western Command, Western Australia; then Adjutant, General Army Headquarters; and finally His Excellency was General Officer Commanding, Eastern Command, New South Wales. From this position he accepted the office of Governor of South Australia. His acceptance was a great pleasure to us and, we trust, will be to him. We welcome Your Excellency and Lady Harrison and hope your stay will be a delight to you both and of great assistance to the progress of South Australia. From the evidence of your previous career, we have no doubts about the latter.

I also offer my sympathy at the passing of Senator Keith Laught whom I knew well and who had been a member of the Senate for 18 years. Also, four other former members of this Parliament died during the last year. They were the Hon. Clarence Goode, who had been a member of the House of Assembly for 13 years, the Hon. Robert Wilson, a member of the Legislative Council for 16 years, Mr. Hector White, a member of the House of

Assembly for three years, and Mr. Ernest George, also a member of this House for three years. I extend condolences to the families of those former members and record the appreciation of the House of the services they gave to South Australia during their term of office.

Since April 16 last year, when Parliament first met and included eight new members, much work has been done. A few records have been broken in the way of time that Parliament sat and work accomplished. To show the volume of work, I point out that 3,125 questions were asked of Ministers and 8 of private members. The huge number of 92 Bills was introduced, 82 of which received Vice-Regal assent. The most important of these, of course, was the Electoral Districts (Redivision) Bill. This was the most controversial issue that was dealt with. Since 1954 no redistribution has taken place. Because of the centralized type of population growth that has taken place in the Adelaide metropolitan area, a serious out-of-proportion situation has developed. We have about 5,000 voters in Frome District and 46,000 in Enfield District. During the last 15 years political Parties failed to agree on this issue, although several attempts were made to redistribute the electoral boundaries. Early in 1964 the Liberal Party, under Sir Thomas Playford, attempted the job and failed. In 1965 the Labor Party proposed a 56-seat House on a one vote one value basis, but this, too, was defeated, so we arrived at the point of time in 1968 when our Premier, the Hon. Steele Hall, successfully achieved this major step. I believe we have achieved what was necessary and desirable because of the imbalance of electors, but I do consider that we gave too much away in respect to country areas.

Mr. CORCORAN: Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the House.

*A quorum having been formed:*

Mr. GILES: It is a shame that what I have to say interests only two Opposition members.

Mr. Corcoran: What about members of your Party? It's their place to keep a quorum in this House, not our place.

Mr. GILES: In the metropolitan area we will have 28 members of Parliament: in our vast country area we will have only 19. If we believe that all the people in South Australia should be treated equitably, I believe that under this present type of redistribution the country voters will be at a disadvantage. They will not get from their member the same

service as the city people receive. Let us not forget the hand that fed us. South Australia was built on primary produce. Primary production is still and will remain a major part of the State's economic structure. A drought does not take very long to affect the general economy and this proves that, when the man on the land suffers, all suffer. It proves that primary production has a major influence on our every-day living. It is absolutely essential to the welfare of every citizen that the primary producer be affluent. He must be given every incentive to stay on the land and grow produce for our home market and, most important, for our export market. The gross value of South Australian primary production in 1967-68 was \$394,628,000, although of this amount \$73,739,000, or 18.7 per cent, was earnings from mining.

Let us not forget that both the city dweller and the primary producer are interdependent. The city dweller is an important feature of our economy. He, in many cases, is a secondary producer, which also helps our economy, but he could not live without the food produced by the man on the land, so do not let us get our values mixed. Let both the city and country advance as a unit. We must not favour one at the expense of the other. When we get back to the distribution figure of 19 country and 28 city seats, we see that the country person is far outweighed by the city. A tragic situation could exist if the city members lost sight of their value to our very heritage. We owe our position today to the primary producer, and let us not forget it. Let the country members remember, too, that we rely largely on city people for markets. Let us work together as a unit for the advancement of South Australia as a whole.

During the past year the Gumeracha District has suffered various misfortunes. The year was one of the wettest on record. This heavy rainfall helped in certain aspects but overall had a detrimental effect on primary produce. The vegetable growers suffered great losses, and many of their crops rotted before they reached maturity. The cherry growers suffered their biggest loss for years, some crops being virtually a write off. The fruit crops were badly affected by hail and the fungus disease commonly known as "black spot". Because of this, a large quantity of fruit was sent to Plaimar to be crushed for juice and is still being processed, representing at this point of time an estimated 5,000 to 5,500 tons of apples, or 250,000 to 275,000 bushels. This amounts to about one-eighth of the total crop.

A large quantity has been sent to the Jon preserving organization for processing; 2,158 tons was bought by the factory, representing 109,900 bushels out of a total of more than 1,600,000, and this represents too big a percentage for the health of the economy of this primary industry. Every year a certain percentage of the crop is of insufficient quality to be used for fresh fruit and has to be channelled into processing, but this year it is a far greater proportion than normally. The lamb market was extremely bad for a period of this past financial year. Further, because of the cold periods, milk production was less than normal. These facts are being quoted to the House for a specific reason: to illustrate that the primary producer does not have everything his own way by far. One prominent potato grower from the Hills stated that he had lost one-third of his crop because of the wet winter, but that all he could do was write the season off and start afresh.

Mr. Corcoran: Did anyone check on his statement?

Mr. GILES: I did. This means financial loss, and the producer has to suffer. Because the primary producer is essential to the well-being of our economy and because of his value to the State generally, every effort must be made to see that when he experiences a good year he is rewarded for his effort. His initiative must be encouraged and rewarded. There are some encouraging trends in the district. We see little arable land that is non-productive. Producers are making and have to make the most of what potential exists on each particular property. The whole district appears to be in top gear. Even the industries in our district are expanding: Plaimar is spending \$100,000 on expansion of its premises in order to extract citrus juice. This will mean that the factory will continue to operate for the bigger part of the year, and a permanent chemist will then be employed.

The world renowned Onkaparinga woollen mills, which now employs over 450 people, is also intending to expand, and this means extra employment. The Broken Hill South organization has announced a copper-mining venture at Kanmantoo, with a reserve of 8,000,000 tons a year. In Gumeracha township a ready-mix concrete group has started operations. This growth pattern which exists throughout South Australia is a reflection of the confidence that the South Australian people have in the State now we have a sound stable Government. It is a reflection of the confidence the people

of South Australia have in the Leader of this Government. It is most important to prove this quality of leadership and stability.

Mr. CORCORAN: Mr. Acting Speaker, I draw your attention to the State of the House.

*A quorum having been formed:*

Mr. GILES: I refer here to our financial position. The latest figures from the Treasurer show that we have a balanced Budget for 1968-69, a remarkable effort, considering the trend that was so apparent under the Labor Government of 1965-68. The Treasurer must be congratulated on his wise administration in halting the downward trend and in getting us back to growth and stability. The past year revealed an increase of \$4,000,000 in wages and also \$1,000,000 loss in Budget, because proposals were enacted later than expected. Admittedly, we received \$2,000,000 from the Commonwealth as a special grant, but it is also worthy of note that \$1,000,000 was saved in South Australian Government economies.

Let us have a look at the trend in the building industry, which is recognized as the barometer for the State's economy: approvals for business premises in February, March and April, 1969, totalled \$14,800,000. Last year's approvals for the same three months were \$6,800,000, and the average for the last four years in this period is approximately \$8,000,000. The housing approvals rose by 22.7 per cent in the same three months in this year, compared with the corresponding 1968 figures. There are many illustrations of the industrial growth: Brotex is shifting to Elizabeth from Kilkenny and doubling its employment figures from 120 to 240 with an expansion of \$250,000; the Dutch Company of Nederlandsche Linolein Fabriek of Krommenie is a new industry starting at Elizabeth; Texas Instruments is employing 50 people in a new venture, involving an expenditure of \$250,000; Perry Engineering at Kilkenny is spending \$1,000,000 in expansion; and Iplex Plastics, Wilkins and Mitchell, Brownbuilt and others are all confident that we are now in a position to offer a better production cost proposition than are other States. Documents relating to the housing development scheme on the upper reaches of the Port River have now been signed by the Premier.

Mr. Corcoran: Who initiated that project?

Mr. GILES: I am informed that it was Sir Thomas Playford. In addition, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide has referred to a record building programme for this year. I refer here to

two other major developments: first, Panel-board Proprietary Limited has signed a 35-year agreement with the Woods and Forests Department and private growers to supply material for particles board manufacture. The total value of this agreement is \$400,000,000. Secondly, Carba Aust. Limited has spent \$100,000 in plant at Mount Gambier to supply carbon dioxide. A contract for 15 years has been signed with South Australia and Victoria for this purpose.

Mr. Broomhill: Why haven't you attracted more money from the Commonwealth?

Mr. GILES: We have been given a special grant of \$2,000,000, and the Commonwealth Government most assuredly would not give South Australia such a grant unless it considered that it would be spent wisely and productively. That illustrates the Commonwealth Government's confidence in this Government and in its leadership.

Mr. Broomhill: They realize what a mess this Government has made.

Mr. GILES: Why are these companies coming to and expanding in South Australia? South Australia obviously has a lower production cost figure. It is absolutely essential to the progress and economical stability of South Australia that this cost structure be more attractive than that in the Eastern States.

Our markets lie largely outside of this State, and to compete in open Eastern States markets we have to consider the freight factor on both the finished article and the raw material, if it is not available here. It is absolutely essential that union leaders look at this question very closely. We cannot afford to be on a par with the Eastern States: our cost structure must be better, otherwise we are forced out of markets. We have the happy position now that our cost of production and our cost of living are lower. So let us work to keep this proportion. Let us keep this confidence that the Steele Hall Government has rebuilt into our economic structure, and let us keep the confidence that the industrialists and primary producers now have in us.

Mr. Broomhill: What about State taxes going up 20 per cent? What about the receipts tax?

Mr. GILES: We do not want to get into the position that England now has, where the Socialist Government has introduced many taxes which are not desirable and which could be introduced in South Australia if we had a Socialist Government. In England a man who

employs a person has to pay 54s. 6d. payroll tax as well as 25s. into social services each week. The man who is employed also has to pay 19s. 6d. into the social services just because he works, yet the honourable member talks about 1c in \$10 in South Australia.

Mr. Broomhill: Is that the only tax you've put on?

Mr. GILES: Obviously under the present Administration in South Australia only taxes that are absolutely necessary will be introduced. The only reason why we introduced the receipts tax was to cover up the mess made by the previous Government. Two projects of major importance have to be kept foremost in the minds of all of us here. As South Australia is the fulcrum between Western Australia and the Eastern States, our means of transport must be of the highest order. The standardization of railways is an absolute essential. In reply to a recent question, the Minister of Roads and Transport said that negotiations were presently being held up because the Commonwealth Government had not agreed to the terms of reference for the feasibility study. Last November the South Australian Government could not agree with the Commonwealth Government on the type of study to be carried out. At present we are waiting for the terms of reference so that we can get on with the study to enable this work to be carried out quickly.

Mr. Corcoran: Do you believe in the recognition of Red China?

Mr. GILES: The line between Adelaide and Port Pirie must be standardized as soon as is humanly possible. The main roads leading out of South Australia must be of the highest order. The Eyre Highway must be sealed as an essential part of our communication. The last 300-odd miles is a disgrace and it is essential that this part be sealed. The Northern Highway to Alice Springs is another essential road. A letter to the editor in yesterday's press described the road between Ceduna and the border. Recently a friend of mine returned from Western Australia, and he confirmed that this road was a disgrace to the State. It is encouraging to hear that the Minister has already initiated a programme to seal 45 miles of road between Ceduna and Penong. We are looking to the Commonwealth Government for extra assistance so that we can finish sealing the last link of the road to Western Australia. The Premier has these projects under surveillance and, with his drive and perseverance, as shown when he was

responsible for getting an extra 250,000 acre feet of water for South Australia, he will eventually get these projects under way.

One of the income earners for South Australia that has by no means been fully exploited at this stage is tourism. The Minister of Immigration and Tourism is well aware of the potential in South Australia and is also aware of the need for promotional and developmental work. Recently he and Senator Wright, the Commonwealth Minister-in-Charge of Tourist Activities, made an extensive 2,000-mile tour of the northern parts of the State. From this we hope will come a better appreciation of the State's potential by the Commonwealth, followed by material assistance to develop areas suitable for this purpose. In the past 12 months there has been increased tourist trade into the State, but it is not sufficiently significant yet. With more finances available our outback country, beaches and hills area could be developed to the stage where they would be equal to any other tourist attraction in the world. Our Minister is just the person to develop this industry from \$37,000,000 last year to a major earner for South Australia, if he is given the finance to do it. It is most pleasing to note that the Australian National Travel Association held its first conference in Sydney in May this year to promote tourism in Australia. According to the Executive Director, \$109,000,000 was spent by oversea visitors in 1968. With promotion, this could be increased greatly and tourism could be a big earning factor in our gross national product.

The Minister of Education deals with one of the most important aspects of our welfare. To progress in today's society it is essential for an individual to have an adequate education. The facilities to enable this education to be received are essential. The Minister is vitally interested in all phases of her portfolio: from pre-school education to tertiary level, all aspects receive her avid attention. The interest in pre-school education was shown recently, on May 24, when the Minister was speaking at the annual pre-school conference in the Bonython Hall, and previously, on April 28, when speaking at the Kindergarten Union's annual meeting. The fact that the Minister has travelled over much of the State visiting schools, meeting teachers and school committees and looking at situations in their own environment shows the interest taken. New revolutionary changes in the design of school classrooms are being experimented in at the moment. Wall divisions are movable, enabling

smaller or larger areas to be made available in the building for various types of grouping. This flexible style should give better educational opportunities. Certain examinations are being eliminated and other examinations are being brought together under one name. In technical high and area schools the Leaving will be known only as the Leaving examination.

Mr. Broomhill: Would you say that there was a crisis in education?

Mr. GILES: If the honourable member visits the showground next Saturday his question will be answered. To further illustrate the capable work of the Minister and the department, the Minister was responsible for forming a committee of inquiry into education, which comprises Professor Karmel (Chairman), Justice Mitchell, Mr. I. S. D. Hayward, Dr. W. C. Radford and Professor S. S. Dunn and they are using the terms of reference which are extremely wide. The most important part of the terms of reference is the section requiring the committee "to determine the most effective use of resources available". Last year the Commonwealth allocated \$13,000,000 from Loan funds for capital works such as school buildings, but this is not enough for present-day needs. More assistance must be forthcoming if we are to keep pace with increasing schoolchildren numbers (232,000 at present) and increasing requirements of the students. The State allocated 25 per cent of its total revenue to education, and this is as high as it can go and still cater for other requirements. The Commonwealth must give extra assistance so that high schools like the new Murray Bridge High School can be built: it will be built on a 23-acre site and will cater for 1,000 students.

In South Australia in the last 12 months there have been built six new schools or major additions to primary and infants schools, four high schools, two technical schools, two area schools and a major addition to Bedford Park Teachers College; 16 change rooms and craft centres; 79 single and nine double relocatable classrooms for emergency accommodation and three experimental teaching units. All these buildings were commenced after June 30 last year. There were 33 new schools or major additions finished during the past 12 months and, in addition, there are three new technical schools, a new teachers college and one major addition to a high school in the process of erection. We require many more schools and teachers colleges like these before the growing

need is satisfied. The Minister and the department are extremely concerned about religious instruction in South Australia. At present, in some schools extremely few students are receiving instruction in this field; the figure is as low as 6 per cent in some schools, and in some there is no instruction at all.

The period in which children go to school, starting with pre-school, is the formative period of their lives, and it is essential that religious instruction be given to all students to give them a sound moral base on which to build their character. Parents should play the major role in this sphere, but it is necessary and essential that the schools carry on the work. It is time that religious groups or a majority of them were able to come to the conference table and agree upon a system of religious instruction. We all have basic beliefs that could be used as a starting point to formulate a system or syllabus for use in schools. Knowing her concern, I believe that the Minister will not allow the present situation to continue much longer but will do all in her power to ensure that we have a satisfactory system that will benefit all scholars.

Another point of concern in South Australia is the minority of students causing unrest in the universities. The people of Australia are heartily sick of this rabble infringing on other people's rights. This minority is adversely affecting the reputation of our university students. Most students do not agree with the actions of this minority and this was shown at the recent demonstration when Sir Roden Cutler was pelted with fruit and abused. Some militant students were bodily thrown out of the area by responsible students.

It has been said by certain people that if one does not agree with a law, then break it if necessary to get the point across. Just how ridiculous is this? Where does this sort of thing finish? Do we reach the stage of seeing people killed in wild demonstrations (as is done in other parts of the world) and then say that that is far enough, or do we say that the laws are made for the protection of the community, so abide by them? Most emphatically, I say we abide by the law. I am sure that any move made by the universities, the Commonwealth, or the Minister to curb this undesirable minority, which I believe is being instructed from outside sources, will be most welcome to the general public and to most students in our universities.

Mr. Corcoran: Do you look under your bed to see if there is a commo under it before you get into it?

Mr. GILES: An Opposition member referred earlier to Red China, and I believe there is an outside influence affecting these students. I should like to read part of a report of a lecture given by Richard Cleaver, a member of the Commonwealth Parliament, and I am sure that this quotation will illustrate, first, that there is an outside influence affecting a minority; secondly, that it is a minority only; and thirdly that the more responsible students at universities are heartily sick of this minority and are taking action to combat it.

Mr. Corcoran: Who wrote this?

Mr. Broomhill: What is your authority?

Mr. GILES: I have already said that this is from a lecture given by Richard Cleaver, a member of the Commonwealth Parliament.

Mr. Clark: A member of what Party?

Mr. GILES: Mr. Cleaver stated:

Because of events elsewhere, I find it more than interesting to trace the origin of the Red Guards to the formation in May, 1966, at a middle school attached to the Tsinghua University in Peking, of an underground student group opposed to the school's "reactionary" authorities.

This type of activity in Red China has sparked world-wide student riots and demonstrations. The *West Australian* newspaper of November 14, 1968, ran a headline, "Strife with Students in Three Countries". From the following paragraphs it will be noted that there is a familiarity of plan and method:

"Student riots and demonstrations were reported in France, Italy and India yesterday. The French and Italian protests involved high school children as well as university students. In Paris, high school students called a nation-wide strike yesterday to demand the abolition of examinations and disciplinary punishment. The strike was organized by a militant group of students calling for complete political freedom and the right to invite outsiders to give lectures and attend political debates. At least 11 Paris high schools and scores more in the provinces were expected to take part. In Rome, about 1,500 high school students staged a protest march to support university students who are holding a sit-in to demand the abolition of university entrance examinations. In Bologna, students reoccupied the Technical Institute, from which they were previously evacuated after three students were arrested and four students and three policeman injured. The students are demanding a democratic school system and protesting against police interference. In Genoa, a man arrested as he tried to set off a bomb outside Genoa University told police he had been hired by a student.

In Allahabad, India, 32 students were arrested after having fought with truckloads of armed police who went to the

university to help authorities run classes after two days of riots. The students are demanding representation on the university executive council—

we have heard this in South Australia—

and the withdrawal of an increase in examination fees.

The article continues:

At Amritsar, the university was closed after 12 policemen were injured in clashes with Sikh students who had been refused permission to march through the streets."

I thought I should read that passage for the information of members opposite. The article continues:

In the week before the United States Presidential election, demonstrations among student youth were world-wide. Evidence of international planning in such demonstrations is easy to find. For the London demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in Grosvenor Square a little earlier, four chartered planes from the Continent and two chartered planes from the United States arrived with student youth to add fuel to the fire.

Mr. Broomhill: What is our Government doing about this?

Mr. GILES: I hope to illustrate the possibility that could exist throughout Australia, and it is our duty and right, by making people aware of this situation, to do everything we can to prevent a similar situation arising in South Australia.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order! I hope the honourable member does not intend to read the whole of that text.

Mr. GILES: Most certainly not. It is quite lengthy; all I wish to use are parts of it. The article continues:

In Melbourne, Australia, in recent months there has emerged a disturbing influence among high school students. Underground newspapers with vulgar expressions designed to undermine the authority of the principals and staffs have been published . . . The hard core of the activists can be found in the Socialist societies, some of which united with leaders like Mr. Tariq Ali, a former president of the Oxford Union and now a free-lance writer producing a volume aptly called *Who's Really Who* . . . In Australia, as in most countries, the mass news media always seem to give wide publicity to the activity of minority groups.

I think it is important that the news media keep in the right proportion the actual happenings when these students are involved. I would like to emphasize one particular part as it illustrates how small a minority it is that takes part in these demonstrations. The article continues:

This is reflected in the incidents at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom where two students hurled red paint at an invited speaker from the U.S. Embassy. The two students were rusticated by the Vice-Chancellor and a movement got under way to stage a student strike in protest against this decision. There are 3,000 students at Sussex, and about 1,200 attended a meeting at which the strike was discussed. The vote was salutary. More than 1,100 voted for the suspension of the students and against the strike. Only 50 wanted to take the matter further.

This illustrates the minority that is causing this trouble in our universities. I would like to offer a criticism of the teaching of our younger grades. The "look-say" method of reading does not help pupils to spell as effectively as did the older method of dividing words into syllables. It is a common complaint of employers today that students leaving school do not spell as well as students of years ago did. The second criticism is about the way in which students are taught multiplication tables. New maths, as it is termed, is extremely interesting but I am led to believe that this method of teaching maths is being discontinued in part in other States and in the United States of America. This matter needs further investigation and action. The Minister will be well aware of the situation, but I do add this comment.

I shall make further comments on the agriculture situation in South Australia during the last 12 months. The Minister of Agriculture has had a very difficult year with various sections of the industry; if there was not disease in one sector there was abundance in another, causing difficulties in the way of storage and marketing.

South Australia's yield of wheat was a record 84,500,000 bushels. This, of course, presented South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited with problems of storage. Many temporary storages were erected throughout the State to take the 30 per cent to 40 per cent of the crop that could not be accommodated in existing cells. The abundance of wheat throughout Australia has necessitated the introduction of a quota system to ensure that large quantities of wheat will not be left in the open paddock to waste and a large carryover held after next year's sales.

The pasture position in South Australia at present is somewhat variable. Certain areas badly need more rain, while others are in a better position. The weather pattern in the next few months will determine our feed position and this, of course, will determine the



state of our stock-carrying capacity, which will in turn affect, adversely or otherwise, the price structure. It is interesting to note that a new breed of cattle, the Charolais, is to be introduced into Australia from the United Kingdom. This breed has shown great potential in increased fodder to meat conversion. An average of 10 per cent increase over other breeds is a significant amount.

We are all looking for a good year on the land. Last year, of course, was an abundant growth year, and I pay a tribute to South Australian people in general for their watchfulness in the prevention of bush fires. Our Emergency Fire Services crews in the hills had very little work to do. This is the position we desire to be in. The personnel, despite the small number of fires, still trained as hard as usual, and to them goes our gratitude.

The Minister of Agriculture has been most interested in fauna conservation. During the past year, at Bool Lagoon in the South-East breeding pens for Cape Barren geese, pied geese and Pearson Island wallabies have been built and stocked. A co-operative venture was carried out with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization to study quail. Other work is also being carried on and should be extended into 1969-70. In the Woods and Forests section, 6,500 acres was planted during the 1968-69 financial year. A total of 230,000,000 super feet was produced. A further 3,150 acres of land has been purchased or approved for purchase for afforestation. It is envisaged that the programme of planting 6,000 acres a year will be continued this coming year.

A point that concerns me greatly at present is that we have not a large area of arable land in good rainfall areas in South Australia near the city. In some council areas a large proportion (30 per cent in one case) has been taken up by the Woods and Forests Department for the planting of radiata pine. We, as a community, cannot afford to lose any of our good arable land, because of its scarcity. We have to watch this situation carefully. Otherwise, we will have the Mount Lofty Ranges full of pine trees but have no agricultural or horticultural production. If a situation such as has happened in the Gumeracha council area develops, the people of the district suffer. One-third of the area is owned by the Government. This, of course, means that the rates collected could be 50 per cent higher than they are at present. The roads built through the Woods and Forests Department land are

being built by the council with grant money, but the council is obliged to pay 20 per cent of the total cost of the road, plus compensation for the damage to the plantation, to the Woods and Forests Department. With survey costs for these roads, costs of plans and designs, and hospital contributions, the council pays back to the Government one-third of its income. The Minister is having a close look at this situation and is concerned about the position. I am pleased that last week the Minister of Agriculture received a deputation from three district councils, and the council representatives were extremely pleased about the Minister's proposal.

Another problem in the Gumeracha area is noxious weeds, especially African daisy. Deputations have been introduced to the Minister, who has agreed that there is a need for a buffer zone in the Adelaide Hills in which every measure of control must be taken to stop the spread of further infestation. The Onkaparinga and East Torrens councils are two suggested buffer zone areas. The problem exists that in parts of the East Torrens council area there are inaccessible areas in which control measures are impossible. This allows African daisy and other noxious weeds to spread at will. The move made by the Minister is most welcome, and any future assistance will be readily received. The primary industry has been pleased to hear of biological experimentation carried out at Loxton. This important phase of agriculture is an absolute must. It is the only feasible way in which we can reduce the use of toxic sprays in the industry. I urge the Minister most strongly to do all he can to assist in this matter.

The works programme for the past 12 months has been extremely impressive. It is obvious that money is being spent in the wisest and most productive way. The hospital programme is most extensive. Assistance given to non-government and Government hospitals in proposals completed, in course of construction or approved, amounts to \$25,912,500. A major proposal completed that is well worthy of note is the building additions to the Home for Incurables, costing \$3,588,000. In Government hospitals, some major projects under construction worth noting are a new staff block at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, costing \$2,000,000; a new wing for the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, costing \$2,000,000; the Strathmont Training Centre, costing \$6,600,000; and an extension to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, costing \$2,100,000. Projects approved worthy of note are redevelopment of the Port

Pirie Hospital (\$1,330,000) and the Port Augusta Hospital (\$3,450,000). The \$9,600,000 for stage 1 of the Modbury Hospital was expected, as this was an election promise by the Hall Government and promises made by this Government are honoured and the result is often better than what was promised. We most assuredly honoured promises made by the previous Government. The Glenelg jetty was completed last May, at a cost of \$130,000. The swinging basin at Port Adelaide, to be completed late in 1969, is another important works item.

Because of our situation in South Australia, the amount of work carried on in the water conservation and reticulation field is pleasing to note. The Kangaroo Creek reservoir built at Castambul, on the Torrens River, will hold 6,000,000,000 gallons, which is just on twice the size of Millbrook. This is an important addition to Adelaide's water supply. It will start to impound water in August and should be completed by the end of this year. Other important water projects are additional pumping stations and storage tanks on the Morgan-Whyalla main and the 69 miles of completed Taillem Bend to Keith main (the last 20 miles remains to be completed). By early in 1970 the permanent pumping plant should be installed and the complete main in operation. The Swan Reach to Stockwell main, of 33 miles, was completed during the year and connected to the Warren trunk main, and storage tanks are in the course of construction. The most important Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main has been started. This line is 66in. in diameter and, when finished, will carry a major proportion of Adelaide's water supply. This is scheduled to be finished in 1973-74.

New tanks of 1,000,000-gallon and 2,000,000-gallon capacity are under construction at Tea Tree Gully, Woodforde, Leabrook, Crafers and Chandler Hill. Various trunk mains have been laid throughout the metropolitan area.

At Bordertown and Naracoorte extra bores have been sunk and equipped to augment the town supplies, and Mount Gambier is to have a new pumping station on the Blue Lake. The construction of the Lock-Kimba 69in. main has commenced, this main to serve 950 square miles of central Eyre Peninsula. A reverse osmosis desalination plant was installed at Coober Pedy to supplement supplies; this involves an interesting piece of equipment and its operation will be watched closely. Vast sewerage works have been undertaken; Bolivar is completed, and throughout the

metropolitan area trunk and reticulation sewers are in the course of construction. Sewerage schemes are currently in progress in Millicent, Whyalla, Murray Bridge and Gawler. The Mannum scheme was completed this past financial year, and a scheme for the sewerage of Port Pirie is at present being considered.

The Electricity Trust of South Australia has many projects currently being constructed. In 15 different areas, schemes costing over \$100,000 are current, the largest of these being at Brinkworth, Cherry Gardens and Happy Valley. A large transmission line carrying 132,000 volts is under construction from Cherry Gardens to Murray Bridge. The purchase of the Port Pirie electricity undertaking is proceeding, and a new depot is being built. An important item is the \$2,000,000 conversion to natural gas of oil-fired boilers at Torrens Island. With these projects in hand, I am sure the Minister of Works will find room for fitting in two schemes that are overdue: they are, first, the Piccadilly scheme, which will give reticulated water to that area, and I am happy to say the Minister has this proposal under consideration; and secondly, the provision of water on the Ridge Road at Mount Lofty. This is an important area regarding the control of bush fires. It is hoped that the Minister will favourably view both of these proposals. Sometimes, not only the economics of a supply must be taken into account: the adverse effect on adjacent areas is of major importance if no water is available to control fires, and this is an important aspect.

The Attorney-General has made some important and necessary moves regarding court procedures. The creation of courts of intermediate jurisdiction to relieve the pressure on existing facilities is an excellent move. Recently, adoption cases were kept waiting for some hours in the corridors of the court, and this is most distressing to the new mothers and fathers. The Attorney is aware of the situation in this instance and of other instances of inconvenience, and it is most encouraging to see him capably taking a positive move to relieve the position. One of the most important issues concerning our moral and social standard is censorship. Many people claim that censorship is not modern and that we should do away with it altogether. Of course, anyone can use the argument that the subject under discussion is in the interests of art and that nude scenes on film depict tender lovemaking and are not to be ashamed of.

Producers will make this kind of statement if by so doing they can entice a certain section of our viewing public to view their films, thus filling their pockets. The relaxing of censorship is not in the interests of the community. Censorship is essential.

Mr. LAWN: On a point of order, Mr. Acting Speaker, I ask whether Red China and censorship are matters concerned with the Governor's Speech. We are debating a motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Governor's Speech, and I am asking for your ruling whether Red China and censorship, matters that have been referred to this afternoon, are involved in the Governor's Speech.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): As censorship is in some measure a responsibility of State Governments, it is proper to refer to it.

Mr. Clark: Red China?

Mr. GILES: Both these matters relate to the behaviour of a minority of students in our community, and this is most assuredly our responsibility. Censorship is essential.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: On a point of order, Mr. Acting Speaker, I draw your attention to Erskine May, at page 441, which states:

A member is not permitted to read his speech, but may refresh his memory by a reference to notes . . .

I submit that the honourable member has continued to read his speech and is out of order.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I am informed that, although Erskine May is an authority in some measure, the House sets its own practice in these matters. In my experience in this House, it has been the practice to permit members to read speeches. I agree, however, that speeches should be as brief as possible, even though our Standing Orders make no reference to a time limit on speeches.

Mr. LAWN: Mr. Acting Speaker, I do not wish to embarrass you but point out that you yourself admitted that our Standing Orders were silent on this matter. You refer to practices but it is laid down that, in the event of our Standing Orders being silent, we must adopt the practices and procedure of the House of Commons, not of the South Australian Parliament. I have not raised a point of order; I have merely been correcting your ruling on the point raised by the member for Hindmarsh.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I thank the member for Adelaide for his assistance in this matter. I appreciate that what he has said regarding Standing Orders is in some measure correct. I refer the member for Gumeracha to Standing Orders for his future consideration and ask him to make this his own composition as far as possible, or to let it appear to be his own composition rather than a prepared written speech.

Mr. GILES: Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker. Actually, I am not reading all of the speech, although I may be referring to it rather frequently. Apparently, I am dealing with some subjects that are touchy with the Opposition. Censorship is essential.

Mr. Clark: I think you read this part before.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gumeracha.

Mr. GILES: Everyone of any substance deplores a situation in which towns are burnt in rioting and in which free love is carried on as though it were normal. The relaxing of censorship or the abolition of censorship most certainly would induce actions of the above nature. A community that loses its standards of morality soon loses its sense of responsibility between the members of that community and it loses its sense of respect for each other and each other's property. It is our responsibility in this Parliament to see that every move we make is towards keeping this State and its people in the highly respected position we are in today. The Chief Secretary and his capable Police Force under the Commissioner of Police are doing an excellent job of work with respect to controlling undesirables, and it is our duty to see we stand behind them.

We are particularly pleased to see the increase in Commonwealth grants to the Highways Department for the next five years. The new grant is \$129,000,000, compared with that for the last five-year period of \$86,000,000. This will help our road-building programme considerably, but it is essential to have extra assistance in excess of this to put us on a par with Western Australia, which is in a similar situation to South Australia. We have vast areas requiring road construction, with little population in those areas. As stated earlier, the sealing of the last 300 miles between Ceduna and the Western Australian border is an absolute essential to South Australia's welfare. We cannot stress too strongly the need for this link to be sealed.

We have before us the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study. It is extremely gratifying to hear the Minister say that it is a main aim to provide for as many people as possible on public transport. It is most necessary to extend this means of transportation in conjunction with an extended highway system. With the growth of population from 750,000 now to 1,250,000 people in the metropolitan area by 1986 and an increase from 4,000,000 vehicle miles a day to 10,000,000 vehicle miles a day in the metropolitan area by 1986, it is essential to plan correctly now for the future. There has already been an upgrading of the South Australian Railways in some sectors. The courageous and bold step to close some uneconomic rail services has shown a considerable saving in the department. It was the object to save the State \$1,000,000. The much criticized introduction of bus services has now been acclaimed as being cheaper and more convenient. The Barossa line immediately falls into this category. Congratulations to the Government on this move.

The fact that we now have a Local Government Office is a move in the right direction to gaining better service. The fact that the Highways Department is increasing in size all the time made this step desirable and welcome. There are 138 councils throughout the State and it is most worthy of note that the Minister in the last 12 months has visited about 100 of these. This is another indication of how the Ministers are actively travelling over the whole State to give better service and get the understanding of problems existing in their own environment.

We in Gumeracha had the pleasure of having the Minister of Roads and Transport visit the East Torrens District Council for half a day. On a conducted tour he viewed all the major problems and can now fully appreciate the situation. We also had in our area the Minister of Education, who spent a full day visiting it. On this day we saw several schools, again with the object of viewing at first hand the problems existing at these schools. The Minister of Works and the Treasurer, too, have been to visit us. We also had the pleasure of having the Under Secretary to the Premier visit the area for a full day.

No person in my district has said that he favours Eastern Standard Time, because it would put us at a great disadvantage. Students now have to get up at 5.15 a.m. to catch an early bus from Lobethal. Half the number of people on this bus are workers and, if we changed to E.S.T., these people would have to

get up half an hour earlier. It is very difficult for the students to carry out their duties in present circumstances. I am sure that, if we changed to E.S.T., their difficulties would be far greater. Consequently, I do not support the proposal to change to E.S.T.

Mr. Freebairn: How will this affect the workers?

Mr. GILES: I am trying to reach a position where we do not have the workers out in the dark. There are many dairying enterprises in Gumeracha and, at present, during the winter these people must get up in the dark. If we change to E.S.T. they will have to get up in the dark during summer, too.

Mr. Langley: When they elected you they were in the dark.

Mr. GILES: It is obvious that the people of Gumeracha are very wise: they knew me very well. I should like to record the appreciation of the people of Gumeracha to the Government and the Treasurer for the assistance given to stabilize the fruit industry. The Government is mindful of all the problems besetting primary production and we appreciate the positive step taken in this sphere. I should also like to record the appreciation of the whole district to the Ministers, who have readily listened to our problems and have assisted us where feasible.

I would like to thank the Ministers and their departments for their co-operation and assistance in the issuing of statistics and material for this Address in Reply. From investigations carried out in preparing this speech it became evident that to include all the material would have been impossible because of the volume of that material. The material from the Minister of Works alone would have taken an immense amount of time to give and comment on. However, what I have given does illustrate the amount of progress we have enjoyed in the 12 months since the Steele Hall Government took office. It is most fitting to state that it has been a pleasure to work with all the Ministers. After a short settling-in period, when the new members started to find their feet and became fully acquainted with the Ministers and the various procedures adopted, work got into top gear. The Ministers were most co-operative—even with small matters—and gave their time willingly so that the new members were able to cope adequately with the problems that arose in their respective areas. I must say that the past year has been a delightful and rewarding one, and after this present rate of progress has continued for another two years the

public of South Australia will have no doubt in their minds whatsoever who should be returned to power at the next election. I have much pleasure in moving the motion.

Mr. EVANS (Onkaparinga): Rising to second the motion moved by the honourable member who has just resumed his seat, I congratulate him on his speech. He has given some very good facts and has proved that South Australia is again on the road to progress. As a new member, I wish first to take the opportunity, which I did not have earlier, to thank those who helped new members last session. I congratulate His Excellency the Governor on the grand manner in which he gave his Speech on the opening day of the session and on the clarity with which he spoke. I believe that he and his good wife are an acquisition to the State and I am sure the people of South Australia are proud of both of them. It is also my duty to thank Sir Edric Bastyan, the immediate past Governor, who recently moved to Tasmania where he found an evenly balanced Parliament as he had found here. (Possibly he should be moved around Australia to make sure that all Parliaments are evenly balanced.) I thank Sir Edric and Lady Bastyan for their service to South Australia. I also thank Sir Mellis Napier for the duties he performed for the State, particularly as Lieutenant-Governor during the indisposition of the Governor and while there was a vacancy in the position for a short period. I thank Sir Mellis for his efforts as Governor and in the legal profession. I hope he has the best of health in the future.

Members are fortunate in this Parliament to have all returned to their respective Chambers, whereas in the Commonwealth Parliament, as we heard in the Governor's Speech, the services of Senator Laught, who represented this State so well in the Senate for 18 years, were lost. I pass on my sympathies to the members of his family, whom I thank for the sacrifices they made so that he could serve the people of the State. Other members of Parliament to have passed on during the past 12 months were the Hon. Clarence Goode, who was a member of this Chamber for about 13 years, and of the Ministry for two years; the Hon. Robert Richard Wilson, who was a member of the Upper House for 16 years and with whom, as a new member, I had the privilege of playing bowls only last summer; and Messrs. White and George, who were members of this House. Because the record of their service, their speeches and attempted achievements can be read in

*Hansard*, I do not believe that Parliamentarians pass right out of existence. I believe all of us owe these gentlemen a great debt because it is only through the efforts of former Parliamentarians that we can maintain the standards of living we have in this State today.

The Steele Hall Government has achieved its main object in its first 12 months: at this stage it appears definite that we will balance the Budget as we promised. We took over the reins of Government at a time when the State had had a Labor Government for three years and when Loan funds had been eaten into to the extent of more than \$11,000,000. A credit balance of more than \$3,000,000 left by the previous Liberal and Country League Government had been used up completely. Including accumulated deficits of over \$8,000,000, the total deficit was over \$24,000,000 under A.L.P. mismanagement. Allowing for the \$5,000,000 that we expect to receive for the past nine or 10 months from increased taxation, we have gained by good administration about \$3,000,000 on the result the Labor Government achieved during any one year of its term of poor government. An example of our progress can be seen in vehicle registrations. The Commonwealth average for increases in vehicle registrations is 6 per cent whereas the increase in South Australia has been 13 per cent, more than double the average. It is to the credit of this Government that, after its taking over the Treasury when it was in such dire straits, this rate of progress has been achieved.

I will speak about some matters in my district in the course of my speech. I am disappointed that the Housing Trust is building timber frame houses in some Hills areas. Even though the Minister has said that solid construction houses cost more to build, I believe it is wrong that these timber frame houses should be built. We take it for granted that solid construction houses cost more; I believe they are a better quality house. As the Hills areas experience extremes of weather that test all types of building construction, I believe that solid construction houses are most effective. I am also disappointed for the brickmaking industries at Littlehampton and Lobethal that the trust has decided to build timber frame houses. An upsurge has taken place in the building industry in the last few months, particularly in February, March and April of this year. Approvals for shops, factories, offices and other business premises received and granted in this period amount to \$14,800,000, whereas the average in the last four years for these three months has been

only \$8,000,000. In 1968, the last year of the Labor Party's term of Government, for the corresponding three months the total of approvals was only \$6,800,000. From these approvals we can expect that during the next few months buildings will be constructed and there will be greater activity within the building trade. On present indications, mainly as a result of the actions of the previous Government when people left the State to gain employment in the building industries of other States, there will be a shortage of manpower to carry out the work.

Mr. Langley: They are still leaving.

Mr. EVANS: Yes, they are leaving other States and coming back here, where they know there is sound Government and a better standard of living. In April of this year approval was granted for 936 houses and flats and for the three-month period the total was 2,445, which represents a 22.7 per cent increase on the total for the corresponding three months ended April 30, 1968.

Mr. Langley: What is the increase in the cost of the buildings?

Mr. EVANS: There would be an increase in the cost of the buildings because wages have gone up. We all realize that, as we also realize that while the Labor Party Government was in power the cost of living in this State went up, and this could now be reflected in the building industry. From April, 1968, to April, 1969, 9,020 dwellings were approved, whereas from April, 1967, to April, 1968 (when the Labor Party was in Government) the total was only 7,920. That represents a difference of well over 1,000 in a 12-month period. Before taking over as the Government, we told the people of South Australia that they could not expect us to succeed in restoring complete confidence in our State in the first nine months. However, we have achieved our object in those nine months: we have South Australia moving forwards towards prosperity.

Mr. Langley: How many trust homes are empty?

Mr. EVANS: In the last few weeks, I have tried to obtain a trust home for a gentleman, and none is available in the area in which he requires a house. If the member for Unley doubts my word on this, I ask him to try to obtain a Housing Trust house in the southern districts. He will find that at the moment in South Australia the demand for housing is greater than it has been at any time during the last four years; it is at its peak now.

Mr. Langley: You don't know anything about the building trade.

Mr. EVANS: I do not know at what age the member for Unley entered the building trade. I know that Labor members have called me the garbage collector at different times, but the building trade is a field in which I have been interested since I was a boy of 15. I managed a building business from the age of 19, when my father had a heart attack, and I understand the building trade. Regardless of the attacks on me and the hilarity about my being a garbage collector, the building trade is the one in which I have been mainly interested. Even though I do not associate with the trade directly now, the people that I meet within the industry assure me that the trade is on the upgrade and that they cannot obtain enough employees in the field. They have told me that the reason for that is that the labour force for the trade left this State during the term of office of the A.L.P. Government. Those workers obtained satisfactory employment in other States, and members of the trade here are having a job to encourage those people back to South Australia.

If the member for Unley doubts this, I ask him to go and speak to some members of the building trade, and even in his own field. He would be assured that this has happened. If the honourable member wishes to refer to any particular name in the building industry, in particular a firm that got into financial difficulties during the period of the A.L.P. Government (at the time it was building out on Fullarton Road), he will find that it was not any action of the present Government that brought about that firm's financial difficulties; he will find that it happened during the term of office of the Labor Government.

In the 10 months from June, 1968, to April, 1969, the number of assisted migrants that came to South Australia was 11,264. For a similar period during the term of the Labor Government, from June, 1967, to April, 1968, there were 7,603 assisted migrants. This is an increase of 48 per cent. In 1965, the Labor Government recommended to Canberra that the number of assisted migrants coming to South Australia be cut down because the Government here could not find employment for them. Here we are at this point of time with the employment figure at the best it has been for several years, with more migrants coming here than came at any time during the A.L.P.'s term of office.

South Australia's population gain in 1968-69 was 19,200, compared with 12,700 in 1967-68. The percentage rise in South Australia in 1967-68 was 1.15 per cent, which was a record low for the postwar period in South Australia. In other words, 1967-68 was the worst period for population increase we have had in South Australia since the war, and this was during the time of the Labor Government. I notice that no member of the Opposition denies that the Opposition brought us back to this period of stagnation. In 1968-69, the first year of the Hall Government, we have had a natural increase of 1.71 per cent, slightly better than Victoria, and back to where we were during the time of good Government under Sir Thomas Playford.

The employment situation is still continuing to improve. By the end of May unemployment had fallen by 650, down to 6,737. This, seasonally adjusted, represents a fall of 530, to 6,744. In other words, we are overcoming our unemployment problem, and we are finding employment for the people, even though more than 1,000 people every month are now coming to this State from other countries. On top of this, of course, we have people coming back here from other States, old residents of South Australia who were hounded out of here by A.L.P. policy. Those people are coming back here to live in the luxury that the Steele Hall Government is providing in South Australia.

The registered job vacancies in April rose by 30 to 2,346. This, seasonally adjusted, represents a rise of 162 to 2,914. Of course, there has been an increase in the employment field in other States, but not as great on an average as has occurred in South Australia. There has been a fall of 18 per cent in the number of registered unemployed for the 12 months' period ending May, 1969.

Mr. Broomhill: What about the increase in State taxes?

Mr. EVANS: Also, there has been an increase of 31 per cent in the number of job vacancies in this State. The member for West Torrens referred to increased taxation. Of course, we must realize that this Government took over at a time when the Labor Government was showing a loss of \$24,000,000 in a period of three years. If people have asked for a service and someone has been foolish enough to give it to them, there is only one place that the money can come from: it has to be paid for by the people. The Labor Government squandered the people's money,

and it has to be repaid. The people realize this; they realize that the taxes being imposed on them were forced on the Hall Government: there was no alternative.

Mr. Clark: In other words, they enjoy increased taxation! Whom are you kidding?

Mr. Broomhill: The member for Onkaparinga has been speaking to the wrong people.

Mr. EVANS: In the subdivisional field, we find that the number of new allotments formed in the first four months of each of the last four years is very interesting. I instance the number of allotments created in the first four months of 1966, the first year of the A.L.P.'s term of office when it was still living on the benefits provided by the Playford Government during its reign of nearly 30 years.

Mr. Clark: The State was almost bankrupt at the end of that time.

Mr. EVANS: There was a credit of over \$3,000,000, so it cannot be said to have been bankrupt. The Labor Government brought us down to a deficit of \$21,000,000 in the next three years. In 30 years Sir Thomas Playford did very well to be up \$3,000,000, and the fact that the A.L.P. went down all that much in three years is very interesting. I will admit that Sir Thomas Playford had a deficit occasionally, but he did not have it continuously every year; he was able to balance the Budget at times, and that was something the A.L.P. could not do.

In the first four months of 1966, the number of new allotments created in South Australia was 1,553; for the same period in 1967 there were 1,072; in 1968 there were 634; and in 1969 there were 1,857. In the three years from 1966 to 1968 the number fell from 1,553 to 634, but for the same period in 1969 the number of new allotments created was 1,857. We see that in 1969, in the first four months of this year, the number of allotments created exceeds by 300 the number in the same period of the first year of the Labor Government's term of office, and it is practically three times as great as the number approved in the first four months last year. This proves that the business community and the people of this State have confidence in the Steele Hall Government, because they know they have an honest and sincere Government working for the betterment of the State and a Government that will take chances about the attitude of the people when they are asked to pay taxes in order to compensate for the deficiencies left by the A.L.P.

Another matter which has been bandied about and which is referred to in the Governor's Speech is the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report. Originally, the M.A.T.S. plan was initiated in order to study the transport needs of the State for the next 20 years. At no time since the report was published has a Government member stated that the plan in its entirety would be implemented: it was to be used as a basis of design to meet the transport needs of the State. I believe that some Government members have expressed outright opposition, but I would be amazed if all members on this side accepted, without question, all legislation that was introduced in this House.

We are not told to abide by what our Leader says or what a certain organization wants us to do, whereas, if we were associated with the Trades Hall, this would be the case and we would have to abide by decisions from that place. The M.A.T.S. plan provides for a combination of private and public transport, and it plans for a period of 20 years. We all know that in 20 years, or even before that, we shall need further plans in order to cater for the needs of the community. The M.A.T.S. plan proposes that \$107,000,000 be spent on public transport. No-one has said how all or any of it will be spent, but money for public transport has to come from taxes paid by people of this State—that is, those who use the transport and those who do not use it will all pay.

Mr. Broomhill: Do you think that is a good idea?

Mr. EVANS: No. The \$436,000,000 to be spent on road development will come from those using the roads. Two-thirds of this cost will come from Commonwealth Government grants from petrol tax and so on and the other third will come from registration and motor taxes imposed in this State. The motorists using the freeways and highways will pay for them. However, the payment for public transport will be made by people whether they use it or not.

Mr. Broomhill: What do your electors think of this?

Mr. EVANS: They are happy and content. I speak confidently; although I criticized the Highways Department about the development of the freeway through Crafers and Stirling, I now assure members that people living in the Hills area are satisfied that this was the only thing that the department could do. The road serves the area well and people living

at Hahndorf, Mount Barker, Woodside, and Lobethal are now within a reasonable distance of the city. When the freeway is completed these people will be able to drive to the city in about 35 minutes. The freeway has also helped heavy transports travelling to other States: they can move faster and can allow motorists free passage, with the result that conditions are much safer. The people living in this area knew that they had to suffer inconvenience while the freeway was being constructed but they are now reaping the benefits of it. Generally, freeways and expressways will become an essential part of the transport system of this State. The number of passengers carried on public transport has been decreasing for many years. At present, 19 per cent of personal trips made each day are on public transport.

Mr. Virgo: That is the lowest of any State in the Commonwealth.

Mr. EVANS: True, because of our affluent society. People in this State can afford to have more motor cars, because they have the money to buy them. Our motor vehicle registrations have increased by 13 per cent in 12 months, although the Commonwealth average increase is only six per cent. Perhaps we do not need public transport, because individuals are independent and use their own vehicles, and we have a higher standard of living in this State than there is in any other State. If the present trend in the use of public transport continues, it will drop to nine per cent by 1986, but by implementing the M.A.T.S. Report it is hoped to maintain the rate at 13 per cent.

We on this side believe that the M.A.T.S. plan has to be implemented in its basic design. The Leader of the Opposition, after returning from America, condemned the entire plan. I was disappointed when he did this, because he was in charge of the Attorney-General's Department, and Premier later, when the committee was formulating the plan, and he had an opportunity (if he desired) to give evidence or make inquiries at that time. However, after \$650,000 has been spent the Leader now condemns the plan. I could travel to America and meet people who would condemn the plan but I could also meet people who would praise it: it depends on one's attitude to transport. Turning to another matter, I congratulate the person in charge of the dining-room at the Adelaide Railway Station. I believe that the service and the way the dining-room operates now is a credit to him, and I thank him for his efforts.



The recent Commonwealth grant to this State was \$129,000,000 for the next five years, whereas the previous grant for five years had been only \$86,000,000. The Commonwealth has insisted that \$59,000,000 of the \$129,000,000 must be spent on arterial roads, and as this is more than the Highways Department will need, on present plans, to carry out its work in the next five years, the surplus could be used to acquire land for future roads and freeways. If we do not acquire the land now, we will pay much more in future acquisition. We should acquire as much land as possible for the routes of freeways planned now and for future freeways.

Mr. Broomhill: Do you believe in paying fair compensation?

Mr. EVANS: I wonder how fair compensation would be determined. The A.L.P. Government did not find a method in the three years that it was in office and I do not consider that the present Government or any future Government will devise a method by which everyone paid compensation thinks that the compensation is fair.

Mr. Broomhill: So, you think it doesn't matter?

Mr. EVANS: I did not say that. I may explain later why I do not consider that a method satisfactory to all parties can be found, and perhaps I shall deal with the problems associated with compensation.

Mr. Broomhill: I would rather you did it now.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is not allowed to anticipate debate.

Mr. EVANS: The saving on the basis of time alone from the implementation of the M.A.T.S. plan now will be \$28,000,000 a year, because of the higher speeds attainable on freeways. The estimated saving on the operation of vehicles is \$43,900,000 a year. Experience elsewhere, particularly in the United States of America (where the Leader of the Opposition has been), shows that freeways and expressways save many lives, and it is estimated that, during the next 20 years, if the M.A.T.S. plan were in operation, we could save 300 lives. This is an important facet of the plan.

Mr. Broomhill: Are you supporting the M.A.T.S. plan now?

Mr. EVANS: As I have said, this Government supports it in basic principle, and I support it. I support probably more of the M.A.T.S. plan than most other members support. I pull no punches there. The plan proposes the construction of 63 miles of freeways.

Of this distance, 24 miles is in fully-developed areas and 39 miles is not developed greatly at present. If we are to acquire land, we must do so now, before the cost of acquisition increases. If the State is to move forward with the times, we must have a forward development plan, and I congratulate those who initiated the M.A.T.S. proposals, which are the basis of developing the metropolitan transport system.

I congratulate the Highways Department on the effort and work put into the Hills freeway and the beautification of the area. The beautification is a credit to the department and has removed much of the ill-feeling of the people in the Hills about the ugliness of the embankments and the general destruction that occurred when the freeway was being built. Although the people nearby still have problems because of noise and loss of property, the general attitude of the people in the area is one of acceptance and thanks. At present the freeway contains 26 acres of road pavement, and 165 acres is reserve area. The Highways Department deserves credit for the beautification work done on the 165 acres. I was never pleased about the bridge that was designed in the Playford era. The new bridge at Port Augusta will have a height limit of 20 feet, yet a bridge has been built on the road to Melbourne with a height limit of 15 feet. That was a mistake and I hope that the department gets the message and does not do such a stupid thing again. I understand that it was not intended in the first instance to build a bridge with such a height limit but, nevertheless, the mistake should have been rectified. It seems foolish to require heavy vehicles to go to Crafers and come out again.

Mr. Casey: You should write to the Minister, pointing this out.

Mr. EVANS: I have spoken to the Minister, and he knows my feelings, as do the people in my district.

Mr. Casey: As he is in charge of the department, he can tell it what to do.

Mr. EVANS: I did not say that he could not do that. Since before I became a member of this Parliament I have considered that some Government departments need investigation. I do not mean that anything is wrong in the department regarding finance: I consider that they are just inefficient. If we engage experts to examine industrial development but do not investigate our departments, we are falling down. The Highways Department and the Railways Department, in particular, could be

improved in efficiency if consultants investigated them. This improvement would benefit not only the State but also our workers. I consider that the people working in these departments are genuinely interested in their work and do their best. I have no axe to grind about that, but the stage has been reached where some of these employees are ashamed to admit that they work in the departments, because they know of the unfortunate things that go on within them. I have always believed that the man on the end of the line, the worker, takes the rap.

We should not allow motor vehicles being manufactured today that are capable of travelling at 140 miles an hour to be sold for use on our roads. These vehicle should be sold for use on racing tracks only.

*[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]*

Mr. EVANS: I previously referred to companies selling motor cars capable of speeds well over 100 miles an hour; in fact, capable of speeds even up to 140 miles an hour. This is a factor rather damaging to the motor car companies themselves. I noticed in today's newspaper a report that the Managing Director of the Ford organization in New South Wales (Mr. Bill Bourke) had stated that he would instruct dealers to sell the 140-mile-an-hour Falcon GT only to people over 30 or to younger people if they held a motor sport competition licence. I am rather relieved to know that he is conscious of the danger of allowing such a car to be driven by the rank-and-file users of the road. But what guarantee is there that in, say, four years' time, when these cars are perhaps showing signs of metal fatigue, they will not fall into the hands of people who are not responsible drivers and that they will not then represent a hazard to other road users? I believe it is time to bring down regulations whereby cars that can exceed a speed of, say, 100 miles an hour should be banned from the roads and used only on race tracks.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: Are you saying there should be a 100-mile-an-hour limit?

Mr. EVANS: Yes.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: Isn't that a bit high?

Mr. EVANS: Yes, but anyone who has experienced driving a fast car will be aware that the extra 40 miles an hour is the hardest to handle. I congratulate the Minister of Roads and Transport and Cabinet on the decision to implement a points demerit system of penalty in respect of motorists who break

the laws of the road. I believe that this system is important and, indeed, necessary, and I have no misgivings about it at all.

Mr. McKee: You may not be driving yourself.

*Members interjecting:*

The SPEAKER: Order! There are too many interjections. The honourable member for Onkaparinga.

Mr. EVANS: I also congratulate the Minister and those assisting him in his endeavours to ascertain a speed that drivers of heavy vehicles can suitably observe. Within the last week, a test was held at Bolivar concerning the braking efficiency of heavy vehicles. Although I was unable to attend myself, because of an appointment with another Minister, I compliment the Minister of Roads and Transport on organizing this test and proving to those present the capabilities of big heavy-laden vehicles. When a car is towing a trailer or caravan, bearing in mind that braking mainly affects the car's front wheels, there is a tendency for the car to jack-knife if the caravan or trailer does not also have brakes. I therefore believe that braking for trailers and caravans should be implemented in legislation in the future.

I still believe in the use of radar as it is being and has been used. Even though I have been lucky at times not to be trapped by radar, I believe it forms an essential part of our road safety programme. I also believe that the breathalyser should be used on spot checks, for there is no doubt that drinking is one of the major contributing factors to our road accidents. I believe drinking should be treated similarly to the way in which we treat any other disease in the community. We should use the breathalyser as a means of deterring people from driving when they drink.

The law regarding axle weights on heavy vehicles is outmoded. A figure of eight tons for vehicles with 10in. or 11in. tyres is provided for, but they could carry more than that on their rear axles. Trucks equipped with 700 x 20 tyres can carry up to eight tons and they have only about half the strength and braking power of heavier vehicles. The weights that vehicles can carry should be suited to the size and ply of their tyres. This matter should be looked at in the future.

The Governor, in referring to the Education Department, said that over the last 12 months we had spent 10 per cent more on education than in the previous year. I congratulate the Minister of Education on the way she has

handled the department during a very difficult year. She is a credit to the womanhood of South Australia and her work illustrates that women within this Parliament and in any other sphere can carry out duties equally as well as can men. During her term as Minister she has stood up to all the Opposition's criticism; in fact, she and the department thought it wise to implement regulations on student allowances that the previous Minister of Education was possibly afraid to implement because he feared the repercussions.

She faced up to all the criticism and showed sound judgment in sticking to her guns. She has travelled all over the State to become familiar with schools and their problems. Both those on the Opposition side and those on this side of the House appreciate the way she has carried out these duties. I agree with the following statement of the previous Minister of Education, the present member for Whyalla:

The only real relief in regard to changes in education must come with greatly increased financial assistance from the Commonwealth.

Everyone in this House would agree with this statement. I should like to turn now to some matters affecting my own area. I am very happy with the reply I received from the Minister of Works this week in relation to the Heathfield High School's playing fields, and I only hope that, when Cabinet considers the question of finance to construct these playing fields, it will find the necessary money. Those concerned with the Heathfield High School have been waiting for some years, because they were promised these fields within two years of the completion of the school, yet they are still waiting for them.

I congratulate the people of Mount Barker on the way they have accepted the high school there. It looks like a Highways camp with many prefabricated temporary buildings. I thank the people for accepting the school and for saying they are satisfied with it and the playing fields at the present stage. At the same time, we must in the future provide a solid construction building there so that central heating can be provided to cope with Mount Barker's cold climate.

Most members will recall that I have asked questions about a teacher's residence at the Echunga Primary School, but there is still no residence there, so I will have to ask more questions to achieve my aim. The Happy Valley Primary School is so close to a reservoir that the children can throw a stone into it, yet there is no reticulated water at the school.

The Minister and the Liberal Government have carried out much development at this school in the past. The Labor Party was in power for three years and promised the people in the area it would look at this matter. The people of Ironbank are concerned that the area just fails to qualify on distance for a school bus, and the parents must transport the children some distance to the high school. This is a burden on these people. Perhaps the Minister could look at this to see whether a subsidized bus or something similar could be provided to the community. The people would be happy to contribute towards its cost.

State aid for private schools is one aspect of education causing much concern throughout the Commonwealth. It will be used as a political football and vote catcher possibly until the full amount it costs to educate a child in a State school is paid. That could be the aim of this group which does not consist of only one church but of all those organizations with private schools. We must set out to supply a certain number of buildings and teachers.

Mr. McKee: You are opposed to State aid?

Mr. EVANS: No, I believe these people have some claim, considering the taxation they pay. Also, I believe it is our job to supply facilities so that they cannot hold a gun at our heads and at the heads of political Parties by saying, "What happens if we send the children to State schools? You cannot accommodate them." This problem has developed over many years and the Governments over the years have not had to worry about supplying as many school buildings. If there had been no private schools during this time school buildings would have been erected over the period to accommodate these children. We all realize that buildings cannot be built in a day that would accommodate an influx of children from private schools. No doubt there is justice in the argument that there should be aid to private schools, but before we take it too far I believe that as Parties and Governments we should decide on what percentage we will stop at, and give that percentage, and only that. In other words, we should go to the meeting table and come to a decision that is reasonable and acceptable to all. The people belonging to the committees of private schools today will not be on those committees forever. If we get an assurance now on a sum of \$50, in 10 years' time a new group may say it costs \$150, \$200, and so on to educate the children. Therefore, assurances may not be acceptable in the future. I think this matter

will be used as a political football, and we should endeavour to stop this from the outset.

I congratulate the Minister on making available a school health branch in private schools to enable complete examinations of students in the first and last years of primary school and vision and hearing examinations in grade 4. It is essential that these children should receive similar medical services to those received by students in State schools. I also congratulate the authorities through whom country areas are able to see mobile art exhibitions. There are many art galleries in the Adelaide Hills in my area and in that of the member for Gumeracha. I know that the Minister of Works is aware of the problem associated with art galleries and craft centres established in this area. There is concern that at the moment these people come within the provisions of the Early Closing Act and cannot remain open during weekends, when most people are interested in viewing and inspecting these galleries and promoting the arts and the artists of this State. In particular, the Aldgate Arts and Crafts Centre handles exclusively the arts and crafts of South Australians, and if legislation is not passed to enable those people to remain open or to get an exemption in respect of certain crafts so that they can remain open, I believe it will be very detrimental to the State and to the arts and crafts of the State in general.

The Minister of Works is the person responsible for our water resources, and water is the lifeline of this State for the future, as has been stated by members on both sides of this House and by others who are in authority outside. I am pleased to see that the Government has set up a committee to investigate the water resources of the State. I see that this committee has very wide terms of reference. This is essential for the future of South Australia. In the Adelaide Plains, north of Adelaide, we have the problem now that people are being restricted; they are no longer allowed to drill bores to a depth greater than 25ft. The new regulation covering this matter is on the table at present. In the coral basin some of the bores are down to 250ft.

Mr. McKee: Have you any comments to make about Chowilla?

Mr. EVANS: The shallow bores in the gravel bed are obtaining water in good quantities down to about 140ft., and it is a matter of concern to the landholders in that area now that there may be severe restrictions forcing some of them to reduce production. I bring to the notice of the Minister of Works

and the Premier the question of the use of effluent from the sewage treatment works at Bolivar. In my opinion, the effluent from those works should be made use of as soon as possible. At the moment it is going to waste, and I am quite sure that if it was pumped to the growers they would use it. I know there is some concern about its quality and about whether the continued use of it may eventually make the soil unsuitable for vegetable growing. I personally believe that if the water were shandied and if it were sold to the growers and the growers rotated their irrigation areas, possibly using it over a period of three years, it could be used effectively.

The pumping costs are the problem. I know that the growers at the moment can pump water for 5c or 6c a thousand gallons, and I have doubts whether the department could pump it through mains for this; but, even if it were double this price, I still believe that in the long term it would be better for the State and better for the growers in the area. If it were found to be unsuitable for vegetable growing, I am sure it would be quite useful for the fodder crops that are grown in the area. At the moment we have 30,000,000 gallons a day flowing into the sea, and when these works are in full production this figure will rise to 80,000,000 gallons, equivalent to the average daily consumption of water in the Adelaide metropolitan area. For this reason, I believe the Minister of Works and Cabinet in general must consider this very seriously, because if we were to restrict pumping by 15 per cent and meter all bores, which is suggested (the meters cost about \$400, and they have to be installed), with the number of bores in the area we would find that we were running into a cost of about \$1,000,000. If we are contemplating spending this amount of money metering the bores, we should consider making shandied water available to the areas.

We have another problem within the Adelaide Hills, one that was referred to earlier in an interjection. I said then that I would say something on this subject at a later stage. The payment by the Government of compensation does not necessarily apply only to free-ways or to proposals under the M.A.T.S. plan. The Minister of Works is aware (as I am, and as most members are) that it is intended to build another reservoir on the Onkaparinga River, a matter that was referred to in the Governor's Speech. It is envisaged that 45 properties will be acquired if the proposal is continued. Immediately this happens the Meadows District Council will have in its area

the Happy Valley, the Clarendon, and the Mount Bold reservoirs and the Kuitpo Colony reserve, but the council will receive no rates from these properties. Those facilities are provided to serve the people in the city: Meadows does not have a reticulated water supply, but the ratepayers of that area have to bear the burden of maintaining these reservoirs and reserves and the roads in them for the benefit of people living in the city.

The Government should seriously consider the matter of non-ratable property, and if it is not paying rates on these properties, which are paying propositions to the Government and competing with private enterprise, it should make an *ex gratia* payment to the council each year. Another problem associated with the forest reserves is that if an adjacent landholder has pests, vermin and noxious weeds coming from the adjoining Government-owned property, he cannot obtain financial assistance from the Government department concerned to eradicate them. I believe that the Woods and Forests Department should construct and maintain 50 per cent of a vermin-proof fence on any common boundary with its neighbour. This is another burden placed on the community of the Hills area. The reserves do not benefit the local people, and as the people of the State receive all the benefits they should pay the cost of the fencing by way of taxation. The member for Gumeracha spoke about many of the works carried out through the department controlled by the Minister of Works. I believe this Minister has one of the heaviest portfolios in Cabinet, and I congratulate him on the amount of work he gets through and his accessibility to all members: also, he is a capable Minister.

I am concerned with the pollution of water. More pressure is being brought to bear by different groups to control the land in the runoff and catchment areas above reservoirs. If the use of the land is to be controlled people are entitled to some compensation, particularly if we use the the same argument as that used on behalf of people adjoining freeways who are to receive compensation if they are inconvenienced. The people living above the reservoirs in the catchment areas are entitled to the same consideration as are those who live near freeways and expressways. Some people living in the Hills area are being penalized for the benefit of city people: they do not have reticulated water in their houses and do not have electric power, but they are asked to pay rates to help maintain services used by the city people.

Although the main from Chandler Hill to the Heathfield tank serves people living in the Aldgate, Stirling and Mount Lofty areas, I believe that it is wrong that people living on the main should be rated to help pay for it: they should pay only for the water they use. I hold this opinion about all water rating in South Australia. The present Minister and other Ministers in the past have told me that this would be extremely difficult to implement. However, I believe that it will come about one day. If 1,000 gallons of water costs \$1, let us pay it. I give credit to the Premier for introducing the Electoral Districts (Redivision) Bill. Although I have criticized some aspects of the Bill, the Premier is to be congratulated on getting the measure through the House. It must have been a good Bill, because it was accepted, as the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) has said, by both Parties and by you, Sir. Because of this, I know that it is acceptable to the people, even though I consider that 45 districts would have been a more suitable number and that the country people will suffer to some extent in future as a result of the Bill.

Mr. Virgo: Are you criticizing the commissioners' report?

Mr. EVANS: I criticize one aspect of it, and I do not think the commissioners would object to my doing so. That is that the commissioners have left out of the metropolitan area an area of housing development in Crafers and Stirling East. They have left out the Crafers Primary School and all the houses adjacent to it. Despite that, the area alongside the Mount Bold reservoir was included in the metropolitan area because of the convenience of using the Onkaparinga River as a boundary. If members went to the Mount Bold reservoir, they would find that all that exists on the reservoir area is about seven kangaroos.

Mr. Virgo: Is this what you put to the commission?

The SPEAKER: Order! This is not Question Time. The honourable member for Onkaparinga.

Mr. EVANS: I am pleased that we did not end up with 29 metropolitan districts and only 18 country districts.

Mr. Rodda: Do you think—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Victoria is out of order.

Mr. EVANS: The Minister of Tourism plays an important part in this State. We all know that our natural resources are limited and that in future tourism will be one of the industries on which we have to rely. I

thank the Minister and the Director of the Tourist Bureau for the amiable way they regard the Mount Barker Summit. The Director inspected this area a fortnight ago with council representatives and myself, with a view to developing it as a tourist attraction. I hope that it can be so developed, because it is equally as attractive as the Mount Lofty Summit.

As the member for Gumeracha (Mr. Giles) has said, people in the Hills have a problem with noxious weeds being allowed to grow on reserves and in national parks. If ratepayers on adjoining properties are to be required to accept responsibility, this Government or the department concerned must accept the responsibility of removing the pest from land under its control. If that is not done, the ratepayer will have the burden on him for all the time that he owns the property, because of the influx of these noxious weeds from adjoining property.

I congratulate the Minister of Lands (Hon. D. N. Brookman) on his foresight in introducing the spotter aeroplane method of fire detection. Doubtless, use of the aircraft resulted in a firebug being caught in the Adelaide Hills. If nothing else is achieved, detection of firebugs is a good result. I commend the use of the aeroplane and hope that funds for its continued operation will be available. We in the Hills live in fear of a major fire occurring because of camp fires lit by picnickers, blackberry pickers and other people who make use of the magnificent Hills but do not realize that by leaving a camp fire lighted they may destroy the beauty that they have gone to admire. I join with the member for Gumeracha in congratulating the Emergency Fire Services on their tireless work in the Hills and throughout the State.

The Lands Department has continued the policy of freeholding land and at present the State contains about 16,000,000 acres of freehold land and 20,000,000 acres of perpetual lease land. I am a little disappointed that financiers will not lend money more readily on leasehold land. Indeed, a perpetual lease is regarded as being almost the same as freehold. I believe less freeholding would occur if financiers were more amenable to lending money to develop leasehold land. Although I can see little difference between the two types of land, I congratulate the Minister of Lands on leaving it open for people to freehold land.

Over the years, I have been concerned about several matters, particularly the news media, which I believe develops our general attitude to people's way of life. Unfortunately, a group that demonstrates, protests and goes to extremes receives headlines and full publicity, whereas this is not so concerning a group which may be twice the size numerically but perhaps only half as vocal and which goes out and does good deeds in the community. I believe that television, radio and the press can do much to alter our way of life by promoting the activities of those who do good in our society and by commenting less on those who wish to be radicals, not highlighting their activities.

Although I believe that we must make allowance for protests and demonstrations (they form part of our democratic society and should be allowed if carried out within the law), I believe that we have reached the stage where the average person looks down on one who says he is a Parliamentarian, a university student or perhaps a member of a particular profession. In other words, we are largely responsible for our own reputation. Whereas at one time a person might have been proud to admit that he was a university student, I do not think that is the case today, because of the actions of one or two radicals, and I think this situation has been brought about mainly by the news media's highlighting the efforts of those radicals. Had the activities of such people been relegated to the back pages, I am sure they would not have continued so vigorously with their protests, etc.

I have received many protests from constituents about changing to Eastern Standard Time; indeed, I can see little benefit to be gained from this change. Western Australia, which at present is an hour and a half behind South Australia, will be two hours behind us if a change occurs. Whereas we may have thought that Western Australia was once way out on a limb, it has recently gained much ground and will be quite an economic force within the Australian community in the years to come. I should prefer to change to a time half an hour closer to Western Australian time if any change were to occur. Personally, however, I think the situation should remain as it is.

I believe that justice has been done in the recent decision to award equal pay for equal work undertaken by the female work force, and I believe that equal pay should apply to piece work, contract work and, indeed, to

every field of endeavour in which people are paid according to the amount of work performed. I believe the sooner this is applied the better it will be for society and the more people will strive to use their initiative.

I agree with the statement made by the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) concerning merchandising in the shops, for I believe that stores bring about their own problems when they display commodities in such a way as to tempt those who are struggling to make ends meet. I can do nothing else but call it five-finger discount that is encouraged by the retailers. I agree with the honourable member that the situation should be changed if possible.

I am a little disappointed in some statements made about the medical profession, because I do not believe its members are any worse than the rest of us. It has been suggested that the doctors are wrong in increasing their fees. In my community if a person is in dire straits the doctors will not charge the full rates; in many cases they carry out their duties for no fee at all. They are being condemned because they have taken an increase in their pay, but we must remember that they do not have to charge the increased rate: they are quite free to charge whatever they wish.

Some honourable members gave evidence several weeks ago that they were entitled to an increase in their pay. We are accepting an increase of \$1,000, but I do not know whether we are entitled to it. I believe that we must set an example and if the State has gone backwards (as it did during the three years of the Labor Government) and is only now starting to pick up, let us prove that we are on the road to prosperity and then get a little out of the bin. If there is any justice in our taking our \$1,000, I believe there is justice in the medical profession's asking for its increase. Many members gave evidence asking for the pay increase: they did not leave it to the tribunal. They went to a lot of bother to get the increase. People should not condemn the doctors if they do the same thing themselves.

I am glad there has been time for people to look at the Bill concerned with abortion law reform, and I am sure that eventually it will be passed in some form. It was defeated in Western Australia but I believe it will be reintroduced in the Western Australian Parliament in August. It was defeated there on a technicality because it provided for a burden

on the Crown and it was introduced by a private member, not a Minister. If it had been introduced by a Minister it would have had a chance.

Legislation is contemplated in relation to child-minding centres, about which letters have been written to members. It has been stated by the Minister that money is a problem in respect of this service. These centres are used by married women who go to work, and this is a good service. If such centres are to be registered—and I believe they should be—the cost of maintaining them and keeping them under control should be borne by the people making use of them. The licence fee should be high enough to pay the salaries of inspectors and those who maintain the standards at all times. It is not right that such a burden should be placed on the taxpayers as a whole. The family man will suffer if his wife does not work. If a woman is at home looking after a large family it is wrong that her husband, on a single income, should have to help the standard of living of another family that is in receipt of a double income because the wife is working. If the legislation provides for a registration fee high enough to pay the inspectors, I will support it. It will be a high fee, but justice will be done.

I congratulate all the Ministers on the ease with which they can be spoken to. I am indebted to many people in this House for my first year here. I thank them for their help. Supporting the remarks of the member for Gumeracha and congratulating him again on his magnificent speech, I second the motion.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General) moved:

That the Electoral Act Amendment Bill, 1968, be restored to the Notice Paper as a lapsed Bill pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act, 1934-1965.

Motion carried.

In Committee.

(Continued from February 20. Page 3798.)

Clause 3 passed.

Clause 4—"Interpretation."

Mr. VIRGO: I oppose this clause, which is the first of several establishing the new office of referee, the purpose of which is to take over some of the duties currently carried out by the Returning Officer for the State. In

his second reading explanation, the Attorney-General said that the Bill was being introduced following consideration of the Millicent electoral petition by the Court of Disputed Returns, as it seemed desirable as a result of that court case to examine the Electoral Act to see what modifications should be effected in the light of the court's judgment. The Attorney also referred to the 15 votes that were the subject of discussion by the court. Unfortunately, he did not get his facts straight. On pages 2868 and 2869 of *Hansard* the Attorney referred, first, to the five ballot-papers before the court as a result of alleged incorrect or late posting.

This Bill in a later clause takes care of this position by providing that a postal vote, to be valid, must be in the electoral system by 8 p.m. on polling day, so the quarrel that the court faced in relation to these five votes will no longer exist if that clause is carried. The Attorney then dealt with the five votes in dispute, substantially on the basis that the witness did not fall within the categories enumerated in section 80. Again, this matter has been catered for in this Bill. He then dealt with the two further ballot-papers, and this is the basis of his argument on why there should be a referee. He said:

Two further ballot-papers were disputed on the grounds that they were improperly marked. Both of these papers could have been considered by the Returning Officer for the State and that officer would have been expected to make, putting it no higher, a *quasi-legal* decision. It is felt that, as a layman, he is not entirely equipped to make such decisions and, accordingly, it is proposed that this duty will devolve on a legally qualified electoral referee of substantial experience.

I think that if the Attorney does his homework he will realize that the Returning Officer for the State considered these two votes and made a decision on them. The court also made a decision, and it is interesting to note that it was exactly the same as that of the Returning Officer for the State.

It is interesting to note further that, whilst all of the decisions of the court were not unanimous and were not all upheld by the Attorney in his capacity as a member of the Court, the decision on both of these ballot-papers in question, concurring with the decision of the Returning Officer for the State, was agreed to by the Attorney-General. The first one was unanimous, agreed to even by the Minister of Lands (Hon. D. N. Brookman). The Minister of Lands put in a dissenting

opinion at the conclusion, and it was the most biased statement I have ever read. I think that for a member of the court to come out with a statement like that was a disgrace, and I commend the Attorney because he obviously dissociated himself from that document. Even the Minister of Lands agreed that the Returning Officer for the State had made the correct decision on the first vote.

On the second vote the same applied. Therefore, I suggest that the Attorney-General has not been honest with this House, and that there are some other reasons why he wants a referee and why he wants to depose the Returning Officer for the State. The Attorney can laugh for all he is worth, but the answer lies in the hearing conducted by the State Returning Officer in the Police Club Building when the Hon. Mr. DeGaris was advocating a case on behalf of Mr. Cameron, the defeated candidate in Millicent, and was being fed continuously with slips of paper and whispers in the ear from both the Attorney-General and the former Attorney-General (Hon. C. D. Rowe); but, despite all of this, the State Returning Officer had the courage of his convictions and brought down a decision completely in keeping with an opinion that had been given by the former Crown Solicitor of this State.

That is the reason why this clause was introduced. The Returning Officer for the State did not give the decision the Liberal Party wanted, and this caused a Court of Disputed Returns to be appointed, but again the Liberals were not successful. The stakes were high: had the Attorney and his Liberal colleagues been able to stand over the Returning Officer for the State and had those postal certificates been opened, the L.C.L. would have had a constitutional majority. They knew it, because all the skulduggery in the world went on and, unfortunately, many of the Liberal Party members were involved in it. These facts came out at the hearing of the Court of Disputed Returns, at which evidence was introduced showing conclusively that Potter, DeGaris, and Rowe had all been up to skulduggery in obtaining affidavits. The witnesses brought before that court proved that to be the case. I do not wonder that the Attorney-General is hanging his head in shame now.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: I am trying to read something.

Mr. VIRGO: Frankly, I believe that the Attorney-General has to give a far better explanation than he has given, because his



action on this point can only be described as an act of no confidence in the Returning Officer for the State. To me and to any decent member of society the Returning Officer is a man who has always carried out his duties with honour, distinction, and fair play. I should like the Treasurer to adopt the same attitude on this Bill as he did last week in a debate on Housing Trust rents. Then, he defended the head of a department that he controlled, but I want to see whether he will defend the head of another department over which he has no control. It brings little credit to the Attorney to discredit the head of a department that he controls.

A Bill is being debated in Committee but the head of the department affected by it is not in the gallery, and this is strange. Is the Attorney afraid to bring him here? I hope the Attorney will not continue to laugh, but will give members a full and proper explanation of his reason for introducing this measure to belittle the Returning Officer for the State. I wonder whether this is designed to do to him what happened to the Director of Industrial Development—to strip him of his power and authority and give him a stamp-licking job.

The area for dispute in future will be extremely narrow compared with the present position if the remaining clauses of this Bill are passed. Virtually the only area for debate on whether a vote is valid will be on the figures on the ballot-paper. Any returning officer, who sees hundreds of thousands of ballot-papers, would be far better equipped than a judge, special magistrate or legal practitioner to decide whether a mark was a "1" or "2".

Mr. McKee: It could be a political appointment, too.

Mr. VIRGO: This is the next matter for consideration. What guarantee have we that a member of a political Party will not be appointed? The Bill does not prevent such an appointment.

Mr. Casey: I wonder whether judges are more competent in this matter than the returning officers?

Mr. VIRGO: The answer to that lies in the fact that the Court of Disputed Returns agreed with the Returning Officer for the State. That officer deals with more than the 15 votes that the court dealt with. The Returning Officer for the State at the recounts for Millicent and Murray dealt with about 115 votes and about 50 or 60 votes, respectively. We must ensure that the Electoral Department is not subjected to political control, but this clause could so subject it.

Mr. Broomhill: Surely the Attorney will withdraw it.

Mr. VIRGO: If I thought he would, I would resume my seat, but he has not said that. The sittings of the Court of Disputed Returns showed to all who were interested enough to follow the proceedings and to those who were forced to do so because of their position on the court that, when politics enter the electoral system, the system becomes corrupt. When that happens, the future of South Australia and our so-called democratic Government is in an extremely precarious position. Until the Attorney-General shows that there has been malpractice or omission of duty by the Returning Officer for the State, the clause is an affront to an officer who carries out his duty efficiently, and I oppose it.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I think, after the remarks of the member for Edwardstown, I have something to answer for. Apparently, this evening I can do nothing right and all my motives are base and evil. Well, first of all, I refute entirely the suggestions of *mala fides* which the honourable member has made, and I will say no more about that. I also refute entirely his suggestion that the proposal to appoint an electoral referee is some sort of insult to Mr. Norman Douglass, who is the Returning Officer for the State. That is not so. Let me trace briefly the history of the position in South Australia and then give the reasons why the provisions of clauses 4, 5, and, I think, 36 of the Bill have been included. The honourable member and other members of the Committee will recall that until a few years ago (until some time during the period in office of the Walsh Government) the Returning Officer for the State was (and had been for many years) His Honor Judge Gillespie, the Local Court Judge; and, of course, during that time he was the person to whom, pursuant to section 129 of the Electoral Act, ballot-papers in dispute were referred. Section 125 (1) provides:

The officer conducting a recount—

and this is, as a rule (in fact, invariably, I think), the returning officer for the district—may, and at the request of any scrutineer shall, reserve any ballot-paper for the decision of the Returning Officer for the State.

During the time when Judge Gillespie, a legal man, was the Returning Officer for the State, it was to him that these ballot-papers were referred. During the time of the Walsh Government, that Government, for reasons that

were perhaps sound and substantial (I do not intend to argue that at present), changed the Returning Officer for the State.

Mr. Virgo: How?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Returning Officer for the State (if the honourable member looks at the Act) is appointed by the Governor.

Mr. Virgo: Applications are called through the Public Service and an appointment is made.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That is right.

Mr. Virgo: Get your facts straight.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have not mentioned any facts to get them wrong, I think. I have merely referred to the fact that there was a change in the Returning Officer for the State pursuant to section 6 of the Act, and the Local Court Judge ceased to be the Returning Officer for the State. Mr. Douglass, who had been in charge of the Electoral Department for many years *de facto*, was appointed to that position. Mr. Douglass has had much experience in the Electoral Department; this has been emphasized by members opposite, and no-one, I think, would try to deny that or to detract from his experience and ability in this position. But he is not a lawyer.

Mr. Corcoran: So what?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Many of the matters coming for decision on a reference under section 129 are of a legal or *quasi* legal nature.

Mr. Virgo: What are they?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Give me a chance and let me develop this. Admittedly, because of the other provisions of the Bill, for which even members on the other side have been bound, apparently, to pay me some compliments, the areas of dispute should in future be substantially reduced, but there can still be matters in which there is a legal or *quasi* legal element.

Mr. Virgo: Such as what?

Mr. Broomhill: You'll have to be more specific.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In the matter of an application for a postal vote, the question of when the vote is received will now not arise. The question of the identity of a witness could still conceivably arise and the question of the qualification of a witness could conceivably arise. There are a number of matters—

Mr. Corcoran: What are they?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have just mentioned two.

*Members interjecting:*

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have mentioned two examples.

*Members interjecting:*

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Attorney-General.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It is difficult to think offhand. Members will not let me get the words out of my mouth. It is difficult, as the Leader of the Opposition will know and as all other members will privately admit, even if they chiacck me now, to think of hypothetical examples; but always in the interpretation of the provisions of an Act of Parliament, whatever the circumstances may be, legal or *quasi* legal questions must come in and it is better that these be considered by a lawyer than by a layman.

Mr. Corcoran: As a layman, I want to know what these questions are likely to be.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have given the honourable member examples.

Mr. Broomhill: You have no reason at all for making the change.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: There could be many.

Mr. Hurst: Report progress!

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable Attorney-General.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The member for Semaphore is back on his old cry about reporting progress, but we are not going to do so. If members opposite were fair about this question they would concede that circumstances could still arise, in spite of the very fair provisions that I have inserted in the Bill, in which this could happen. This is why this provision has been inserted in the Bill. In future, if this provision is agreed to by the Committee, the reference by the returning officer for the district will be not to the Returning Officer for the State but to an electoral referee. The member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) in his attack on me and his attack on this provision—

Mr. Casey: I think he corrected you.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: —quoted my second reading explanation, but that was based, of course, on the supplementary reasons of the Court of Disputed Returns and the final matter dealt with there.

Mr. Virgo: I read from *Hansard*, the official record of this House.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That was based on the court's judgment, a judgment in which two of the honourable member's colleagues concurred. (I think I am correct in saying that they concurred in this matter.) Members can see, if they still have with them the printed copy of the judgment, that this matter is dealt with on pages 27 and 28. This is what we all said:

There is a final matter to which we direct attention. In the ruling given on May 2, 1968, as to the Court's jurisdiction to receive extrinsic evidence upon a review of a decision made by the Returning Officer under section 86—

Mr. Virgo: Which returning officer is this? Is this the Millicent man or the Returning Officer for the State?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not know.

Mr. Virgo: It is relevant.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That is irrelevant to the point I am making.

*Members interjecting:*

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Give me a go.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! The member for Edwardstown was heard without interruption, and I ask him to extend the same courtesy to the Attorney-General.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I paid the most scrupulous attention to him, Mr. Chairman. The judgment continues:

—we refrained from expressing an opinion as to what materials should be before the Returning Officer, or what tests he should apply in reaching the state of satisfaction contemplated by the section. In actual practice, the only evidence before the Returning Officer at the time of conducting the preliminary scrutiny would ordinarily be the application for the postal vote certificate, the envelope bearing the postal vote certificate and containing the postal ballot-paper, records of the names of postal voters and of the districts appearing in the postal vote certificates, advices of the transmission of envelopes containing postal votes, and, no doubt, a certified list of voters.

Mr. Virgo: That's the Returning Officer for Millicent?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

Mr. Virgo: What has he to do with the Returning Officer for the State?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Let me finish. The judgment continues:

In coming to a decision, the Returning Officer would commonly rely upon these documents, but so long as section 86 simply provides that if an envelope bearing the postal vote certificate has been posted or delivered prior to the close of poll, the ballot-paper

shall be accepted for scrutiny, and so long as regulation 30 stands in its present form, it is difficult to conceive how, in some circumstances, an elector would be able to prove the due posting of the envelope without recourse to *ex parte*, and, perhaps, self-serving or partisan evidentiary materials.

Mr. Virgo: That won't happen again.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I was going to say that happily this will not occur again. This was not one of the examples I tried to give a moment ago. The judgment continues:

The Returning Officer cannot be expected to act in a judicial or *quasi* judicial capacity; and to impose upon him the task of deciding upon the accuracy, reliability and veracity of the supplementary evidence put before him, with a view to his accepting a ballot-paper, is something which we do not think was really envisaged by Parliament. The problems which could thus fall for decision would be troublesome enough for this court, let alone a Returning Officer who is called upon as a layman to exercise his statutory functions.

I think this was a unanimous expression of opinion at the time and it shows that, at that time, the Leader and the member for Whyalla, who were the two Opposition members of the court, agreed with the other members of the committee that the *quasi* judicial and judicial decisions should not call for a decision by a layman.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: That's not what we said.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have read out what we said.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Yes, but what we said was not what you've just said.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The only reason for the insertion of this provision was to allow these matters to be decided by a person with legal training and not by a layman.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Tell us what "these matters" are.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am afraid that if I talked for a long time I could not convince Opposition members of what I am saying. However, those are the reasons that impelled us to put this provision in the Bill. We think that there could be (even in the much smaller field that will be left after this most desirable measure is passed) matters of this nature, and we believe that there should be provision for them to be decided by a lawyer and not by a layman.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I have heard some very strange defences from lawyers at times of a jejune and

vapid case, but this evening's example from the Attorney-General is one of the most extraordinary I have ever heard. If he had appeared before any one of Her Majesty's judges on this occasion, he would have been interrupted and browbeaten by the bench.

Mr. Corcoran: His client would have been found guilty.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: His client was guilty from the start as was obvious from the brief he argued because, when questioned about what he was arguing for, he could not tell anyone—he did not know. He talked about “these matters” and “this field”, but he cannot tell us what matters they are and he cannot even tell us what size the field is or where it is. The whole reason for this particular section of the Act arises from the fact that at the last elections some decisions were made by the Returning Officer for the State in accordance with advice officially tendered to the Returning Officer by the Crown Solicitor for the State, and they were decisions unpleasant for the Liberal and Country League, which in consequence decided to embark on some course that would deprive the Returning Officer of some field of decision in the future. Whatever it was, we cannot discover what the field is, but at any rate the present Government now wants to put in someone to whom things are referred other than the Returning Officer for the State. The argument that is used is that a lawyer is able to decide these things better than an experienced electoral officer.

Mr. Hurst: The evidence does not show that.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, certainly not in the honourable member's own case. Let me give to the Committee a little of the history of this matter. As the Attorney has said, the Returning Officer for the State was originally the Judge of the Local Court, but that person was not involved in the day-to-day work of the Electoral Department. In consequence, when the period for election occurred in the case of the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney), a decision was taken by the senior public servant in that department which was not referred to the Electoral Officer for the State, and the Electoral Officer for the State did nothing about it; and in consequence a declaration of the election in that district was made, contrary to what the Returning Officer for the State subsequently decided was the law, in order to allow the member for Stirling to appear in this House to support the Government at a time when otherwise the Government would

have been defeated in this House. The Returning Officer for the State at that time (Judge Gillespie) came into my office when I was Attorney-General and admitted that that was true. He did not know what was happening in his own department.

However, when the next by-election occurred and the member for Semaphore (Mr. Hurst) was due to appear in this House at a time that was inconvenient for the Government when the Prices Act was being debated here, that was different. Suddenly an opinion was given by the Returning Officer for the State, a lawyer to be sure. He suddenly decided that the decision that had been taken by the Public Service chief of his department previously was wrong, and therefore the member for Semaphore could not be seated in time for a vote to be taken in this House, which would have been inconvenient for the Government.

Now I do not suggest that there were any *mala fides* of any kind on the part of the lawyer concerned in that matter, the Judge of the Local Court: none at all. But I do suggest that, having a lawyer not part of the department to whom the Public Service head could or could not or need not refer particular decisions from time to time, according to the instructions or the method of administration of the department, is not the way in which the department should proceed, that in fact the Public Service head of that department should act as the Public Service head of every Electoral Department everywhere else in Australia acts, as the effective head of the department, and that there should not be someone else somewhere floating in a vacuum between the Minister and the Public Service head of the department to make decisions if they are referred to him.

We made the alteration to bring our Electoral Department in line with those in other States. Now, what the Attorney intends to do is to put back into the Act some sort of officer floating between heaven and earth who will make a decision on some area of responsibility which the Attorney-General cannot define, as though there is some area of decision which here calls for a decision by some lawyer we know not whom. The Attorney does not know the area of decision or the nature of the decision, but he has to have him there because of the state of the last election where a Public Service head of the department, in accordance with advice given him by the Crown Law authorities, decided against the Liberal Party.

In the only area that could fall for a decision in a disputed election the most experienced person would be the Returning Officer for the State, not a lawyer or someone who occasionally looks at ballot-papers but the man who has to decide in detail many electoral matters constantly, who knows the practice, and who knows the law, because the law in relation to these matters is of constant concern to the Public Service head of this department, and the way ballot-papers are marked is the only thing he will have to determine. His experience in this area is far wider than that of any lawyer.

This clause seems to indicate to Mr. Douglass that the Liberal Party was not happy with his decisions at the last Millicent by-election. There cannot be any other reason for introducing this, because when the Attorney-General was challenged this evening to describe the things that needed a lawyer's decision, he could not tell us. All he could do was to escape into vapid generalities that did not convince us or his own members who, notwithstanding, will vote for his provisions. I am sure he has not convinced even himself.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Leader has made a good speech and I compliment him on it. I found it far more convincing, in spite of some jarring notes, and far more congenial than the speech of the member for Edwardstown. I thought this was a good idea originally and still think it has some merit. I had some difficulty in enumerating examples, but I did not realize before what a good Bill I had and how it would reduce the area of dispute in future. That being so, I accept the point of view put by the Opposition and will not press the matter.

Clause negatived.

Clause 5—"Electoral referee."

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: This clause deals with the appointment of an electoral referee, and as it now becomes pointless to retain it I suggest that the Committee vote against it.

Clause negatived.

Clause 6 passed.

Clause 7—"Alteration of rolls."

Mr. VIRGO: I move:

After "amended" to insert "(a)"; and after paragraph (aa) to insert:

(b) by striking out from subsection (2) the passage "if the subdivisions are in the same district" and inserting "at any time other than during the period elapsing between the issue of a writ and the holding of the election to which the writ relates".

Section 38 of the Act gives the returning officer the right to amend a roll at any time and the purpose of the amendment is to restrict the returning officer to a time factor, namely, before the issue of a writ. The amendment has been prompted by what occurred in the Millicent by-election when, at about 3 o'clock or 4 o'clock on the afternoon immediately prior to election day, it became known that the roll was being amended by the addition of the names of those electors living in the area rather notoriously known as "Birdland". I think that, as a result of some canvassing by the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) on behalf of the Liberal and Country League candidate, some electors who had for many years been enrolled on the Mount Gambier roll in error were suddenly transferred to the Millicent roll.

This undesirable situation ought to be corrected. The people concerned had taken part in an election in which the member for Mount Gambier was returned and, within about 12 weeks, they were required to cast a vote for the election of a member for a different district. Technically, those people received two votes and we consider that completely wrong. Many of the people in "Birdland" were inconvenienced by being told late at night of this new entitlement but all except two (whose votes slipped through because of an error by a presiding officer) wasted their time voting, because none of the absent votes that had been given to them was opened, let alone counted. Therefore, perhaps we ought not to say too much about that. We are seeking to prevent a recurrence of this in the future; it might not occur again for another 20 years, but it might occur in another two years, and we think this is the right time when the position ought to be remedied.

We believe that no inconvenience will be caused to anyone if a returning officer is restricted in regard to making adjustments after the issue of the writ; in other words, if a person moved his place of residence and did not fill in his change-of-enrolment card until after the issue of the writ, he would still vote as though he lived at the old address. This amendment is exactly in line with that situation: it is stopping a returning officer from making any subsequent alterations once the writ has been issued.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: If I have understood the amendment aright, it allows for the transfer of names from rolls in one

division to rolls in another division and not simply between subdivisions within the same division. Is that not the effect?

Mr. Virgo: They are transferred anywhere, but no transfer can take place after the writ has been issued.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, so that, in fact, it would not have helped in the "Birdland" situation itself at the time at which it was discovered. Nothing could have been done on that last day prior to the election.

Mr. Virgo: It can now.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, but it could not have helped then. I think this is a helpful amendment, and I am happy to accept it.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 8 to 13 passed.

Clause 14—"Requisites for nomination."

Mr. VIRGO: I move:

To strike out "fifty" and insert "one hundred".

This relates to a candidate's deposit. As the clause stands, the amount is merely altered from the former Australian currency to decimal currency. If there is anything wrong with the amendment it is that we have been a little timid in our approach. However, the Government apparently was not prepared to tackle this problem at all. If we look at this matter in the light of corresponding values, the comparative amount would probably be nearer \$300 or \$400 than \$100. There ought to be either a reasonably substantial deposit or no deposit at all. Whilst I do not suggest that the deposit ought to be high enough to deter genuine people, whether they are backed by a Party or not, from seeking Parliamentary office, I think the amount ought to be high enough to deter people who are merely using the provisions of the legislation. If a person is on a salary of \$5,000 or more a year it would pay him handsomely to lodge a nomination, lose his deposit and make his taxation claim, thereby making a handsome profit out of it.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: It has been tried.

Mr. VIRGO: I know, and some people have done fairly well out of it. We are suggesting that it be increased to at least \$100, which is a reasonable sum in this day and age.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I doubt whether, if a person is determined to stand at an election, making the deposit \$100 rather

than \$50 will deter him. It may deter one person in a thousand, but I do not think it matters very much. A genuine candidate who has some chance of polling a significant proportion of the votes will get his deposit back in any case. I do not propose to oppose the amendment.

Mr. EVANS: I object to the amendment, although I am probably the only member here who will do so. I know that it does not make much difference. The original figure of £25 may have been excessive in the past. I know that there must be some nominal deposit, but I believe \$50 is enough. If a person has to wage his campaign as an Independent against Parties and against Party finance, it can be a big burden, and that \$50 may go a long way towards some extra literature that would help him in his campaign.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: He gets it back.

Mr. EVANS: Yes, but he cannot use it in his campaign. If he gets it back, why make it \$100? Why not leave it at \$50? It makes it harder for the poor chap who wants to come into Parliament to represent the people. Although I may be the only member to do so, I oppose the amendment.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 15—"Application for a postal vote certificate and a postal ballot-paper."

Mr. VIRGO: I move:

To strike out paragraph (b).

Although I appreciate the Attorney-General's attempt to make things easier for a person obtaining a postal vote, I believe the proposition in this paragraph paves the way for all sorts of malpractice. This paragraph allows a person to apply for a postal vote without signing the application form: all people will be required to do will be to make a mark that is authenticated. To be realistic, this means that I can go into an old folks home, hold the hand of an elector and say, "All you have to do is to mark a cross and I will sign it", and that will then be accepted. I might go into the Royal Adelaide Hospital and grab poor folks who have just come out of the operating theatre.

Mr. Evans: You wouldn't do that!

Mr. VIRGO: No, but I know some who would and some who have obtained signatures by saying, "Do not worry, dearie, about the humbug of filling in the ballot-paper: I'll help you. Sign here and leave the rest to me."

The old dear says, "Isn't she a darling? She has done it all for me." Of course, that is malpractice but such practices are terribly hard to detect. Returning officers cannot be in 50 places at the one time and they must be where these practices take place to see that they are happening.

The authenticated mark makes the provision wider than it is at present and I do not think we should make it wider. The Attorney-General said in his second reading explanation that this simplified the postal vote procedures, but he did not provide any real justification for watering down the existing provisions, which I believe are reasonable and fairly simple to operate. There is no difficulty in the case of a person who is unable to sign his or her name. When the Returning Officer sends a "Please explain" there is no problem in accepting the fact that the person has failed to vote for a valid reason. I can see tremendous difficulties associated with this provision.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have had a fair bit of experience with these things at election time, and I have to confess that the particular course of action the member for Edwardstown outlines never occurred to me when I was framing this Bill. The plain fact of the matter is that at present there is no provision that allows a marksman to vote by post. This is a small matter. The purpose of this amendment is to allow a marksman—and there are still some in the community for some reason or another, not only those who are in hospital—to vote by post. That is all I had in mind, and I would have thought it was fair enough to make such a provision even at this late stage, when the literacy rate is so high.

Mr. Virgo: You agree that it could be open to malpractice?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have heard of people complaining about alleged malpractice with postal votes for an election, but I would not have thought that this amendment made it any easier to perpetrate a malpractice than it is at present. I suppose the line of argument the honourable member is putting up is that it is easier to guide a person's hand in making a cross than it is in getting that person to sign his or her name. However, if people were going to perpetrate a malpractice, I would have thought that the extra ease was so marginal as not to matter. I am thinking of the case of a person who cannot write his name, or perhaps an

amputee—anyone who cannot, for one reason or another, either mental or physical, sign his name. This is the only purpose of the thing, and I do not really think that the problem the honourable member for Edwardstown poses warrants abandoning what I think is quite a desirable but perhaps minor amendment.

Mr. BROOMHILL: I support what has been said by the member for Edwardstown, who I believe has pointed out the problems that can flow if we accept the clause put forward by the Attorney. I notice that the Attorney simply pointed to circumstances that he thought could arise for the reason for introducing this alteration, and I would have thought that on balance the problems that could well be created by making the change more than offset any advantage that the Attorney mentioned. Unless the Attorney can point to a very substantial number of problems that have occurred in the past necessitating this change, I maintain that he ought to reconsider the value of the clause as drafted.

Mr. EVANS: I support the Attorney-General. If a person through some physical disability cannot cast his vote with an authentic signature, then we should leave room for him to be able to vote. If we really believe in democracy, we should not deprive any individual of the opportunity to cast a vote. If actions can be carried out that are not strictly in accordance with the law, then it is up to us to see that this is rectified in some other way. If a person normally signs his name with a cross, that is his way of signing his name and saying, "That is mine."

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Attorney say whether this clause, if passed, will permit a blind person to apply for a postal vote by a cross?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, if that blind person is unable to sign his or her name. This would not happen often but it could occur. The form of my amendment is to insert, "or, if the applicant is, for any reason unable to sign the application . . .". If the person is unable to sign, either because of illiteracy or because of physical infirmity, this would apply. Normally, if a blind person's hand is put on the paper he or she could sign even though he or she did not sign on the dotted line, as it were. In this case it would not apply, but if for any further reason a blind person could not sign, it would apply to him.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I support the amendment, and I am more determined

to do so after hearing the Attorney-General's comment. I can remember being appointed a scrutineer for a candidate at an election. A blind man, because he could not sign a postal application, was brought to the polling booth and asked for the particular man representing his Party. He told me that he wanted assistance to vote and I took him to the returning officer and explained what the man wanted. The returning officer said that he could not have assistance. I argued with him, but he said that the man could not have it. He then took the blind man aside, told him how he should vote, and voted for him in the opposite way. I argued with the officer until he destroyed the ballot-paper, and he then allowed the blind man to vote properly.

If a returning officer will do this what would an unscrupulous canvasser do? I remember when a certain canvasser for a political Party was also the Secretary of the Peterborough Memorial Hospital. The honourable member for Frome was a candidate for the first time, and 15 votes came from the hospital with identical markings and every ballot-paper voted the same way. When these votes were challenged it was obvious that the secretary had voted on behalf of these people, because when we checked at the hospital with the people who had voted, several of them said that they wanted to vote the opposite way. These incidents have occurred in the past: if we make it easier what will happen in the future? The member for Onkaparinga spoke about democracy, but do not let us use the word loosely and allow unscrupulous people to destroy democracy.

Mr. EVANS: The Opposition is suggesting that, because there are unscrupulous people in the community, it will deny honest people the right to vote. If these people cannot sign their names but are honest and sincere and have a mental capacity to decide how to vote, the Opposition is denying them the right to do so because there are unscrupulous people in the community. The ethics of members opposite are wrong.

Mr. BROOMHILL: The member for Onkaparinga says that, if people are deprived of the right to vote, we ought to do something about it. If that argument were valid, perhaps I would accept it. However, no such evidence is before us. Elderly sick people in hospitals in my district regard elections as being a nuisance, as do the matrons and hospital officials. To take the difficulty out of the hands of the patients and give it to the person in charge of the hospital would encourage the

type of problem that the member for Hindmarsh has mentioned. I shall be interested to hear from the Attorney-General how many people have complained about the present position.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have not had any specific complaints about this, but I have not been the Minister in charge of the department during a general election. It just seemed to me (and I have done my best to improve the Act) that it was anomalous that a marksman could not vote by post, and my only objective was to allow him to do so in the isolated cases that must arise, although I cannot point to one.

Mr. VIRGO: The attitude of all Opposition members makes it obvious that we welcome the improvements to the Act provided by this Bill. However, we must have security measures regarding the casting of votes and handling of ballot-papers. If we are to make it easier for one group to vote, there is no reason why we should not establish another 50 polling booths because some people have too far to go to vote. That would be impracticable. However, we should not spoil the Bill by including a provision that could destroy the secrecy of the ballot or make voting open to abuse. If, as the Attorney-General suggests, this clause is unimportant, may I suggest that he does not press on with this particular aspect, because of the dangers that we see in it.

Mr. EVANS: The member for Edwardstown refers to making it easier for a group to vote, but I am thinking of the individual who may not be able to vote under any other method or who may not be able to go to the poll. We must allow these people an opportunity to vote.

Mrs. BYRNE: I ask the Attorney-General to reconsider his attitude to this provision, which can be abused. On one occasion I met a lady who, unfortunately blind, did not particularly wish to go to the polling booth although, except that it was inconvenient and that someone had to take her, there was no physical reason why she could not go to the booth. If she could have voted by postal vote she would have done so. Being the person who spoke to her about the matter, I would have been naturally requested to call back to witness her postal vote when she made one. Although in this case the lady said she wished to vote for the Australian Labor Party, I point out that an unscrupulous person could misrepresent the position and that a vote might not be made in the direction in which the voter desires it to be made.



The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: There may be occasions, though, when a person who cannot sign his name cannot physically go to a polling booth or may be away, in which case we are at present denying that person the right to vote. I concede that it is possible to abuse the provisions for postal voting; it is possible to do so now.

Mr. Hudson: It is done now.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It may be, although I hope it is not.

Mr. Jennings: It's easier to do it under your amendment.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Perhaps it is marginally easier, but if a person is going to abuse the machinery he will abuse it whether it means getting a person to vote with a cross or by saying the name "Annie Smith", "Bill Jones", or whatever it may be. I do not think we should abandon what I regard as perhaps not a very important one but nevertheless a desirable amendment to tidy up the Act. I do not think we should discard it simply because of the suggestions made by the Opposition. I do not think that on balance the suggestions outweigh the evils to which members opposite point. I hope I have demonstrated up to the present that I am being as reasonable as I can be in regard to the Bill. I believe that this is one provision we should allow to stand as I introduced it.

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Members on both sides with experience of tightly fought elections will know that where loopholes exist enthusiastic and not overscrupulous canvassers will, if possible, take advantage of them. It does not promote democracy to allow loopholes in an election, despite what the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Evans) has said. In fact, it brings democracy into disrepute. Therefore, we should not enlarge the loopholes for no real reason. I have never heard anyone ask that this additional loophole should be provided. If the Attorney-General wants to meet the position of the people he is talking about he should come up with a different kind of amendment altogether: he should provide safeguards that will prevent the unscrupulous canvasser from doing what we are talking about. Then, we might be prepared to have a different look at it.

Mr. EVANS: Elections can be decided on one vote. If there are unscrupulous people in society, members will not stop them: if members tighten loopholes unscrupulous people will find others. Some members want to cut out an opportunity for an honest person wishing to cast a vote to do so.

Mr. HUDSON: The honourable member has failed to appreciate that the attempt to get one additional honest vote may well produce more than one dishonest vote. Regarding the existing provision, which requires a person applying for a postal vote to sign his name, I have had experience of many postal vote applications in both State and Commonwealth elections. In one case a gentleman became ill and over the years gradually had increasing difficulty in signing his name. He was confined to bed and the people in the house where he lived certainly wanted him to vote in a particular way and wanted him to exercise that vote. When he reached the stage where he could not sign his name I believe it was very much open to doubt whether he would have known what he was doing. The considerations in that case seemed to favour the law as it stood.

Postal voting is a privilege: it has been a means of extending the franchise to those not able to get to a polling booth. It has always been subject to rules and restrictions that may well result in what the member for Onkaparinga has referred to as honest votes not being admitted, but these rules and restrictions are there for the necessary purpose of preventing abuse. Even as the provision stands at present, it seems that there is some abuse. At every election one hears stories of things that have gone on, of postal votes collected that have not been posted on time, of postal votes that have not been properly collected, and so on. Whether or not the stories are true, these rumours circulate at every election, and I do not think we should loosen this provision unless we are absolutely sure that the new provision will not be abused and that we are meeting a real need in the community. I ask the Attorney to consider the matter further.

Mr. BROOMHILL: I appreciated what the Attorney said about co-operating with the Opposition so far on the Bill. However, once again I repeat that he cannot point to any demands made on him by persons in the community who have suffered under this provision; no member who has spoken has pointed to any such representations made to him on the matter. The Attorney has said that there could be the case of a marksman who is placed in an unfortunate position, but the new provision does not refer to such people: it states "or, if the applicant is, for any reason unable to sign the application, must be authenticated in the prescribed manner". That is a very wide term to use. In the circumstances to which I

referred earlier of people in an old folks home, it could be held by those in charge of such a home that everyone in it was too sick to sign his own name. The Attorney should consider the fact that what he has said he is aiming for in this provision is not provided by it: it is much wider than that. In view of this, a good reason exists for the Attorney not to proceed with this provision.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not think I can add anything to what I have already said. I do not believe the problems to which the Opposition has pointed justify my abandoning what I regard as a worthwhile provision. Although I have listened with attention to the member for West Torrens and other members, I am not convinced by their arguments on this matter.

Mr. VIRGO: I am rather disappointed that the Attorney is insisting on this provision despite what has been clearly placed before him. If we are to accept that this is something that is going to help a person, which the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Evans) suggests is the predominant factor, I think we ought to look a bit further. I think we ought to realize that while it might help one genuine person to get a vote it will provide the vehicle for a hundred spurious votes to be cast. If this clause is passed in its present form, a person could go into an old folks home, get the names from the matron of everyone there, fill out the forms, put in a cross, witness the forms and then send them in, and he could do the same thing when the ballot-papers came back.

We cannot afford this sort of thing. We must not kid ourselves that it could not happen. In fact, Government members should have a look at what their own members did after the Millicent election, running around collecting false statutory declarations.

Mr. Rodda: That's not true.

Mr. VIRGO: Members of the Liberal Party in Parliament did that. This is criticism that the Government will have to face. If it insists on this amendment, there can be only one explanation, because the Attorney has brought nothing before this Chamber to justify his action. He has agreed with the member for West Torrens (Mr. Broomhill) that there have been no complaints, so again we are forced to look for the reason, and the reason can only be that of Party political expediency. We are left with no alternative but to believe that this is the position. Frankly, I do not believe it behoves this Parliament to put provisions in a Bill for this purpose. I oppose the amendment.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: While the honourable member has been speaking I have been looking at this. I certainly do not want to be open to the suggestions that have been put by members of the Opposition. I concede that there is some force in them, although I do not think there is much. I wonder whether the Opposition would accept a suggestion to have the only reason for allowing a marksman a vote one of illiteracy, instead of any reason. I think that would meet the objections that have been raised by members opposite, and it would preserve the right of an illiterate person to make an application.

Mr. VIRGO: I agree that the Attorney's suggestion considerably improves the provision. However, I am not certain of the Government's intention.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I should like to get this point cleared up, and I think we can reach a compromise on it.

Mr. VIRGO: Very well. Mr. Chairman, I seek leave to withdraw my amendment.

Leave granted; amendment withdrawn.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE moved:

In paragraph (b) to strike out "for any reason" and insert "by reason of illiteracy".

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clause 16—"Duty of witnesses."

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I move:

In paragraph (a) to strike out "for any reason" and insert "by reason of illiteracy".

This amendment is consequential to that made in the previous clause.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1)

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### SENATE VACANCY

The SPEAKER: I remind honourable members of the joint sitting of both Houses to be held in the Legislative Council tomorrow morning at 9.30 to elect a Senator. A quorum is required.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 9.56 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 1, at 2 p.m.