

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, July 2, 1969

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

### PETITION: HOUSING TRUST RENTALS

Mr. HUDSON presented a petition signed by 218 persons. It stated: (1) that the recent increases in Housing Trust rentals were excessive; (2) that the increases did not make sufficient allowance for the fact that the majority of tenants were pensioners or working class families in difficult economic circumstances; and (3) that the Housing Trust had not made sufficient allowance for the substantial capital appreciation of older houses, a capital gain that had not been passed on to the tenants. The petition requested that an appropriate reduction in Housing Trust rentals be made.

Received and read.

### QUESTIONS

#### CONSUMER CREDIT LEGISLATION

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: While I was Attorney-General it was agreed by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General that a research project would be established in South Australia on consumer credit legislation in this country. The project was established with the assistance of solicitors in the Attorney-General's Department. I understand that the report on the project is now ready to hand. If it is, will the Attorney-General obtain copies so that the recommendations on consumer credit and allied matters may be available immediately to all members?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Leader is correct in believing the report is now ready. In fact, it was completed before the last meeting of the Attorneys-General in Hobart. Since then it has been printed, and I was given a printed copy, I think, only yesterday, although I have had a roneoed copy for some months. At the Hobart conference it was agreed by the Attorneys that the report would not be circulated widely—in fact, that it would not be made public until the Attorneys and their staffs had had an opportunity of looking at it—and the question of publication was to be reviewed at the meeting to take place in Brisbane the week after next. That was the decision taken at that time; therefore, the report has not been made public.

However, it has been circulated to a number of interested parties: those who supplied information and with whom Professor Rogerson and those who assisted in the compilation of the report had discussed the various matters dealt with in it. While I was away the Minister of Lands, who was acting Attorney-General, asked for comments from those persons and bodies. I have already received some helpful comments, and I hope to digest them before the discussion at the Brisbane meeting of the Standing Committee. In view of the arrangement made at the Attorneys' meeting, I should not be happy to make available to every member a copy of the report, because I think that would be breaching the arrangement, but I should be prepared to supply the Leader with a copy at this stage. However, I hope that within a fortnight after the Brisbane meeting the decision will have been made to make the report public, and I shall then be happy to make it available to every member.

#### PALMER SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of June 19 regarding the paving of portion of the Palmer Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The request for paving portion of the Palmer Primary School grounds was received only recently. It was given a "priority 2", which means that in normal circumstances it would not be investigated for some time because of the heavy load of works of this nature and the higher priorities already established for other works. However, following the request the matter will be looked at again to see whether a higher priority is justified.

#### GREEN PINE

Mr. CORCORAN: My question concerns the use of green pine timber for roofing in the building industry. I have been reliably informed by reputable builders that it had been the practice in the past for the builders of Housing Trust houses in Millicent to use green pine for roofing timber, except where tiles were used, and that this had also been the practice in private building construction except in houses built through the Savings Bank of South Australia, for which approval would not be given for this timber to be used. I have also been told that the timber has been perfectly satisfactory and that examinations of houses built some time ago have revealed that the timber is in good order and has not warped or bent. It is important to the industry in my

area that this type of timber be used. I am told that it is better than the Victorian hardwood now being used. It is fair to point out that a private sawmill in Millicent has been affected by these decisions. Will the Minister of Housing ascertain why the Housing Trust no longer permits this type of timber to be used and why only the Savings Bank has made this rule?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will certainly do that. From what I saw during my visit of the houses under construction, I gained the impression that the roof structure appeared to be generally of Western Australian timber. I also noted that, on houses of brick veneer and timber construction, generally speaking the timber used in the walling structure was radiata pine. On talking to builders using it, I was pleased to find they were most happy with it. It has some obvious advantages, particularly with brick veneer houses, because of its finish and alignment. This gave me some pleasure because some years ago, as Minister of Forests, I urged on the department a movement into the structural timber field in the sawmills in order to get a greater output of timber with a given sawing capacity. This seemed obvious even 10 or 12 years ago because of the greater volume of timber requiring processing. I will take up with the Housing Trust the matters raised by the honourable member. Because of my other relationship with the Savings Bank, I think I can also approach it to get its report and reasons, as the honourable member requested.

#### EASTERN STANDARD TIME

Mr. EVANS: Recently it was announced that there was possibly some merit in this State's changing to Eastern Standard Time, and that in fact the best way to test this would be to have a trial period at some time during the summer months. I have expressed my concern about this, believing it would be detrimental to my area generally. Can the Premier say whether any decision has been made about changing to E.S.T.?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Some public debate has taken place on this matter. Several previous questions have been asked of me in the House, and I reiterate that I believe it would be to South Australia's advantage if a change were made to E.S.T. However, when first bringing up this matter for public discussion, I said that no hasty action would be taken and that, in fact, I desired the matter to be debated publicly and at some length so that the Govern-

ment and I could get the public viewpoint. To my disappointment, there have been far more protests than there have been expressions of support. It is rather interesting to realize that when this was first mooted during the summer hardly any protest was made: I think public opinion then tended to support the change. However, as winter has arrived and the cold weather has joined in the argument there has been much opposition. I express my personal disappointment that South Australia is not, I believe, ready to make the change. Therefore, I will not put the matter to Cabinet, as I think the community needs to consider the move further. In opposing this move, the public tends to look at the disadvantages and to ignore the advantages. For many people there are great advantages, especially in the winter when people could return home in daylight, rather than in the dark as they do now, and enjoy an extra half an hour of light. I repeat that after following the arguments for and against and after listening to and reading protests made to me and my Party, I have decided that South Australia is not yet ready to change to E.S.T., and I will not now recommend it to Cabinet.

#### ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST

Mr. RICHES: I direct my question to the member for Whyalla (Hon. R. R. Loveday). Yesterday, I was interested to hear from the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs of the decision to appoint an administrator for the Aboriginal Lands Trust. I was also interested to hear the tribute he paid to the Walsh and Dunstan Governments for the interest they had shown in establishing the trust, but I was a little concerned to hear his statement that, once the Aboriginal Lands Trust had been brought into operation, it was given precious little help by the Walsh or Dunstan Government. That is hardly the situation as I know it. Does the honourable member for Whyalla, who was the Minister in charge of this department, agree with the statement made by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs?

The SPEAKER: Does the honourable member wish to reply?

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. There was no truth in the statement by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to the effect that, once the Aboriginal Lands Trust had been brought into operation, it was given precious little help by the Walsh or Dunstan Government. The Aboriginal Lands Trust Bill, which was assented to on December 8, 1966, provided for a total of nine members,

who must be Aboriginal, a majority of whom would be recommended by the respective Aboriginal reserve councils. Had the then Government appointed an administrator who was not an Aboriginal, the Aboriginal people would, rightly, have been suspicious and dissatisfied. Three Aboriginal people were appointed members of the trust but suitable recommendations by the respective Aboriginal reserve councils were slow in coming in. The members of the trust were flown around all the reserves to acquire first-hand knowledge, and in 1968 I visited Block K at Point McLeay reserve with members of the trust and Dr. Coombs, prior to making final arrangements for that area to be farmed by an Aboriginal farmer under the provisions of the Act. This was the only area among the Aboriginal reserves capable of being developed in this way at that time, and Dr. Coombs said he was most impressed with what was being done. This farmer is now managing the farm successfully, with the advice of an Agriculture Department adviser, as arranged by the previous Government. The previous Government voted \$2,000 as an advance to the lands trust for 1967-68, and the expenditure for that year was \$4,100. The projected estimate of the department for this item for 1968-69 under the Dunstan Government was \$35,000, whereas the present Government's estimated expenditure for 1968-69 is \$3,600, a reduction of \$500 in the sum actually spent the previous year.

#### BERRI OCCUPATION CENTRE

**Mr. ARNOLD:** Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question about the Berri Occupation Centre?

**The Hon. JOYCE STEELE:** Recently, a member of the Psychology Branch visited the Waikerie Primary School and saw all the children who had been referred to him by the Headmaster. There are no requests from parents for their children to attend the Berri Occupation Centre and, therefore, there is in effect no waiting list for admission of children from Waikerie to this centre. The accommodation at Berri would be adequate for double the number at present attending, which is 14. Occupation centres are staffed on the basis of one teacher for each 10 pupils, and a teaching aide is appointed where possible when there is one teacher only at the school. The teaching aide at Berri resigned recently, but applications were called immediately and these are at present being considered. An appointment is expected soon.

#### RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

**Mr. HUDSON:** If an individual who wants, for himself or his family, to rent a Housing Trust house or flat there are varying delays depending on the part of the metropolitan area in which the person is seeking accommodation. These delays vary from a short time in the case of Elizabeth to a considerable time for the southern and south-western suburbs, in which the delay normally exceeds three years. As this is a problem that concerns my district and that of the member for Edwardstown, I draw it to the attention of the Minister of Housing and point out that unless the trust makes available additional rental accommodation south of Adelaide the only thing that can happen is for the waiting list to lengthen further, because at present some timber frame houses that have been rented in the past by the trust are being sold. I know this does not occur frequently but, nevertheless, the stock of trust houses for rental in this area is, I believe, gradually declining.

**The Hon. R. S. Hall:** You are debating the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The honourable member must now ask the question.

**Mr. HUDSON:** Has the Premier called "Question" again? The Premier said I was debating the question: does that mean that you, Mr. Speaker, are ordering me to ask the question?

**The SPEAKER:** I understood that the Premier called for a question.

**The Hon. R. S. Hall:** I said that the honourable member was debating the question.

**Mr. HUDSON:** This is a serious matter. I realize that there may not be adequate additional land on the Adelaide Plains south of Adelaide to permit the construction of a significant number of rental houses or flats. Therefore, will the Minister of Housing ascertain whether the trust can expand its building rate in the southern suburbs on the Adelaide Plains of rental accommodation and, to the extent that further accommodation is needed, whether provision can be made for building extra rental accommodation in the Morphett Vale, Happy Valley, and Christies Beach areas? Many people who request rental accommodation in the southern suburbs would be satisfied if they could get accommodation at these places or one of the areas a little farther to the south. Unfortunately, people who work at present—

**The Hon. R. S. Hall:** Is this a speech or a question?

The SPEAKER: I think the honourable member is beginning to debate it, and he had better ask the question.

Mr. HUDSON: —in those areas get preference—

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: You have been told to ask the question.

Mr. HUDSON: I know that the Premier is sensitive.

The SPEAKER: Get the question over, please.

Mr. HUDSON: Will the Minister of Housing take up these matters with the Housing Trust with a view to getting a significant expansion in the building of rental houses and flats in the general southern area so that some reduction in the long waiting list can be obtained?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As the honourable member would be aware, the trust tries to plan its building programme to meet the expected needs in various areas. In the last two years or so there has been a lessened activity by the trust on the northern side of Adelaide and an increased activity on the southern side of the city. It is impossible, of course, for the trust to anticipate needs precisely, because a substantial expansion of industry in one place brings, in the short term, a strong demand for housing in that area. However, I do not intend to rest on this factor. The honourable member has raised a matter that I shall be pleased to consider. In fact, I ought to do that. I do not know the position about the availability of land: there may be a problem there. Of course, land is available farther south and, as the honourable member knows, the trust is now building a substantial number of houses in the eastern Noarlunga area, or east of Christies Beach, and I assume that even those houses would be within range of the area of demand that he has mentioned. I will discuss the whole matter with the General Manager. I am not aware, nor has it been reported to me, that the waiting time for rental accommodation is anywhere near as long as the honourable member has mentioned. If it is, the need to rectify the situation is indeed urgent. I will take the matter up and get a report for the honourable member.

Mr. HUDSON: My question relates to the provision of additional rental accommodation in the southern suburbs. In 1967-68, the last year of the previous Government, the allocation for housing from the Loan programme was

\$21,000,000. In the last financial year it was reduced to \$19,500,000, and I saw a report in the newspaper the other day that the allocation from Loan money for housing in the financial year 1969-70 would be increased to \$21,250,000 (I think this was the correct figure). Since this increase will carry with it a proportionate increase in Loan money made available to the Housing Trust, will the Minister of Housing take up with the trust the question whether some part of these extra funds will be made available to provide extra rental accommodation in the area I mentioned, if the facts I gave earlier turn out to be correct?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: As a predecessor of mine, I think the honourable member would be aware that nearly all of the money advanced to the Housing Trust under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement is used by the trust for rental accommodation. Therefore, it follows that the major portion of the proposed increase to the trust this year will go towards additional rental accommodation. Of course, the trust uses some of its overall funds for other purposes, but by and large the majority of it goes to rental accommodation, so the increased allocation to the trust from the Loan Council funds will mean that the trust will be able to increase its rental building programme. The details of that matter have not yet been discussed with the trust's officers, but because the waiting time for loans for the purchase of houses from the State Bank and other authorities tended to lengthen during the latter part of the last financial year, and because I know that the trust desires to increase or maintain its total rental building programme, the Government considered it prudent to increase the allocation for housing this year.

#### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: I refer to the Southern Aurora train disaster in Victoria on February 7 in which several train passengers were killed. A coronial inquiry into the disaster was held and the coroner (Mr. A. W. Pascoe, S.M.) said, *inter alia*, in his finding on July 1 that there was some negligence on the part of the driver of the train in continuing to drive trains when he had a heart condition. The coroner made these recommendations:

1. Train drivers should be medically examined annually;
2. They should have electrocardiograms every two years; and
3. That cardio-vascular conditions be referred to specialists.

Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport, in view of these recommendations, what steps are taken in South Australia to ensure that engine drivers are in good health while they are driving trains?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

#### GAWLER BLOCKS SCHOOL

Mr. CLARK: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question about the difficulty experienced by migrant children in learning English at our schools (I particularly mentioned the Gawler Blocks Primary School) and about any assistance being provided?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: From time to time, it has been possible to appoint teachers familiar with the language of the migrants to schools such as the Norwood Demonstration School. Where this has been possible it has been of considerable assistance to children and parents. At the end of last year it was possible to appoint some of these teachers to a number of schools in the metropolitan area, including those at Parkside and Thebarton. However, it is not always possible to match teachers with a knowledge of a foreign language with particular schools, because their wishes have to be considered as well as their ability to do other work in the school. Nevertheless, every effort is made to achieve such a matching wherever possible.

#### CAR NUMBER PLATES

Mr. GILES: In the last day or so, a constituent of mine has complained about the fact that he is unable to use current South Australian traders' plates in Victoria. The present situation is that immediately a vehicle carrying such plates enters Victoria it is classed as being unregistered and, if the authorities are aware of its presence in that State, the driver is asked to proceed to the nearest police station, where the vehicle is impounded until such time as it is registered as a vehicle in Victoria. In Hobart in 1965, at a conference of Registrars of Motor Vehicles of the various States, it was agreed that privileges in this regard would be interchangeable between the States.

However, that is apparently not so, because it seems that no-one whose vehicle bears South Australian traders' plates is allowed to take that vehicle into Victoria. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to investigate this situation with the object of obtaining uniformity in regard to the use of traders' plates throughout the various States,

so that when a person is delivering, say, trailers and motor vehicles into other States he is able to use the plates that have been issued in his own State?

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

#### MCNALLY TRAINING CENTRE

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I have received a letter from a constituent stating that his son had been sentenced to a period of detention at Brookway Park on January 19 but that on arriving at that institution he was told by an officer that he would be going to the McNally Training Centre. Although it was alleged that the boy had been sentenced to Brookway Park, he was apparently taken to the McNally Training Centre. Apparently, while at the latter place he was able to buy certain items at the canteen with money supplied by his parents. Having at one stage bought some sweets, he shared them with an Aboriginal boy with whom he had become friendly, and it is said that for this reason he was banned from the canteen for a month. Will the Minister of Social Welfare ascertain whether my information is correct and, if it is, why the ban was imposed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The honourable member was kind enough to give my office warning of this question this morning. I have no information concerning the reason for transferring the boy from Brookway Park to the McNally Training Centre. I did not know that this would form part of the honourable member's question, so I cannot give him any information on that. However, I will inquire about that, although I am confident that there was a perfectly proper reason for taking such action. I am informed that the boy to whom he gave the sweets is not an Aboriginal, but that is by the way. In fact, this other boy was on restriction. One of the punishments that is imposed for a breach of discipline is prohibition of access to the canteen for a period, and I am informed that the boy who bought the sweets (perfectly properly) knew that the other boy was banned from the canteen and also knew that in those circumstances he himself was forbidden to share sweets with that boy. That is the reason why, when it was discovered that he had done so, he himself was punished.

#### ABORIGINAL RESERVES

Mr. FERGUSON: Can the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs say whether all Aboriginal councils are operative on all reserves on which

they were originally appointed and whether they are all carrying out the functions that were originally intended?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: This is a fairly broad question, because there are a number of different reserves, of course. Rather than answer the question off the cuff, I think I should seek some further information and let the honourable member have it.

#### MARION BUS SERVICE

Mr. VIRGO: My question concerns a matter raised with the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) and me, as members representing the area covered by the City of Marion. The council is greatly concerned about an incident that occurred at the commencement of this year, when an application was made to the council for permission to run a bus service. In granting the application the council spent much money in rebuilding the road concerned to the status of a heavy-duty road. The bus service operated for only three months, after which it was discontinued, and as a result the added expense incurred by the council has been completely wasted. The council has endeavoured to discuss this matter with the Municipal Tramways Trust but, unfortunately, the trust's General Manager is overseas, I am informed, and consequently the council is not getting very far. I point out that the Marion council is one of the few councils that has no M.T.T. service whatever: its only services are those run by licensed operators. Therefore, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether he will investigate the circumstances relating to both the commencement and the discontinuance of the school bus service to which I have referred with a view to obtaining reimbursement for the additional and now wasted moneys spent by the council in building up this road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall refer the matter to Mr. Hill.

#### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question about agricultural education?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: My colleague reports:

The problem raised in this question (what the honourable member has called the vacuum in agricultural education if the standard at Roseworthy Agricultural College is lifted considerably) is regarded by the committee investigating agricultural education very seriously.

In fact, it could well be the most important question before the committee. Considerable evidence has been received on this point. It is now being reviewed and it is hoped that in the not very distant future an interim report both on the educational aspects of Roseworthy itself and on any other consequential changes necessary in agricultural education can be provided.

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Lands ascertain from the Minister of Agriculture how many teachers or other personnel are receiving the necessary tuition to prepare them for teaching agricultural subjects in country high schools?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will obtain the information from either the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Education.

#### WAYVILLE INTERSECTION

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question about the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Greenhill Road and Goodwood Road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Right of entry has now been obtained over all land required for the improvement of the intersection of Goodwood Road and Greenhill Road. A specification for the proposed traffic signals has been prepared and delivered to Unley council, and agreement has been reached with the council regarding financial contributions. Tenders for the signal installation will be called by the council in the very near future, but the date by which the installation will be completed is dependent on the contractor's operations and cannot be estimated until tenders have been received. Roadworks will be commenced within a few days. The Highways Department is responsible for the whole cost of roadworks and 75 per cent of the cost of signals. The balance of the signal installation cost will be borne by the Unley City Council.

#### GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. ALLEN: During the standardization of the Broken Hill railway it was necessary to acquire the stock saleyards at Jamestown which are owned conjointly by the stock firms in the area. Last December it was agreed that, if the stock agents permitted the South Australian Railways to demolish half the saleyards, the stock agents would carry on through the winter months with the remaining half. The agreement was for the Railways Department to grade the site and spread rubble 5in. thick with 2in. topping over the site of the

new yards of about four-and-a-half acres, in time for the agents to erect new yards before the offshears sales next September.

Early in May this year the manager of the stock firm that is the planning agent for the project approached me expressing alarm at the delay in commencing it. On contacting the appropriate authorities in about the middle of May, I was informed that tenders would be called for preparing the site in about 10 days. I again approached the department early in June and obtained the same reply. To my knowledge, tenders have not been called up to the present time. The offshears sales will commence in about 10 weeks' time, with yardings of up to 25,000 sheep. Will the Attorney-General inform the Minister of Roads and Transport of the urgency of the situation and point out that the planning agents are very concerned about the forthcoming off-shears sales?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will do so as a matter of urgency.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER NORTH SCHOOL

Mr. BURDON: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question about the Mount Gambier North Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The provision of paving at the eastern end of the portable classrooms has been included with other proposed siteworks at that school, for which public tenders closed on May 27, 1969. An appraisal is currently being made of the suitability of the tenders received. An investigation has been made into the ablution facilities at the Mount Gambier North Primary School. As a result of this investigation, a recommendation has been made, and funds have been approved for the provision of two additional standard ablution troughs, complete with shelter and concrete floor, to be attached to one of the portable rooms. Two drinking bubblers are included with these facilities. Arrangements are now being made for this work to be carried out as soon as possible.

#### BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Mr. RYAN: In a speech on June 18 I said that one of my constituents was having trouble in getting a copy of a birth certificate for the purpose of obtaining a passport. Has the Attorney-General a report on this matter?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not have a formal report, but I have had inquiries made about this matter. The honourable member will be happy when I inform him that it will not be necessary to secure the

services of a solicitor in this case. If the lady contacts Mr. Arnold McNally, the Clerk of the Magistrates Court, he will do what is necessary to help her, for he knows about the case and is waiting to hear from her. There will be no charge.

#### LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. LAWN: Has the Attorney-General any later information on the subject I raised yesterday regarding the dispute between one of my constituents and the Law Society?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I think I told the honourable member not yesterday but on a previous occasion that a member of the Council of the Law Society had been asked to look into the whole matter of the pros and cons of the application for legal assistance to which he has referred. My department has been in touch with the solicitor concerned. I have been informed—I am sure the honourable member will appreciate this—that the file is a large one. The solicitor has already given the matter a good deal of attention, but he is unfortunately not yet in a position to express an opinion on it to the Law Society. However, he hopes to be able to do so very soon. I am sure that once the Law Society has the expression of his opinion it will come to a conclusion and inform me of it for transmission to the honourable member.

#### WEEDS OFFICER

Mr. EDWARDS: As the weeds problem in South Australia is so great at present, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether it would be possible to appoint a weeds officer for the Far West outside the Murat Bay District Council area?

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

#### PENSIONERS' EYE TREATMENT

Mr. HURST: On May 13, I wrote to the Minister of Health advising him that at that time pensioners who had eye disabilities were required to wait until January, 1970, for appointments to see an eye specialist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Many of these people are unable to afford private treatment. Will the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary in another place, investigate this matter with a view to seeing whether any progress has been made towards improving the position?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to obtain a report from my colleague.

## SCHOOL ACCIDENT

Mr. JENNINGS: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding an *ex gratia* payment to a student at the Strathmont Boys Technical High School who, unfortunately, was involved in an accident at the school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am advised that the parent of the boy made a claim on the Education Department for \$60 for dental treatment said to have been incurred in an accident to his son at the school. The accident was investigated by the Government Investigations Officer, who reported that the boy fell during a game after making contact with a standpipe. On sitting up after his fall he struck his face on the top of the standpipe and received this injury. No-one was near him at the time; he was not pushed, nor was there any other violence used towards him to cause him to fall. A teacher was on supervision duty on the oval. Supervision was adequate. The sprinkler system has been installed for more than two years. The standpipes are in full view and there is therefore no hidden danger. It is considered that the accident was not caused by any negligence on the part of the Education Department or its staff and, therefore, liability cannot be accepted by the department. The boy was covered by the School Insurance Scheme, which provides for benefits up to \$50.

## QUORN SCHOOL

Mr. CASEY: The Minister of Education is no doubt aware that a new area school was recently built at Quorn to take the place of the existing high school and primary school. The new area school is one of the most magnificent schools I have been in for a long time and the buildings there are a credit to the department. What is plaguing the people in the area is what the Education Department intends doing with the old primary school building. Has the Minister any information as to the department's intentions in this regard?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am naturally delighted to hear that people are so pleased with the new Samcon school building at Quorn. I agree with the honourable member that many fine buildings are being erected by the Education Department at present. Regarding the old school building, I do not believe that any recommendation has been made to me, but I will call for a report on the matter and let the honourable member know the outcome of my investigation.

## WINDANA HOME

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question of June 19 regarding the Windana home?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: When the honourable member asked me the question there was some misunderstanding between us as to its implications and I regret that some heat was engendered. Therefore, I undertook to obtain a report on the matter so that there would be no further misunderstanding.

Windana, the department's remand home at Glandore, was designed to provide relatively secure accommodation for children remanded in custody by the courts. It has four separate sections for neglected and delinquent girls and neglected and delinquent boys. Adjoining the section for neglected girls is separate accommodation for small children (boys and girls) aged up to about six years of age. The term "neglected child" is defined in the Social Welfare Act, 1926-1965. The definition covers a fairly wide variety of situations. Most children charged as neglected come from homes where there is a multiplicity of problems. In many cases, supervision of the children has been inadequate or ineffective. As a consequence, the children come to Windana with behavioural and emotional problems. While they are there they receive kindly but firm attention from the staff. In these circumstances, the period spent in the security of the home serves as a settling down period for the children. I am sure that if the honourable member has been there she would know, as I know from my own visits there, that this is so.

Mr. Jennings: Whom are you kidding?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: If the member for Enfield would care to visit the home I should be glad to make the necessary arrangements, as I think it would open his eyes. It was with the above considerations in mind that Windana was designed. The divisions between the neglected and delinquent sections are kept locked. In the neglected sections the children are allocated to dormitories to keep children of the same family of the same sex together and to segregate younger children from older children, etc. In the interests of the children the doors of the dormitories are kept locked at night. A staff officer is on duty in each section throughout the night. A bed check is made at frequent but irregular intervals. Each child has easy access to a bell push in the dormitory to call the officer if needed.



### PARKING BAYS

Mr. BROOMHILL: My question follows questions asked of the Attorney-General last year in relation to closing the bicycle track on the Anzac Highway. At that time, I suggested that the bicycle track should be converted into parking bays in certain places along the highway to enable people shopping to park their cars off the highway. Since then, the highway has been turned into a clearway in the mornings and evenings. This has helped traffic flow along the highway considerably but it has created considerable problems for the shopkeepers along it. The Minister told me last year that it was impracticable to use the area previously used as a bicycle track as parking bays because of problems with pipes running along that section of the road. However, I noticed recently that a shopkeeper at Glenelg had, at his own expense, made the area outside his shop into a parking bay and that he had been congratulated by the Minister of Roads and Transport for showing such initiative. In view of this, will the Attorney-General take up this matter with his colleague to see whether he now finds this scheme could be practicable? If he does find it practicable, will the Government consider implementing this scheme along other sections of the highway?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall be glad to discuss the matter with Mr. Hill.

### GRAIN

Mr. CASEY: As the Premier realizes, the wheat position throughout Australia is critical at present, and growers are most anxious to get all the information they possibly can relating to this industry. Although I do not expect him to have the information now, will the Premier ascertain for me what is the actual cost a bushel to growers for all grain handled by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited? I have always been under the impression that the Australian Wheat Board pays the full cost, but I am not certain what the Australian Barley Board does. I assure the Premier that growers are particularly anxious to get this information.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be particularly pleased to get the information for the honourable member.

### SAWDUST

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about the

abolition of the use of sawdust on butcher shop floors? If he does not have the reply, will he expedite it?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As I do not have a reply, I will ask the Minister of Agriculture about the matter.

### TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. VIRGO: In the *Advertiser* of May 30, under the heading "Debate in July on M.A.T.S.", there appears an article, part of which states:

The Minister of Roads and Transport (Mr. Hill) said yesterday that a majority vote against M.A.T.S. would not mean scrapping the \$574,000,000 plan.

If, when the House debates the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study, a majority rejects it, can the Premier say whether the Government will accept that vote or whether it will proceed with the matter regardless of the views and wishes of the House?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: As the Government has said, some measure dealing with the M.A.T.S. proposal will be introduced in the House. The Government will obviously regard the vote taken as a decision on the M.A.T.S. plan.

Mr. Virgo: You are repudiating Hill's statement.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Without replying to the rude interjection of the honourable member, I should say that I have no doubt that the Minister was referring to the continuing need for road construction throughout South Australia, particularly in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Virgo: No, he was talking about M.A.T.S.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Even though the member for Edwardstown is pursuing this matter in a political vein he knows that, politics aside, there must be a continuing plan for the construction of roads in this area, and I am sure the Minister was referring to that continued need. The measure will be brought before the House, and the Government will certainly be guided by the decision of the House.

### CLARE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Treasurer, in the absence of the Minister of Works, a reply to my recent question about the formation of playing fields at the Clare High School?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The contractor having commenced work on the site at the beginning of this week has advised that, subject to favourable weather conditions, the work will be completed within four weeks.

## AGRICULTURAL ADVISER

Mr. ARNOLD: Since the resident agricultural adviser at Renmark was promoted to another position some months ago, the agricultural advisory service at Renmark has been carried out from Berri. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture what action has been taken to appoint another resident agricultural adviser at Renmark, for this is a most important field?

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

## CELLULOSE AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Mr. CORCORAN: The Treasurer will recall that last week I asked him about the Government's shareholding in Cellulose Australia Limited and what action the Government intended to take in view of the bid by Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited to take over this company. The Treasurer told me that at this stage the Government did not want to influence the decision of ordinary shareholders in the matter. However, can he say whether the directors of Cellulose Australia Limited contacted or had discussions with the Government prior to making their decision to accept a formal offer from A.P.M.?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: So far as I am aware, the answer is "No". I have not discussed this matter with the Under Treasurer. I know that since the offer was made to the public shareholders we have kept in touch. In my remarks to the honourable member last week I implied that we were watching the position but that we were anxious (and I think we are quite properly anxious) that we should not indicate the Government's attitude to the proposal, as this would have some influence on other people in making up their minds. I think the honourable member approved of that attitude. However, I can tell him that many shareholders have already indicated their desire to convert. We are watching the position from time to time and, possibly within a week or so in view of the present trend, we shall be able to indicate what the Government intends to do. I cannot answer "Yes" or "No" to the specific question raised by the honourable member: all I can say is that, to my knowledge, there was no direct discussion with the Government before the directors made their recommendation. If this matter is important I will make inquiries.

Mr. Corcoran: Yes, it is.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: If it is not in the public interest to make the reply available to the House, I will convey it to the honourable member privately.

Mr. CORCORAN: I was not seeking information only on the financial aspect, but also on the future of the industry and its employment of people involved in the industry. Has any discussion taken place between the directors and the Government on this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I apologize to the honourable member if I did not mention this matter, but I thought he was confining his question to the proposed take-over itself. As regards the matter he now raises, yes: the Government felt it would need some assurance from A.P.M. that in the event of the merger succeeding the industry at the Cellulose works would not be unduly affected, and that the people who worked there would not suddenly find themselves out of a job. So we did, on that point, take up the matter and seek assurances from A.P.M. that the operations would continue and that the employment of people there would not be suddenly jeopardized. We received those assurances and, therefore, in the Government's view, there was no reason why we should obstruct in any way the proposed financial arrangement.

Mr. Corcoran: When you say "suddenly", do you mean immediately in the future?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member would realize that it would be impossible for the company to give a categorical assurance that there would not be some re-adjustment of their operations there, but apparently the assurances we sought and received were adequate—

The Hon. R. S. Hall: Expansion was not precluded.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Of course not. There would be no marked diminution of activity but there might be an increase in it: certainly not in the short term or, we believe, in the long term will the cellulose industry be jeopardized. We consider that the assurances given were genuine and within the spirit of the Government's inquiry.

## HEATHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding transport to the Heathfield High School for secondary schoolchildren living in the Ironbank area?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: When the honourable member raised this matter during the debate on the Supplementary Estimates I said I would obtain a reply on the matter, and I am now happy to supply information to him. A fully paid bus service may be considered for not fewer than 10 children who reside at least three miles from their homes to the school or school bus route provided the majority has to travel more than five miles. A subsidized bus service may be considered for not fewer than seven children who reside three or more miles from the school or school bus route provided the majority has to travel more than five miles. There is a fully-paid bus service to the Heathfield High School that serves the Ironbank area, and the matter is being investigated to see which children do not benefit from the service.

### CIGARETTES

Mr. LAWN: I understand that in the United Kingdom the television advertising of cigarettes is banned and that in the United States of America every packet of cigarettes has to have printed on the outside of it the percentage of tar and the percentage of solids in the cigarettes. As the health authorities in Australia say they can definitely link the smoking of cigarettes with lung cancer, can the Attorney-General say whether this matter has been discussed by the various Attorneys-General with a view to bringing in uniform legislation either to ban the television advertising of cigarettes or to compel the manufacturers to print on the packets the percentages of tar, or both?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: When I was in America recently, one of the things that impressed me most was the various advertisements both on radio and on television, and amongst them were some very effective ones by the anti-cancer society in America, against smoking. This seemed to me a most effective way of dealing with this matter. However, in Australia it is regarded as primarily a matter for the Ministers of Health rather than for the Attorneys-General. I am certain it has not been discussed at any meeting of the Attorneys-General that I have attended and I doubt whether it has been discussed previously by the Attorneys-General.

Mr. LAWN: My question is a repetition of a question I inadvertently asked of the Attorney-General.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot repeat a question.

Mr. LAWN: I addressed it to the wrong Minister and I now ask it of the Premier representing the Minister of Health. As health authorities in Australia link cigarette smoking with lung cancer, will the Premier ask the Minister of Health whether this matter was considered at the last Australian Health Ministers' Conference and whether the banning of television advertising, and the compulsory printing on the packet of the percentage of tar and nicotine contained in its contents, were also considered? If these matters were not discussed, will the Premier ask his colleague to place them on the agenda for discussion at a future conference?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am sure these matters were discussed at the recent conference, but I will obtain a report that will disclose to what degree any discussion took place.

Mr. LAWN: A few months ago a report in the Adelaide press stated that a scientific analysis of cigarettes, carried out in the Eastern States, had disclosed the tar content of the various brands of cigarettes. Since then the Hallmark myria tip cigarette has gone off the market, apparently.

Mr. Hudson: They haven't been obtainable for six months, despite tremendous demand.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LAWN: Since this report appeared I have not been able to obtain these cigarettes from various tobacconists or even from our refreshment room. I, like many other people, want to know why these cigarettes went off the market immediately scientists in the Eastern States had said that they had a very low tar content. Because of the danger of lung cancer, they would be one of the best types to smoke. These cigarettes may have been put under the shelves. Will the Attorney-General find out from the manufacturers or wholesalers of the cigarettes whether they have gone off the market and, if they have, what is the reason?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am always pleased to try to oblige any member, particularly the member for Adelaide. I am sure that all members agree that I am most helpful and co-operative, but I must admit that, so far as cigarettes are concerned, I am rather out of my field.

Mr. Hudson: It is a British Tobacco product.

The SPEAKER: Order! There can be only one question at a time. Otherwise, we will be here for a week. The Attorney-General is replying to the question.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall try to find out whether it is possible to get information on this difficult topic. May I say that I think the honourable member would be well advised to give up smoking.

#### WHEAT

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I direct my question, which is about wheat quotas, to the Minister of Lands, who represents in such a distinguished fashion his colleague the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture has made several public statements lately in which he has stated that the wheat industry has asked for and has accepted the principle of quotas. Can the Minister say, first, who are the wheat industry representatives and, secondly, whether he is satisfied that the wheatgrowers of South Australia are supporting in principle the idea of a quota delivery scheme?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I shall ask the Minister of Agriculture this question and get a reply.

#### ELECTORAL REPORT

Mr. HUDSON: Paragraph 15 of Part I of the Electoral Commission's Report states:

The Report on the Metropolitan Area of Adelaide 1962, which led to the definition of the Metropolitan Planning Area, contains a map of that area which includes Garden Island and Torrens Island, but these islands are not within the boundaries of any municipality referred to in the definition of the Metropolitan Planning Area. Strictly speaking, therefore, Garden Island and Torrens Island cannot be regarded as being within the Metropolitan Planning Area, despite the map. The Commission has taken the liberty in this First Report of following the same boundary as is shown in the said map, but draws attention to the fact that an extension of the definition of the Metropolitan Planning Area will be necessary if these two islands are to be included in the Metropolitan Area in the final report. Similar considerations apply to jetties and any other areas not included, for one reason or another, in any existing municipality referred to in the definition.

This paragraph of the report points to a weakness in the definition of the metropolitan area given in section 7 of the Electoral Districts (Redivision) Act, passed early this year. At this stage the commission has included these two islands as part of the metropolitan area. Some 17 electors are, I believe, involved. Unless an amendment to the Act is made prior to the commission's presenting its final report to Parliament, the commission will, in order to follow the terms of reference of the Act, have to include Garden Island, Torrens Island and the 17 electors thereon in some

country districts, because they are at present excluded from the metropolitan area, by definition. This would mean, of course, including them in some district which is in no way contiguous to the metropolitan area. I direct my question to the Premier as the Minister in charge of the original Bill when it was first discussed in Parliament: will he consider introducing an amendment to the Act in order to cope with this problem and so as to avoid Parliament's amending the final report of the commission in order to deal with the problem of Garden Island and Torrens Island? It would be most undesirable for Parliament to amend the final report of the commission. In my view and in the view of some other honourable members, the proper procedure would be to amend—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has asked his question.

Mr. HUDSON: Will the Premier consider following what I regard as the proper procedure?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I thank the honourable member for his question, his views and his argument. This matter has already been brought to my notice, and the Government is now considering it. When a decision has been made, I will let the honourable member know.

#### HILLS ROADS

Mr. GILES: To a recent question to the Minister of Roads and Transport I received a reply about the erection of safety rails in the Adelaide Hills on various roads. I notice that in the answer there is no reference to Highway 92. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister whether he will consider including in his programme the erection of safety fences on Highway 92?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

#### CHIRONOMID MIDGES

Mr. ARNOLD: At a public meeting at Barmera last evening a committee was formed to promote tourism in the town, and the meeting resolved that the clearing of Chambers Creek under the bridge at North Lake should be carried out as quickly as possible. It also resolved that the control of chironomid midges, as recommended by an officer of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, be implemented. During his study of conditions in the lake, this officer showed Councillor Hardwick, of Barmera, how to do regular tests of the lake to determine the blood

worm content of the mud at the bottom of the lake from which the chironomid midges emerge. His continuous tests have shown that the number of blood worms is increasing rapidly, and this indicates that as the weather becomes warmer the midges will emerge from the lake in plague proportions. As this would have a detrimental effect on the tourist trade in the town and as the Public Health Department has to determine whether the treatment recommended by the Engineering and Water Supply Department will be detrimental to health and to fish in the lake, will the Minister of Immigration and Tourism consult his colleagues urgently about this matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes, and with some ingenuity I may be able to pin some responsibility on nearly all of my colleagues. However, I will seriously consider the matter and discuss it with my colleagues in order to obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### UPPER SOUTH-EAST SCHOOLS

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that, although additional classrooms were promised, the Geranium Area School and Coonalpyn Primary School have been informed that additional wooden classrooms set out on the 40th priority list will not be available at these schools. Can the Minister of Education say whether this means that the schools will not get the classrooms this year as expected, or will transportable classrooms be used instead?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: At this time of the year, many requests are made for extra classrooms and they are considered and placed on various priority lists, so it is impossible to remember what has happened in relation to a particular school. However, I shall call for a further report.

#### MIGRANTS

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister of Immigration and Tourism will be aware of the announcement made in October, 1967, by the Minister for Civil Aviation in the Commonwealth House of Representatives that Australians would now be able to fly overseas and return at drastically reduced fares under charter arrangements. This scheme was principally approved in order to combat home-sickness among British migrants. A constituent has drawn my attention to the cancellation of two passages (although I believe 17 people may have been involved) on a charter flight to the United Kingdom due to leave on July 12. I understand that the

reason for cancelling these passages is that the group to which these people belong does not comply with I.A.T.A. Charter Resolution 045 regulations. Naturally, these people are distressed as well as inconvenienced: the lady concerned was travelling to the United Kingdom to visit her 80-year-old mother and, because of the advanced age of her mother, she would like to continue with her planned trip now. Senator Arnold Drury is also aware of this matter because Qantas is involved, but I bring it to the Minister's attention as I consider that, if he is not already aware of the situation, he should be made aware of it. If I give the Minister the relevant correspondence, will he ascertain whether the people concerned may still make the planned trip and, at the same time, examine this matter with a view to ensuring that a similar situation does not occur again?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will need the information that has been given, and I will take up the matter to see whether the problem can be solved. I am at a loss to say how far I can go and where my responsibility ends in this matter, but I should like to resolve it. It is a pity that these incidents occur, and I will do my best to try to provide a solution. I have seen several parties of people leaving under this system to visit the United Kingdom, and it seems that it is a most excellent system. It enables people to visit their former home within a reasonable time of their arrival in Australia, which helps them to feel much happier about settling in Australia on their return.

#### PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I ask leave to make a statement.

The SPEAKER: Does the honourable member desire to make a personal explanation?

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I did not think that other than a Minister could make a Ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Actually, Mr. Speaker, I did not ask leave to make a Ministerial statement. In view of the generosity of the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) yesterday in asking for information about the duties and responsibilities of Parliamentary Under Secretaries, I am pleased to be able to tell him that I now have a report that I could bring down.

Mr. Hudson: Who wrote it?

Mr. FREEBAIRN: If the honourable member is still interested and asks me a question, I shall be more than pleased to reply.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is out of order in asking another honourable member to ask a question.

Mr. HUDSON: Yesterday, the member for Light, who is one of the two Parliamentary Under Secretaries, could not tell me, in reply to a question, what his duties were. I believe that he has now been able to find out, someone else apparently having told him what his duties are. As I believe that he is prepared to tell the House what those duties are, I shall be pleased if he will provide me with that information.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: This question is not the question the honourable member asked yesterday. If he will again be indulgent, I will bring down yet another report to answer the question he has asked today. If the honourable member cares to ask today the question that he asked yesterday, I shall be pleased to reply.

Mr. HUDSON: I will ask the Premier a question. Yesterday I asked the member for Light, one of the Premier's Parliamentary Under Secretaries, whether he would be so kind as to explain to me his functions as a Parliamentary Under Secretary. Today, I asked the honourable gentleman whether he would be so kind as to explain his duties, after he indicated that he had the information available to me. I have here the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* which defines the word "function" as an "office-holder's duty". The member for Light obviously does not know that I was asking exactly the same question. In view of this and of the display of incompetence that we have had, will the Premier consider replacing the honourable member in his position and also consider ensuring that this House, which has to vote money to assist his Parliamentary Under Secretaries in their offices, is given the information for which I have asked?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This is a rather many-sided question. First, I am sure that the member for Light, with the utmost of goodwill, would not have recognized the honourable member's question as being the same as the question asked yesterday, because it was not phrased in the same manner. There is a difference between function and duty. If asked what I thought of the capacity of the member for Light to fulfil his job, I would say that he was functioning well; I could hardly say that

he was "duty-ing" well. There is, of course, a difference between those words. There is an inference in the question that the duties of the member for Light are costing the Government (and therefore the State) much money, but, of course, that is not so. The honourable member receives no increase in salary whatsoever, as the member for Glenelg is well aware; and, of course, the fact that the Government provides an office for the member for Light to use during his long hours of duty in my department is something that I believe is a minor consideration, especially when one compares it—

Mr. Hudson: What does he do? That is all we want to know.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: —with the organization set up in the Premier's Department by my predecessor, when several people were paid to look after and do the sort of job that the Under Secretaries are now doing. At that time I believe there were two or even three people specifically engaged at public expense to treat with members of the public who came into the Premier's office. They were not employed as public servants in the sense that they dealt with normal departmental duties: rather they dealt with personal problems of people who came into the Premier's office, and it is no coincidence that many of these people came from the Norwood district. The present organization costs the public almost nothing, except, as was pointed out yesterday, the provision of an office.

Mr. HUDSON: I understand from the Premier's answer that the Parliamentary Under Secretaries are occupied in dealing with members of the public who come in to see the Premier when the Premier is too busy to see them. Can the Premier say, first, whether this means that the members for Light and Victoria are able to use their Government offices and get secretarial assistance in carrying out work in relation to their own constituents? Secondly, if this kind of assistance is being given to the members for Light and Victoria, will the Premier consider making it a general policy that adequate secretarial assistance will be provided for all members of Parliament similar to what is provided for members of the Commonwealth Parliament?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member, of course, is widening his question to encompass another subject altogether. If he is requesting additional help for members in regard to their Parliamentary duties (help

such as typing, etc.), I will treat it as a separate question, because it has nothing to do with employment in my office at no salary or reward to two Parliamentary Under Secretaries to help me. So successful have their efforts been that I only wish I could appoint more. At present the size of the House precludes this step but, after the next election when we have more back-benchers, perhaps I can appoint more Under Secretaries.

Mr. HUDSON: Can the Premier say whether the members for Light and Victoria are required by him to carry out any work on behalf of their own constituents from their rooms in Parliament House, or whether they are able to do it in the office of the Premier's Department?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: One of the things a Premier has to do is to delegate some of his jobs; otherwise, the position would never be filled satisfactorily. The honourable member is asking many questions of a domestic type regarding my department and its operation. He has shown much interest in it yet has failed to ask the question of the member for Light that he asked yesterday. However, as he continues to show this interest, I will bring down a report for the honourable member.

#### FIAT MOTOR COMPANY

Mr. HUDSON: Yesterday the Leader referred to the possibility or probability that the Fiat Motor Company was no longer interested in establishing in South Australia. Because many people in this State are greatly concerned about this matter, will the Premier comment on the state of negotiations with the company and say whether they have broken down or whether there is any possibility that the company could still establish a factory in South Australia?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: There are many unknowns in this negotiation. When I was in Europe last year I was told that the Fiat company could be interested in setting up a plant in Australia. Because of that, I changed my itinerary and went to Turin, where I spoke to the representatives of the company, who assured me that, when an assessment of the Australian requirements for their product had been made, they would fully consider the South Australian scene. Since then there has been much contact between Fiat on the one hand and the South Australian Government and its representatives on the other and, of course, between Fiat

and representatives of other States, the assessment by that company having been made. South Australia has put before the Fiat company a case as detailed as possible, including information about sites, prices, demands, and local facilities available. As yet, the company has not announced any decision publicly or made it known to my Government. I am not certain that Fiat has actually decided to establish in Australia: that is another unknown. I was told that the company was making an assessment of its potential in Australia. If it decides to establish in this country, obviously it will carefully consider South Australia as a venue for its operations. I can say little more than that, except that we are in continuing contact and that the case has been put to the company in the best way possible.

#### RENMARK ADULT EDUCATION

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Minister of Education say what progress has been made with alterations to the Adult Education Centre in Murray Avenue, Renmark, and also with the proposed new adult education facilities at Renmark?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to obtain that information for the honourable member.

#### EX-SERVICE REHABILITATION

Mr. CORCORAN: Many young servicemen who have returned from Vietnam have approached me and, doubtless, other members of this House and of the Commonwealth Parliament about the type of rehabilitation provided for them, particularly the war service land settlement benefits now available compared with those that were available to persons who served in the Second World War. I do not expect that the Commonwealth Government would develop large areas of land, if they were available in this State, on a basis similar to the war service land settlement scheme that operated after the last world war. However, the Commonwealth Government may consider making available to servicemen returning from Vietnam facilities similar to the single unit purchase scheme which operated after the Second World War and by which long-term loans were made for the development of property. When I was Minister of Repatriation I approached the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry twice about the matter. Will the Minister of Repatriation take up with the Commonwealth Government the

possibility of introducing a similar scheme, in order to settle on the land returned servicemen from Vietnam?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I should like to consider the matter carefully, examining previous correspondence and other matters. I will give a considered reply on the next day of sitting if I cannot give it tomorrow.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. RYAN: When my Party occupied the Government benches, realizing that it was absolutely necessary virtually to tear up the Local Government Act and write a new one, it set up the Local Government Act Revision Committee. We had high hopes that that committee would bring in its report after three years, but unfortunately that did not occur. Indeed, since the present Minister of Local Government has been in office I think I have read a public announcement to the effect that he has curtailed the taking of public evidence by the committee. As the Local Government Act Revision Committee has now been functioning for four and a half years, will the Attorney-General ascertain from the Minister of Local Government when the committee's report is expected to be ready for publication?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not think that the Minister curtailed the taking of public evidence; this would not be for him to do, in any case. I do know that, as was implicit in the honourable member's question, he felt some impatience at the length of time being taken for the report to be made and asked the committee to make a report fixing, I think, the deadline as the end of March, but it was not possible to keep to this. I think that because of the requests of Mr. Hill, the report will not take long now. However, I will certainly ask him when he expects to receive it, and I will let the honourable member know.

#### PARLIAMENT HOUSE CONSTABLE

Mr. CORCORAN: I think my question would interest every member in this House: earlier this year I had cause during the recess to visit the House on a wintry day and noticed that the police officer who patrols the front of the building and supervises the parking of vehicles there was required for much of the day to be out in the weather. While at the time the officer concerned was clothed suitably for the weather, it occurred to me that it might be a good idea if a type of sentry box,

or something of that nature, were installed at an obvious vantage point from which he could see what was going on, thereby providing some relief from the obvious discomfort that occurs particularly during winter months. Will the Treasurer ask the Minister of Works, who is absent today, to see whether something of this nature cannot be provided for the police officer who looks after us so well and who is required to supervise activities in front of Parliament House during the year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am sure that all honourable members have a great affection and respect for the officer who carries out this duty. Of course, he, being a police officer of such long standing, appreciates that he and his colleagues in the force are obliged to work under all weather conditions at any time. If a driver who does not have a permit parks in front of the House, the officer must inevitably move from wherever he is situated at the time in order to speak to the person offending. I will examine the matter with the Minister, but I do not know, quite frankly, that the officer would welcome sitting in a sentry box.

#### EGGS

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The South Australian Egg Board requires that all eggs to be marketed shall be stamped with a distinctive mark. However, the New South Wales Egg Board, which handles more than three-quarters of all the eggs marketed in Australia, abandoned the stamping of eggs about 15 years ago. In addition, the Rowland commission in Great Britain recently brought down a report recommending that the British board abandon using a stamp and claiming that the use of the stamp had a depressing effect on egg sales. Bearing in mind that the New South Wales board, which is by far the biggest organization marketing eggs in Australia, has abandoned the egg board stamp and that the United Kingdom board is about to abandon it, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the South Australian board will consider abandoning the use of the stamp in this State also?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

#### YALATA MISSION

Mr. EDWARDS: Following the short report in this morning's newspaper about two children dying at the Yalata Mission, has the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs obtained a report on this incident and, if he has, will he give it?



The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: When I saw this morning's newspaper I was very perturbed to read that two young children (one a baby, I think) had died at Yalata of some disease or illness that had not been diagnosed. I immediately asked the Director of Aboriginal Affairs whether he could give me any information about it. He has now given me a report, the first part of which confirms the information in this morning's paper and the second part of which brings the matter further up to date. I think it would be helpful to the House and to the honourable member who, of course, represents the area, if I quoted the report. The Director of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Millar, reports:

I have contacted Dr. Mueller—  
she is the doctor at Ceduna—  
again since verbally advising the Minister of the situation this morning, and Dr. Mueller advises that she is quite satisfied with the condition of the four children in Ceduna Hospital and she feels there is no need for concern. Dr. Mueller advised she had received no further advice from Yalata Mission, but this was understandable as the Flying Doctor was at Yalata Mission today on his routine visit and the second sister was now at Yalata assisting the resident nurse and it was intended that all children would be thoroughly examined today. Dr. Mueller appreciated the interest shown and the help offered but she felt the situation was well under control. I have also contacted the Superintendent of Yalata Mission (Mr. B. Lindner) who advised that the Flying Doctor was still at the Mission (at 3 p.m.)—

less than an hour ago—

and all children were being examined. No new cases had been reported and the condition of the three children in Port Augusta Hospital was improving. Mr. Lindner advised that no further assistance was required.

I intend to approve a recommendation I have received from the Director of Aboriginal Affairs that we should pay for the services of the second nursing sister who has gone to Yalata to cope with the situation.

#### POLICE SUPERANNUATION

Mr. WARDLE: I believe that for some time the question of superannuation for members of the Police Force has been discussed. I understand that some members of the force desire to make greater contributions to the superannuation scheme than they are able to make at present. Will the Premier ascertain from the Chief Secretary whether this matter is still being actively discussed and when a report will be brought down on it?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### GLENELG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: The Minister of Education will know that a new building is being erected at the Glenelg Primary School to cater for the total student enrolment. The new building will enable the elimination of many of the old buildings that have existed there for many years. The new building was planned, by locating it in the north-east corner of the schoolgrounds, so that it would be possible to construct an appropriate shelter shed and still have room for some kind of oval, whereas previously there was no room for this. Will the Minister obtain a report regarding what stage has been reached in replanning of the remainder of the schoolgrounds, when it is expected that work on the building will be finished, and when work will commence on the redevelopment of the schoolgrounds?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes.

#### STUDENT TEACHERS' ALLOWANCES

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Yesterday, the Minister of Education announced the Government's action as a result of a report brought down by a committee which the Minister had set up earlier this year to inquire into student teachers' allowances. Will the Minister say whether there has been any reaction from the trainee teachers as a result of the announcement of the new rates?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have not received any verbal reports or letters (I think there has hardly been time for that), but I know that the announcement was received most enthusiastically by members of the teaching profession and by the student teachers. I believe that this morning my office was inundated with telephone calls from student teachers asking when they would receive their first cheques. I am expecting some response in the form of letters and communications from teachers and student teachers.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 1. Page 255.)

Mr. ALLEN (Burra): When I obtained the adjournment last evening I was speaking on the restriction of gun licences in South Australia, and I was keeping an eye on the clock and trying to finish that particular topic. I think I must have been speaking rather quickly at the time because after the House

adjourned I realized that the *Hansard* staff must have been hard pressed to keep up with my remarks.

Mr. Broomhill: So was everyone else.

Mr. ALLEN: I apologize to the *Hansard* staff for my haste, and I assure them that it was an oversight and not intentional. I have received numerous letters recently regarding the inadequate lighting on goods trains in this State. I know this subject has been raised many times in recent years, particularly after level crossing accidents have occurred, and these accidents have been numerous over the years. I believe that these submissions are the result of a recent level crossing accident that occurred in the district of the member for Frome when a sister at the Burra Hospital and a young doctor were both killed. I think this incident sparked off the numerous letters that have been forwarded to me on this subject, and I understand that a question on this same subject has been asked in another place.

Several reasons have been given why additional lighting cannot be provided, but we appear to be no further ahead with this problem than we were many years ago. I understand one reason given why side lighting cannot be provided is that it may confuse the train crew in recognizing the guard's signals. If this is the case, why does this not apply to passenger trains? Yet, peculiarly enough, very few, if any, accidents of this nature occur to passenger trains. These trains are well lit internally and the resultant glow through the windows makes it easy for anyone to recognize the train from a considerable distance, whereas the unlit, dingy appearance of goods trucks against the black sealed road on a dark night makes it particularly hard for motorists to recognize the object until too late. This applies more on the Broken Hill and Melbourne lines where goods trains are very long, and at times it is impossible to see either engine or brake van lights. Concealed reflectors or lights between trucks could be a way of overcoming this difficulty.

Under the Road Traffic Act, semi-trailers and similar long vehicles on the roads are required to carry side lights. Their rows of lights, like ocean liners at sea, are a familiar sight on State and interstate highways. But there are no such requirements for the rolling stock on goods trains. To fit lights may be time consuming for train crews, but what is this compared to the loss of human lives? In the meantime, while the department is making these studies, accidents are occurring at level cross-

sings. I point out that the public is getting impatient waiting for something to be done. If the department would only produce some evidence that it is trying to overcome the difficulty it would at least be some consolation to the public. I urge this Government to hasten a decision that will overcome this problem.

In conclusion, I wish to refer to the remarks made by the member for Hindmarsh (Hon. C. D. Hutchens) last evening. He went into great detail and mentioned the various taxes this Government had introduced since taking office. The Government makes no apologies for introducing these measures. These decisions were forced on the Government because when it took over the reins of office last year there was a deficit of about \$8,500,000 as a result of the previous Treasurer's imposing very little increased taxation in his last Budget. We all know the reason for this: an election would be held before the end of that financial year, and the Treasurer preferred to have a run-down in finances rather than increase taxation before an election. That was the reason the Government had to increase taxation immediately it took office.

Mr. Jennings: That is exactly what happened in the previous three years.

Mr. ALLEN: The Government had the courage (and I use that word rather than the word so freely used by the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo)) to do this despite the fact that it was an unpopular thing to do. I point out that all taxation increases are unpopular. However, most people are gratified to know that we have finished the year with a surplus of about \$475,000. In fact, the Commonwealth Government, recognizing the efforts made by this Government, has recently made substantial grants to the State. Confidence has once again returned to South Australia, and it is a pleasure to be a member of a Government that has shown the public that it can successfully govern the State. I support the motion.

Mr. HUGHES (Walloo): I had intended to congratulate the member for Burra on his speech and, had he concluded his remarks last evening, I should have done so, but he spoilt his speech this afternoon by what he said about the speech of the member for Hindmarsh (Hon. C. D. Hutchens). Hardly anyone in South Australia condones the taxes imposed on the people by the Government. Apparently the member for Burra does not move in very wide circles. If he moved in

wider circles he would certainly know that the people, particularly primary producers, are not at all happy with the unjust taxes.

Mr. Allen: I didn't say they were.

Mr. HUGHES: I believe the honourable member did. He did not refer to any particular section of people but he said that most people in the State were happy with the taxes inflicted on them by this Government. Although I realize the honourable member did not use the word "inflicted," that is the word I use. I reiterate that the people in this State are not happy by any means. I repeat that if the honourable member moved in wider circles he would know the true position and would not have said what he said this afternoon. I will have more to say later about certain unjust taxes imposed by the Government on the people of the State. Prior to resuming his seat this afternoon, the member for Burra, on the one hand, congratulated the Government on imposing these taxes and, on the other hand, said that it would finish the year with a surplus. That surplus has been brought about at the expense of the people, and they will not be happy about this.

Mr. Rodda: They weren't happy with you: that's why you are over there where you are.

Mr. HUGHES: It is all right for the member for Victoria to say that: he knows why we are over here. He knows that the last election was not won by the Liberal and Country League but that the result was overwhelmingly in favour of the Australian Labor Party.

Mr. Ryan: How do they stay in office now?

Mr. HUGHES: With the support of the Speaker.

Mr. Ryan: It's a one-man Government.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course it is; it is a dictatorial Government, and we live in a dictatorial State today. It is all right for some country members to make wild statements in an endeavour to build up the prestige of the Government, but people are not happy about the unjust taxes inflicted on them in an endeavour to have a surplus at the end of the year. As this session proceeds, Opposition members, perhaps not so much in the Address in Reply debate but during the Budget and Loan Estimates debates, will prove that the people of the State are not happy, and that money allocated for public works has not been spent, even though many public works should have been proceeded with. However, I do not want to proceed with that until the Budget and Loan Estimates are dealt with. If the

member for Burra has not learned the facts by now he will learn during those debates how the people of the State feel. I will go so far now as to challenge the honourable member to influence his Premier to go to the people at this time. Then he will certainly find out how the people feel about these unjust taxes so viciously imposed on them in an effort to gain a surplus.

I congratulate His Excellency the Governor on the excellent way in which he delivered the speech at the opening of Parliament. I think I would be speaking for all members when I say how pleased we were when the announcement was made that such a distinguished Australian soldier had been appointed to this high office. With very great respect to all others who faithfully served their country in war and in peace, I do not think a more popular choice could have been made. From my observations of the work carried out by Lady Harrison and of her outstanding friendliness towards all people with whom she comes in contact, there is no doubt in my mind that His Excellency and Lady Harrison will leave their mark on the future progress of the State. We trust that good health and divine guidance will be their lot as they represent the Crown.

I regret that I must now deal with one or two matters concerning members opposite. First, I point out that for a period last evening during the speech of the member for Hindmarsh not one Minister was present. The only person on the front bench was the member for Victoria (Mr. Rodda). I do not think this is good enough. In reply to a question this afternoon, the Premier said that the members for Victoria and Light received no remuneration whatever for their duties as Parliamentary Under Secretaries, yet the Government left one of those men, who have no responsibility in the Government of the State, sitting on the front bench of the House. It is not good enough. The people of the State would not be very happy to learn that the Premier and all members of Cabinet in this House were out of the Chamber while a former Minister was bringing very important matters before us.

Mr. Clark: It was a highly respected member who was speaking.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, one of the most highly respected members of this House for many years. I say that with all sincerity and I believe that most members, even on the Government side, would agree with me. It was a disgrace that a member of such high standing,

who has given so much of his time and effort to the progress of this State, was left, when speaking, without one member of the Ministry being present in this Chamber.

I want to touch briefly on one part of the speech of the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Evans) seconding the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, when he referred to the increase in salaries of members of Parliament. So as not to be accused of misquoting him, I will read from *Hansard* of June 24, at page 195:

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.

I do not want to buy into an argument with the medical profession this afternoon; I am dealing only with the member for Onkaparinga, who continued:

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.

The member for Onkaparinga has not been a member of Parliament long enough yet.

Mr. Rodda: We have all got to start.

Mr. HUGHES: I agree, but we should start more humbly and find out the people who really do serve the State—not some honourable members who have plush carpets to walk on, as the honourable member mentioned to me only last night. The member for Onkaparinga should be prepared to wait for at least one term in this House before he says whether all the members here are entitled to their pay increase. A grave injustice was done by the member for Onkaparinga to this Parliament.

Mr. Ryan: He will take the increase.

Mr. HUGHES: He was writing down Parliament. I venture to say that because of what he said in that speech he has a lot to learn. He does not know the worth of a member of Parliament or anything about the responsibilities that go with the job.

Mr. Ryan: For some it is a sideline.

Mr. HUGHES: I will say honestly that I cannot afford a secretary and I will take my increase because I feel I am justified in taking it.

Mr. Ryan: You live on it, too.

Mr. HUGHES: I have no conscience about this, as the member for Onkaparinga apparently has. I earn my salary.

Mr. Evans: Did I say you didn't earn it?

Mr. HUGHES: You were not here when I read out a portion of your speech. Apparently, you do not even know what you are saying in this House.

Mr. Evans: You left out a part of it.

Mr. HUGHES: I read it all; I did not leave out the part about the medical profession, either, because I did not want honourable members to misinterpret what the honourable member had said. In his electoral district he is not faced with the problems that confront most of us. Apparently, he does not require an unpaid secretary in his home, because he gets all his secretarial work done here in Adelaide. That is more than I can get.

Mr. Ryan: Probably his wife works for him.

Mr. HUGHES: I am not saying anything about the honourable member's wife; I do not even know the lady so I am not in a position to say anything about her—not that I would want to even if I did know her. I am not interested at all in the honourable member's wife.

Mr. Hurst: But you feel sorry for his wife.

Mr. HUGHES: I do feel sorry for her because, apparently, he is not sympathetic about the amount of work she must do in connection with his job.

Mr. Evans: She enjoys it.

Mr. HUGHES: I am glad to hear that. However, is there any reason why you should not be compensated for it? The honourable member is one of the great big heroes. If he wants to set himself up as a great hero in this State, as he attempted to do when he seconded the motion, I challenge him this afternoon, instead of putting his salary increase in his pocket, to donate it towards some worthwhile charitable institution in this State.

Mr. Ryan: Call his bluff!

Mr. HUGHES: If he does that, then at the end of next year's debate on the Address in Reply, I shall be the first to stand up in this House and apologize to him; but, until such time as he does that, I say he does not know what he is talking about; he has a lot to learn—and, believe me, he will learn it as the debates proceed this year.

Mr. Evans: I will do that; I will give it to the fund for the Wallaroo warbler.

Mr. HUGHES: The honourable member does not have to do that. Now that he is on the spot and has been challenged, he is trying to get out of it by making fun of it. It is not a funny matter. The people of South Australia will learn about this but, because he wants to set himself up as a big hero—

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: I think it is all bluff.

Mr. HUGHES: Apparently so. He does not understand the situation or the work of a member of Parliament but he will learn as he goes on and he will find that he will need the increase.

Mr. Ryan: He has his garbage business to look after.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not want to bring that in. I know the honourable member will not be game enough to accept my challenge this afternoon to give his \$1,000 increase to some charitable institution. If he is, I will apologize to him in this House.

Mr. Evans: Do you agree with the doctors' increases?

Mr. HUGHES: The honourable member came in late whilst I was talking about him and he was unaware that I had quoted him fully. He took great delight in his interjections because he thought I had quoted only what he had said in relation to the Parliamentary salary increase and that I had not mentioned his reference to the medical profession; but I stated that I would not be misquoting him, and I read the whole portion of his speech in relation to the increase. I did mention the medical profession but I said I did not want to buy into that argument this afternoon because the medical profession had not made that statement: it was the member for Onkaparinga who had made it. Paragraph 5 of the Governor's Speech states:

The Premier and Minister of Industrial Development recently went overseas to undertake personal negotiations with industrial leaders who have shown interest in establishing enterprises in South Australia. Arising from his discussion he has reported decisions for the commencement of two important industries and the prospects of a favourable decision by a number of other companies.

That statement was read at the opening of Parliament on June 17, but it is not much different from what was printed in the *News* on May 13. No progress was made in the industrial life of this State as a result of the Premier's overseas visit. I do not object to the Premier (or any Premier) travelling overseas on a mission, but I do object to his saying that, as a result of his trip, there would

be much industrial expansion, particularly when that has not occurred. His visit was not as successful as he tried to lead the State to believe. The report in the *News* of May 13 stated:

The briefcase of the South Australian Premier, Mr. Hall, is bulging with prospects of multi-million dollar investment in this State. Today Mr. Hall gave the first progress report on his international "raid" to attract more industrial development.

Mr. Freebairn: The last time we gave you an industry at Wallaroo you let it go and it went to Elizabeth: it got sick of you.

Mr. HUGHES: I invite the member for Light to read what was stated in *Hansard* prior to that industry leaving Wallaroo. If he does he will find that it would be wise for him to refresh his memory on the history of this case. The Playford Government paid for that industry to leave Wallaroo, and we can prove that.

Mr. Freebairn: You can't.

Mr. HUGHES: We have proof of it, and I have disclosed that in this House previously. The member for Light, like the member for Onkaparinga, should not allow the truth to go in one ear and out the other. His remark was one of the biggest blunders he has made in the House, because the Playford Government paid to have the industry taken away from Wallaroo, and this was done for political purposes.

Mr. Freebairn: Don't talk rubbish.

Mr. HUGHES: I am not talking rubbish: I am telling the truth and *Hansard* will show that I proved it in the House. The member for Light does not know what he is talking about. The report in the *News* of May 13 continued:

And the scoring on his target of 30 firms was:

England: two certainties, six possibles.

United States: eight possibles.

Japan: one possible.

Germany: one possible.

One target in Switzerland and another in Bulgaria have been put aside for further study.

Grand total: good news for South Australia.

Since the Premier's statement was reported we have not seen any concrete evidence of industries coming to South Australia.

Mr. Rodda: You have been looking out of your glass eye.

Mr. HUGHES: I have no glass eye; I am illustrating that the Premier tried to boost himself by telling the press reporters that he

had a brief-case full of multi-million investments for this State. By coincidence, I have copies of old newspapers here, and a report in the *News* of June 20, 1967, stated:

Premier Dunstan announced the American Chrysler Corporation had decided to advance \$8,900,000 for further expansion of the Lonsdale foundry and engine manufacturing complex at Christies Beach.

Further on the report stated:

\$140,000,000 contracts fixed for gas.

Who was responsible for making money available so that natural gas could be brought to Adelaide?

Mr. Rodda: Playford!

Mr. HUGHES: Here we go again, but we all know that it was the former Premier, the late Frank Walsh, who was responsible for the Commonwealth allocating the money to assist in bringing natural gas to Adelaide. We should consider the contrast between what the present Premier said would happen and what did happen. Then consider what happened when Mr. Dunstan was Premier: it is like comparing chalk with cheese.

Mr. Rodda: How is it that when you handed over the Treasury it had such a whacking big deficit?

Mr. HUGHES: What about the \$9,000,000 for Radium Hill? The honourable member should do his homework and look at the files concerning that matter. In his speech the mover of the motion (Mr. Giles) tried to build up the prestige of the present Government by saying that a few records had been broken in the number of hours that Parliament had sat and in the work accomplished. I was pleased to hear the honourable member's statement, because it highlighted the effectiveness of Her Majesty's Opposition. During the last session on more than one occasion the Premier charged members of the Opposition with wasting the time of the House, yet the mover of the resolution, on behalf of the Government claimed credit for the length of time the House sat and said that this enabled a record amount of work to be accomplished. In other words, the amount of time taken by the Opposition to debate the Bills introduced by the Government was, according to the honourable member, time well spent. Despite what the Premier had to say on various occasions, the Opposition knew it was time well spent because it forced the Government to look forward in the interests of progress.

We are well aware that many times the Government was not prepared to take heed of the suggestions made by the Opposition.

Nevertheless, it has been acknowledged by the member for Gumeracha (Mr. Giles) that it was time well spent. This indicates that there was merit in our suggestions and advice. We also know that certain legislation introduced by the Government last session would never have passed the second reading stage had it not been for the casting vote of the Speaker of this House. That legislation is now unacceptable to the Government's own supporters and also to the supporters of the Speaker. Despite the warnings of the Opposition, the Hall-Stott Government forced through this House legislation that has created hardship on all sections of the community. It created a monster over which it has been proved to have no control.

The primary producers claim they are paying the receipts duty tax two or three times over. At this very time steps are being taken by the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia to have this tax repealed. The hypocritical thing about it is that the very person responsible for this tax being on the Statute Book is now asking members of the Opposition, who voted against it, to have it removed. Of course, I do not suppose that he is asking any of the Government members to have it removed.

Mr. Jennings: He had it in his own power to reject it.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course, as I will show soon. I want to quote from a letter dated January 4 last and signed "T. C. Stott, M.P.", General Secretary of the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia Inc., who is, incidentally, the Speaker of this House. This letter was forwarded to me.

Mr. Allen: And to all other members.

Mr. HUGHES: Apparently that is so, as I will read from the letter.

Mr. Rodda: Does it say, "Dear Lloyd"?

Mr. HUGHES: No. He does not address me on those terms. It states, "Dear Sir".

Mr. Lawn: He only writes that sort of thing when he writes, "Dear Raymond".

Mr. HUGHES: That is so. The letter states:

At the governing council conference of this organization, held in Adelaide recently, the following resolution was carried:

That the governing council write to all members of Parliament, State and Federal, to point out the anomalies of the Stamp Duties Act, and request the Government to consider applying for a grant from the Grants Commission to make up the State Budget deficiencies.

There was a very long discussion on this matter and great concern was expressed by the delegates who represented the organization from

every rural area in South Australia by the State Government introducing the Stamp Duties Act whereby every primary producer is expected to pay 1c for every \$10 stamp receipts duty.

This bears out my statement to the member for Burra (Mr. Allen) that people are not pleased about it. The letter states that the organization represents primary producers from every rural area in South Australia, and that organization has taken exception to this receipts tax, yet the member for Burra tried to lead the House to believe that all was well and that the majority of people accepted the tax.

Mr. Burdon: He was even complaining himself, wasn't he?

Mr. HUGHES: I was going to congratulate the honourable member because until the last few minutes of his speech it was a good speech. He brought before the House many matters that required attention. However, he spoilt the speech by introducing this matter. He must have known the position, because it is evident that all members received the letter. The member for Burra knows that the members of the organization are not pleased.

Mr. Ferguson: But they're never pleased.

Mr. HUGHES: They are far from pleased now, because of the receipts tax that the honourable member's Government introduced and for which he voted. The letter continues:

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

Mr. Burdon: They pay it three times over.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course they do. The letter continues:

When this legislation was introduced by the State Treasurer, he stated that the Commonwealth Government would not allow the States to impose the tax on net income as this would be interpreted as an income tax.

That is true. The letter continues:

The Commonwealth Government also stated that if the State needed further money it should follow the lead of the Victorian State and introduce the stamp receipts duty tax. I am requested to state that these types of tax are creating a great deal of concern among primary producers and they most vehemently oppose such a tax.

That is contrary to what the member for Burra told us in his closing remarks this afternoon. The letter goes on:

In order to assist the Budget deficiency of the State Government, I am requested to state that the Commonwealth Government should

give further consideration to making a special financial grant to the State to make up for its Budget deficiencies. At the same conference, the following resolution was carried:

That in view of the Federal Treasurer's statement that he is not going to introduce income tax, the Treasurer be requested to consider that a greater disbursement of the Federal revenue be made to the States to enable the States to remove their inequitable and unjust State taxation.

This resolution also refers to the above matter.

That is the matter that I have been speaking about. Did the Premier return from the Premiers Conference last week with his bag bulging with promises by the Prime Minister to meet the deficiencies and to try to wipe out the receipts duty tax? Members know the answer to that. The letter continues:

I believe these resolutions are self-explanatory and I would therefore be pleased if you could give this matter your favourable attention. There was no opposition expressed on this motion whatsoever, and, for your information, I know that the same expression of opinion was voiced at many branch meetings held right throughout the State—

how true those last two paragraphs are—

Thanking you, Yours faithfully, T. C. Stott, M.P., General Secretary.

Mr. Jennings: What a hypocritical statement!

Mr. HUGHES: As I said earlier, the hypocritical thing about it is that the person who signed this letter was the very person responsible for having the measure placed on the Statute Book. I do not know whether my reply finished up in the wastepaper basket, but I sent it back to the person who wrote to me. Whether or not it went before the executive, I do not know. I pointed out in the reply in no uncertain terms that the Bill would never have passed the second reading stage had it not been for the vote of the Speaker. I do not know how these rural members—

Mr. Freebairn: What about—

Mr. HUGHES: You dry up; you do not know what I am talking about! The Premier has elevated the member for Light to keep him away—

Mr. Freebairn: What about road and railway co-ordination?

Mr. HUGHES: I am not talking about that; I am dealing with a letter I received from the United Farmers and Graziers. I wrote back to the person who signed the letter, the Hon. T. C. Stott, M.P.

Mr. Lawn: I was so disgusted with the letter that I shorthanded it.

Mr. HUGHES: The farmers of Wallaroo wish to hear much more from rural members who will support any Bill introduced into the House which seeks to repeal the receipts duty tax.

Mr. Freebairn: Get back to road and railway transport co-ordination!

Mr. HUGHES: I am not dealing with that. I am dealing with something specific, and the honourable member has apparently been sent in by the Treasurer or someone else to try to get me off the subject.

Mr. Lawn: He's just a stamp lickier for the Premier.

Mr. Evans: He's not the only one who has been sent in.

Mr. HUGHES: I know that; the member for Onkaparinga is another one.

Mr. Freebairn: Why didn't you attend transport co-ordination meetings?

Mr. HUGHES: Never mind about that.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order! Other members can make their speeches in turn.

Mr. HUGHES: Thank you, Sir; I do not need any protection, but I thank you for calling honourable members to order. I am dealing with a letter I received from the United Farmers and Graziers and I was trying to tell the House that—

Mr. Lawn: Do you think they'll see your letter?

Mr. HUGHES: I do not think so; I think the reply will be relegated to the wastepaper basket. I pointed out in my reply that the receipts duty Bill would never have passed the second reading stage had it not been for the Speaker of the House of Assembly, and I also cited the number of the page in *Hansard* which recorded the vote. I also told the organization that I protested vigorously against the measure.

Mr. Ferguson: Why don't you introduce a measure to repeal it?

Mr. HUGHES: How does the honourable member know that I am not going to do that? One or two rural members might then be put on the spot.

Mr. Lawn: Ask him whether he will support it.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. Will the member for Yorke Peninsula support the measure if I introduce it?

Mr. Ferguson: Why don't you answer my question?

Mr. HUGHES: I did answer it. When the member for Yorke Peninsula gets up to speak to this debate, I hope he will tell the House he will support such a measure.

Mr. Broomhill: What makes you think he will get up?

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know that he will, but he can simply get up and say that if a Bill is introduced to repeal the receipts duty he will support it, and that will go down in history. At the very time that the person (the Speaker of this House, representing the farmers and graziers organization) signed the letter to which I have referred he was receiving a high salary to protect the interests of the primary producer, but instead of protecting those interests he made it possible for this Government to impose the unjust tax to which the letter related. I have no doubt that that person was responsible for framing the resolution, which was contained in the letter, in an attempt to appease the primary producer and, in order to do this, he suggested a sectional tax. The suggestion was that wage-earners should pay a receipts tax on their earnings. I wish to make my position quite clear here and now: should an amendment be introduced to the Act whereby wage-earners will be required to pay a receipts tax on their earnings, I will oppose it with every ounce of strength that I possess.

The mover stated that the most important Bill introduced last session was the Electoral Districts (Redivision) Bill. Continuing, he said no redistribution had taken place since 1954, although that may have been a slip of the tongue: it was in 1956 that the last redistribution took place. The seat of Wallaroo under the Playford Government had been allowed to stagnate to such an extent that it was necessary to take in the subdivision of Bute to bring Wallaroo up to the quota, and that was the first time in over 40 years that the Wallaroo District was won for the Liberal and Country League. In 1957, through the tragic death of Mr. L. R. Heath, a by-election was held on August 31. It was unfortunate that an election had to be held in those circumstances. However, the present A.L.P. member was successful. In 1956 the former seat of Young lost its identity; this, incidentally, prevented Sir Robert Nicholls from continuing as Speaker of this House.

Mr. Jennings: What a loss! There is no comparison between Sir Robert and what we have now.



Mr. HUGHES: Yes, a loss not only to this House but also to the people of South Australia. There is no comparison between Sir Robert Nicholls, a very highly respected Speaker, and the present Speaker. I have known Sir Robert Nicholls for many years, so I can say that he was actually loved by every member who was privileged to sit in this House under his guidance. His service to the State as an unbiased Speaker was recognized only a short time ago when an excellent painting of him by Ivor Hele was unveiled and given pride of place in this Chamber. I mention these things because the L.C.L. is now suggesting that the Bute subdivision of the Wallaroo District should be taken away. The L.C.L. was happy to have this portion attached to the Wallaroo District in 1956 to defeat the A.L.P., but the joy of the L.C.L. has now turned to bitterness.

Mr. Broomhill: I think the L.C.L. is doing it for political reasons.

Mr. HUGHES: The L.C.L. is no doubt doing it because it failed to recapture the seat of Wallaroo in any of the last five elections, despite the fact that it waged an intensive campaign on each occasion. In a desperate bid to retain the seat of Gouger for the Premier, the L.C.L. is prepared to split the happy community relationship that has existed between Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta for more than a century.

Mr. Broomhill: It would do anything.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes; it is splitting the seat for two reasons. It does not matter which way it is done: we all know that the Wallaroo District will be drastically affected, but I am not concerned about this because I believe in one vote one value.

Mr. Allen: The A.L.P. wants to do the same thing in Burra.

Mr. HUGHES: Does the honourable member have three closely knit towns that are to be split? There is no comparison—it is a different proposition altogether. The L.C.L. is not taking into account the community spirit to which I have referred, but I hope the Electoral Commission will take it into consideration. I know that the member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson) is not happy for the Commission to accept the L.C.L. submission because he knows that it will be more difficult for him to serve the larger area. The extra work involved, however, is not the point that the L.C.L. is looking at—it is looking at the question from the view point of safeguarding a seat for the Premier.

Mr. Lawn: It will find it difficult.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, despite the suggestion it has made. If the L.C.L.'s desperate bid is not accepted by the Commission, the Premier will be in real trouble. In moving the adoption of the Address in Reply, the member for Gumeracha (Mr. Giles) said:

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.

Apparently the honourable member had not given any serious thought to this statement; if he had, I do not think he would have made it. I ask him, "Who was responsible for allowing this situation to develop?" Because this situation has developed it is necessary to send the cream of our youth from country areas to find employment in the metropolitan area. We cannot blame anyone other than the Government that had been in office for more than 30 years for allowing this situation to develop.

When one is brought up in an affluent community I believe one tends to overlook the problems of others until a serious situation arises, as has happened on this occasion. Prior to 1965 the L.C.L. Government had occupied the Treasury benches for more than 30 years, during which the dry rot was allowed to spread in country areas and the then Government did very little to stop it. The member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) by interjection this afternoon implied that I drove an industry out of the Wallaroo district. He should know better—the Playford regime paid for that industry to be taken away and it allowed the dry rot to set in in country areas.

Mr. Edwards: Is that what the wombats do?

Mr. HUGHES: From what I have seen of wombats, I believe that the honourable member, through his habit of sinking underground, is a very good imitation of one.

Mr. Broomhill: He makes noises like one.

Mr. HUGHES: He grunts like one. For the benefit of the members for Eyre and Gumeracha, I point out that the Party to which they belong did very little in all the years it was in office before 1965 to relieve anxiety about the future. The Playford Government made no real attempt to improve conditions for the country population and to give security for future generations. Country towns were created not by a show of hands but by conditions prevailing at the time. These communities grew, and to be denied access to expansion means that the children are the sufferers when they reach adulthood.

The cry for recognition of this negative expansion (as the mover of the motion referred to it) comes from every rural community clamouring for some relief for the gainful employment of our young folk. The right to live in the town of your birth surely must be apparent, even to the member for Eyre.

During the three years it was in office the Labor Government recognized the urgent need to examine the rural picture and had taken positive steps to decentralize industry and people. One of its first actions was to establish a Premier's Department with an industries promotion and research section. Previously there had been no department competing with the industrial development departments of other States in attracting new industries. Soon after the present Leader of the Opposition became Premier, the Government appointed an eminent South Australian industrialist, Mr. Donald Currie, M.Sc., with nearly 30 years' experience in the giant Industrial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand Limited complex, as the State's first Director of Industrial Development. Subsequently, the staff of the Industrial Development Branch of the Labor Premier's Department was greatly expanded to incorporate a competent team of highly skilled economists, who engaged in a survey of the expansion plans of South Australian industry.

An industrial development advisory committee representative of all sections of industry and commerce was appointed to advise the Government on matters relating to the development of industry in the State. The Industries Assistance Branch, staffed with engineers and draftsmen, was brought into the Premier's Department and provided technical assistance and advice to firms already operating in South Australia. More than 70 per cent of the work of this branch was concentrated on industry in country areas, and that signifies what the Labor Party was doing. Australia's leading management consultants, W. D. Scott and Company Proprietary Limited, and Arthur D. Little Incorporated, one of the world's leading consultants, were engaged to undertake a joint economic survey of South Australia that greatly increased the knowledge available regarding industry in this State. An officer to concentrate exclusively on trade and industry promotion in Europe was employed in the South Australian Agent-General's London office. The officer was brought to South Australia by the Labor Government for intensive briefing.

Considerable Government assistance was made available by the Labor Government to firms establishing or expanding in South Australia. This assistance took the following forms: Government guaranteed loans for firms from recognized financial institutions; factories built by the South Australian Housing Trust for either sale or leasing; technical assistance; water, sewerage and electricity at competitive rates with other States, lower electricity tariffs being made available to large industrial users; and low-cost housing made available through the Housing Trust to employees.

The Labor Government was not in office long enough to continue its industrial promotion programme and, unfortunately for the State as a whole, when the Hall-Stott Government came into office sweeping changes were made in the Industries Development Branch that naturally would have a retarding effect. I sincerely trust for the good of the State that those changes will eventually bring about the desired result envisaged by the Labor Government. However, if this is to happen, then the Premier, who has given himself the title of Minister of Industrial Development, had better get off his tail a bit more often than he has done and get something concrete done in this direction.

Mr. Hudson: At the moment he is a master of gobbledegook.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, that is about all. I ask the Government to concentrate on providing additional employment in country areas to prevent our young people from being forced to leave their families to seek employment in the city. As one who represents a country district, I do not think that is asking too much. I sincerely hope that in future we will see more activity in this direction.

It has been contended by the member for Gumeracha that the division of the State, as suggested in the Electoral Districts (Re-division) Bill, gives the urban community increased representation at the expense of the rural communities. I find the honourable member's line of thinking hard to understand because of an earlier statement in his speech when he said:

I believe we have achieved what was necessary and desirable because of the imbalance of electors.

I believe the honourable member was playing ducks and drakes: he wanted to have 10c each way. As one who represents a rural area, I want to repeat what I have said in this House on more than one occasion: that, if the urban vote exceeds the rural vote, then it is only logical to assume that the greater number

of people should be entitled to a more even measure of representation: When I made that statement some years ago, the former member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Shannon) asked me whether I believed in one vote one value and I answered, quite definitely with one word, "Yes". He said "What would your people think of that?", and I replied, "Their thinking is along the same lines as mine. They do not wish to be considered superior voters in this State."

Mr. Edwards: Go to Bute and say that.

Mr. HUGHES: I hope that in future the member for Eyre will come to my district, where I will go on the platform with him and ask him to repeat those words. Knowing the people in my district a little better than the member for Eyre does, I think that shortly afterwards there would be a by-election in the honourable member's district.

Mr. Edwards: We might win it from you.

Mr. HUGHES: I have heard some very childish interjections and remarks from the honourable member previously, but I think that is the gem of them all.

Mr. Edwards: Don't forget I used to live in the area.

Mr. HUGHES: That is why the honourable member is so well known. I do not think this Government will see out its three-year term. I am replying now to the member for Eyre. I know that the member for Victoria suggested that we have an election; he said that only yesterday. I believe we shall be having an election because of a certain statement made to the press by the Speaker. In the event of an election coming about, as I sincerely hope it will, I challenge the member for Eyre to nominate for the seat of Wallaroo. He made the proud boast this afternoon that he could win the seat of Wallaroo, and I challenge him on that. The same thing will happen—he will back down when the time comes. For the benefit of the House (and of the Government in particular) it would be a good thing if the honourable member went outside and had a cup of tea, so that we should not have these interjections from him.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order! There is nothing in the debate about a cup of tea.

Mr. HUGHES: Then I suggest that the honourable member go out and twiddle his thumbs in the corridor. I am sorry I have to repeat what I have already said but, if I do not, because of the rude interjections from the member for Eyre what I am saying may be

taken out of context. The honourable member would never be able to piece it together. If the urban vote exceeds the rural vote, it is only logical to assume that the greater number of people should be entitled to a more even measure of representation. Any reason why a country voter's vote should be given more value than that of an urban voter is difficult to comprehend and is certainly ridiculous in application when democratic principles are admitted. The people who contribute to democracy know something about the rights to which they are subscribing—which is more than the honourable member for Eyre knows. Does the honourable member who has spoken against the principle of one vote one value think we must retain a Constitution that was framed many years ago? That is the question I leave with him, and I hope he answers it.

I wish now to deal with primary production and how a number of grain growers in recent harvests have had to contend with inadequate storage facilities at terminal ports. I plan to deal with growers' problems, and I refer not only to the growers in my own district but also those to the north-east and south of Wallaroo. For the information of the House, I was requested to attend two meetings at Kadina, on December 6 and April 17 last, when the town hall was packed to capacity with growers from all around that area. On December 6 the meeting was called to demand a better share of the State's export grain shipping from Wallaroo, and the meeting requested immediate provision of temporary bulk wheat storage at the port.

To handle the large bulk ships that will otherwise be lost to South Australia—and the statement was made in the Kadina Town Hall by one of the principal speakers that night that we were losing the large bulk shipments of grain from this State because we did not have the ports to accommodate the ships—the growers also asked the Department of Marine and Harbors, because of that statement, to deepen the port and remove the restrictions on ships' draughts to take advantage of high tides. The meeting was called by the local division of the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia and the Wallaroo District Progress and Development Committee. Speakers strongly protested at a statement by Mr. H. M. Venning, South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited Zone Director, that priorities for shipping had been given to Port Pirie. At the meeting on April 17 called by the Alford Branch of

the U.F.G. of South Australia, strong criticism of silo construction plans announced by the co-operative came from all sections of the meeting. Mr. E. Roocke, State President of the U.F.G., opened the meeting and stated that it would suit him to have additional silos erected at Wallaroo.

A resolution was adopted and, although it was reasonable, nothing has been done about it. It was successfully moved that telegrams be forwarded to the Premier (Mr. Hall), the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Marine and the Minister of Roads and Transport, informing them that growers on northern Yorke Peninsula viewed with concern the recommendations of the board of the co-operative to place an additional 2,000,000-bushel storage at Ardrossan. The resolution continued:

In the best interest and economics of this State, we request that a meeting of State Cabinet be called immediately and have this storage transferred to Wallaroo where it will serve a greater area of the State; that investigations be entered into to have the port of Wallaroo deepened immediately to cater for larger shipping.

Mr. Rodda: Is that why you gerrymandered Ardrossan out of Yorke Peninsula?

Mr. HUGHES: There was a meeting of growers; they were all growers and they did not have their wives there with them. The town hall was filled to capacity with people who had travelled from a wide area, and they indicated that they wanted to cart grain to Wallaroo and have it shipped from there.

Mr. Venning: I agree that it was a beautiful meeting.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course it was. I am discussing a serious matter, and I have introduced it at the request of many people.

Mr. Rodda: What about the transport meeting?

Mr. HUGHES: This matter concerns the economics of this State. It is something in which the Government should be intensely interested, and it deserves more than the childish remarks from the member for Victoria. The stupid remarks of the honourable member, who has been appointed to represent the Premier and Treasurer and who sat on the front bench in the absence of Ministers last night, are making fun of every farmer who appeared at the Kadina Town Hall meeting. When Government members speak about the welfare of the man on the land they have their tongues in their cheeks.

Mr. Rodda: I want to know why you did not attend the transport meeting.

Mr. HUGHES: I am not concerned with that: I am dealing with the meeting held at Kadina, at which several matters were brought into the open. Mr. Venning, the Zone Director of the co-operative, when addressing the meeting, said that the matter of building silos at Ardrossan was now in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture. Later, when replying to a question "Who has the last say where silos will be built?" Mr. Venning replied, "The Minister of Agriculture". This admission conflicts somewhat with what the Minister had told two deputations on March 28 and April 1, as he had said that his powers were limited under the Bulk Handling of Grain Act and that he could not dictate to the co-operative about policy. This was told to the deputation from the Wallaroo District Progress and Development Committee and the deputation from the Northern Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Federated Chambers of Commerce of South Australia. The first deputation was completely representative, and comprised members of the U.F.G. of Bute, Alford, Kadina and Y.P. zone; Bureaux of Alford, Moonta, Paskeville, Wintanerta, Bute; Water-side Workers Federation; S.A. Railways Union; North Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce; district councils of Kadina, Port Broughton, Bute; corporations of Moonta, Kadina, Wallaroo; Traders' Associations of Kadina and Wallaroo; Kadina Rural Youth Club; and machinery firms. It seems from the statement of Mr. Venning (and he should know) that the Minister can intervene and prevent further storages being built at Ardrossan in preference to Wallaroo.

Mr. Jennings: Who is Mr. Venning?

Mr. HUGHES: He is the member for Rocky River, but he is also the Zone Director of the co-operative. Mr. Venning's statement was reported in the *Yorke Peninsula Country Times* because the press was aware of what had been said by the Minister of Agriculture. If the additional 2,000,000-bushel storage is proceeded with at Ardrossan it will confirm that the Government is acting upon the report of the committee of inquiry on "The need for additional bulk grain storage in South Australia", which inquired in 1965-66. This report will confirm what I have said.

Mr. Venning: Why didn't you do something about this report when your Government was in office and not wait for three years to do something?

Mr. HUGHES: The honourable member is asking me the question he asked me in the

Kadina Town Hall. That question was answered in front of the growers at the Kadina Town Hall and to their satisfaction. The honourable member knows that I did not possess a copy of this report and that he should not have had one.

Mr. Venning: You have had every opportunity to do something.

Mr. HUGHES: The report of this committee was not tabled: it was a Government report. However, the member for Rocky River obtained a copy of this report and very foolishly travelled into my district and showed it around.

Mr. Venning: That was in the course of my duties.

Mr. HUGHES: One farmer was hostile when I told him that I did not have the report; he asked me how one member of Parliament could have it and not another. I immediately got in touch with the Minister and demanded a copy of the report. If one member had a copy, all members should have had it.

Mr. Venning: And you had no trouble in getting it.

Mr. HUGHES: No.

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

Mr. HUGHES: I had no trouble in getting the report, because I told the Minister that the member for Rocky River had a copy. That member tried to belittle me in the Kadina Town Hall, but he slipped.

Mr. Venning: No, I didn't.

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

Mr. HUGHES: He will have an opportunity to reply, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Venning: You tried to belittle the Legislative Council members. That's why.

Mr. HUGHES: I did not. If there is any belittling to be done, I can do it. What a member of the Legislative Council said at the meeting was not to his credit. That member made much play about trying to tell the meeting at Kadina how much it cost to deepen ports. He said, "Last time you tried to deepen the port of Wallaroo the cost was more than \$1,400,000." He had no idea of the cost and just plucked a figure out of the air. Luckily, I was at the meeting and was able to quote the cost. Even the member for Rocky River did not know.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: Is this the transport meeting?

*Members interjecting:*

The SPEAKER: Order! I will not allow these interjections. I have already warned honourable members and I will not warn them

again. The honourable member for Wallaroo is entitled to be heard in silence.

Mr. HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes the truth hurts when it gets home. Before the interjections, I was saying that, if the additional storage for 2,000,000 bushels at Ardrossan is proceeded with, that will confirm that the Government is acting upon a report that was submitted by the committee of inquiry into the need for additional bulk grain storage in South Australia. That report was submitted on March 15, 1966, and section 5, on page 16, states:

The extremely high capital cost of these "super" terminals will limit the number that can be built by the State to the absolute minimum and the committee feels that the eventual set-up will have to be a total of three such terminals which could be designated "Eastern", "Central" and "Western" pending decisions as to their final location. As the existing loading facilities wear out, or become obsolete, these three new "super" terminals would gradually take over and finally handle the whole of the State's grain exports.

Section 8 of the report states:

The above locations are recommended for the following reasons:

(A) *Ardrossan* (Central)

- (i) A very large capital sum (about \$2,200,000) has already been expended in the provision of terminal storage silos, weighbridges and other ancillary equipment at this port.
- (ii) Ardrossan is already the largest receival centre for bulk grain direct from the farm in Australia and the location is suitable for any future expansion.
- (iii) The distance to the nearest railway line and the cost of constructing a rail connection are not as large as would be the case for a port lower down the peninsula.

This committee was even considering building a railway down to Ardrossan. The section of the report continues:

- (iv) Its central situation in respect of the most productive cereal area of the State.

That is totally untrue, as I will show later, by referring to a table. The report continues:

- (v) The sheltered nature of the waters off Ardrossan and the absence of ocean swell which obviate the need for a breakwater and practically guarantee 100 per cent usage of the port throughout the year.
- (vi) Availability of deep water for the largest grain carriers envisaged for the future.

We all know the depth of water there. Paragraph 10 of that section of the report states:

In the light of the above findings, it would appear that there is no immediate need to have any further ports declared terminal ports for the purposes of the Bulk Handling of Grain Act, 1955, unless funds are available for the construction of a bulk grain loading terminal

at Giles Point, in which case such a declaration will be necessary in respect of that place. A declaration in respect of either Arno Bay or Port Neill will be dependent upon the outcome of a full economic assessment of the relative merits of these places as compared with each other and with a new and deeper berth in Port Lincoln.

There is no need to go further, because the report then refers only to Arno Bay and one or two other ports on Eyre Peninsula. I am disturbed because what has happened regarding the placing of silo storages at terminal points has fitted exactly into what I have read from section 5 on page 16 of the report. Farmers in my district and elsewhere are also concerned about that. That part of the report states that, as the existing loading facilities wore out or became obsolete, these three new "super" terminals would take over and finally handle all the State's grain exports. Unless the Government reconsiders this matter and takes steps to prevent this report from being adopted in principle, the Wallaroo port will eventually become obsolete.

I want to be fair to the Minister of Agriculture and point out that he also told the deputations that in the face of the acute storage problem caused by the record harvest last year and the prospect of a 45,000,000 bushel carry-over, he could not contemplate any action which would discourage the construction of temporary storage facilities as quickly as possible. The deputations to the Minister of Agriculture and the representations to the Premier and the Ministers of Marine and Transport were not asking that the Government discourage the construction of storage facilities, but that any additional storage be built at Wallaroo.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: But there's additional storage being built at Wallaroo, isn't there?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. If the Premier is patient I will try to advance this argument step by step. I think that would be better than having many interjections, as we had before. The Minister of Agriculture, in a reply to a question by me on June 17, 1969, said, "I accepted the company's decision to erect a 2,000,000-bushel temporary horizontal carry-over bulk grain storage at Ardrossan; but I made it clear that this acceptance did not carry with it any indication of the Government's views on, or commitment to, any programme of future port improvements." I know, and the Minister and the Government know, that where the largest bulk grain receival installations are in existence, whether they be called permanent or temporary, that

is where the Government is going to concentrate on port improvements, and that factor is causing the growers in and around my district a lot of concern.

For some time now, they have been forced to by-pass Wallaroo and proceed to Ardrossan with their grain because of the deliberate co-ordination between the C.B.H. and the Australian Wheat Board and the growers are becoming so fed up with this, that they are requesting the holding of a Government investigation into the siting of silos. On Friday, June 20, 1969, the following telegram was sent to the Premier by the Northern Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce:

This chamber unsatisfied Minister's reply 19/6/69 re Ardrossan silos. Temporary carry-over storage must (repeat must) be at rail head to protect taxpayers' investment in S.A.R. Request suspend Ardrossan building for inquiry. Wheatgrowers' petition imminent. N.Y.P. Chamber of Commerce.

On Saturday, June 21, an urgent evening meeting of the Wallaroo District Progress and Development Committee, comprising representatives of six local governing bodies, all types of primary producer organizations from North Yorke Peninsula, and business and professional bodies, was held at Wallaroo, and on the Monday morning the following telegram was sent to the Premier:

Wallaroo District Progress and Development Committee strongly objects to the Government allowing further grain silos to be built at Ardrossan and asks for intervention. It requests that work be stopped immediately, pending investigation promised recent deputations. The committee objects to further growers' money being spent on Ardrossan to the detriment of Government facilities at Wallaroo, which has the deepest shipping berths in the State. The committee again requests a Government investigation.

At a United Farmers and Graziers protest meeting regarding silo storage held at Kadina on April 17, 1969, Mr. H. M. Venning, M.P., a director of the co-operative, reported that this was "temporary storage" to take the carry-over grain from the 1968-69 harvest now in country silos. I doubt the definition "temporary" and point out that Ardrossan is not connected by rail to any of the country storages; hence, the transfer of the carry-over of the grain would be from railway yards by road. Surely this is an abuse of the railway system which should not be permitted. Port Adelaide, whilst connected by rail, is the least used terminal port for the export of grain. This is because of poor loading facilities and shallow depth of channel for large ships as well as the use of this storage as the main source

for home consumption. Wallaroo is connected by rail and has proved able to handle the largest grain ship yet to come to South Australia but is ignored regarding carry-over storage.

For years, the delivery of grain has been manipulated away from Wallaroo to Ardrossan. This has been effected by erection of surplus silo capacity at Ardrossan over local production and by insufficient capacity at Wallaroo. Once the Wallaroo silos are full, local growers are forced either to deliver to Ardrossan or to store their grain on the farm; in the latter

case no first advance payment is received. This position is accentuated by unfair distribution of shipping, as I will show later. As a result, some local growers within 15 miles of the Wallaroo silo have had to cart as much as 70 per cent of their crop to Ardrossan, and this has meant unnecessary increased cost of production. I have a table which shows wheat production and present permanent terminal storage facilities for the counties of Fergusson, Daly and Stanley, and I seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### PRODUCTION AND FACILITIES

Present permanent silo capacity at terminals	Fergusson		Daly	Stanley
	Ardrossan 5,000,000 bushels	Port Giles 1,500,000 bushels		
Production year	Million bushels		Million bushels	Million bushels
1964-65 . . . . .	3.274		6.255	4.716
1965-66 . . . . .	2.406		4.608	3.379
1966-67 . . . . .	2.751		3.797	3.969
1967-68 . . . . .	2.041		3.151	1.572

Mr. HUGHES: As I said, the position of grain receivals at Wallaroo is worsened by the allocation of early shipping to Ardrossan in preference to Wallaroo, and this happens every year. It was said at the meeting at Kadina by one of the farmers who lives north of Wallaroo that the barley he had carted from his farm had by-passed Wallaroo and had gone all the way to Ardrossan. It had then been brought back to Wallaroo by a ship that had to be topped up, so there is bad management somewhere along the line.

Mr. Broomhill: That would double the costs.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course it would; producers are protesting about that as well as about the additional time taken.

Mr. Lawn: It is most uneconomical.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course it is. Because of limitations of depth at Ardrossan, ships are

required to visit Wallaroo or elsewhere to top up. These ships are often bringing back to Wallaroo grain that has been carted by local farmers to Ardrossan. A more logical approach by shipping full cargoes from Wallaroo, particularly early in the season before the Ardrossan area harvest is fully in operation, would save expense for both growers and shipowners. I have a table showing the figures of shipments *ex-Ardrossan* which shows the position this year; no full cargoes have yet been taken from Wallaroo unless it has occurred within the last few days. This information has been confirmed by the Zone Director, the member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning). I ask that I have leave to have the table inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### SHIPMENTS *ex-ARDROSSAN*

Date	Ship	Destination	Cargo
1968			
Oct. 20 . . . .	<i>Polydoros</i>	Korea via Port Lincoln	10,178 tons wheat
Dec. 7 . . . .	<i>Margit Brovig</i>	Norway via Port Lincoln	15,929 tons wheat
10 . . . .	<i>Randi Brovig</i>	Italy via Wallaroo	16,011 tons barley
19 . . . .	<i>Amstelveid</i>	Continent via Wallaroo	9,014 tons barley
1969			
Jan. 16 . . . .	<i>Hafnia</i>	Belfast via Adelaide	10,002 tons barley
24 . . . .	<i>Orfeo</i>	Italy via Wallaroo	12,000 tons barley
	<i>Amstelveen</i>	Japan via Adelaide	10,600 tons barley
Feb. . . . .	<i>Bregalia</i>	Norway via Port Lincoln	7,058 tons wheat
	<i>Amstelhoek</i>	United Kingdom via Adelaide	6,610 tons barley

Mr. HUGHES: Because of the use of larger grain ships, the provision of a "super" port is necessary. The people from my area do not argue with this assertion, but they do protest at the disregarding of Wallaroo in connection with this matter. When one considers the amount of grain grown in the Ardrossan area in comparison with the amount grown in the counties of Daly and Stanley, it is clear that they are over-capitalizing at Ardrossan.

Mr. Freebairn: Where are they over-capitalizing?

The SPEAKER: Order! I will not warn the member for Light again.

Mr. HUGHES: I have a table showing the present statistics regarding South Australian terminal ports, and I ask that I have leave to have it inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TERMINAL PORTS

Port	Length of berth	Port restriction on shipping	Depth of berth	Depth of berth	Loading capacity, tons per hour
			L.W.O.S.T. ft. in.	L.W.O.S.T. ft. in.	
Port Adelaide No. 27 ..	—	575	35 0	27 0	800
Ardrossan .. . . .	—	600	27 0	25 0	350
Port Lincoln .. . . .	765	600	32 0	29 0	400
Port Giles .. . . .		Figures	not yet released		
Thevenard .. . . .	—	580	27 0	23 9	300
Wallaroo .. . . .	1,120	650	30 9	27 9	400
Port Pirie .. . . .	—	580	27 0	21 0	400

Mr. HUGHES: If one compares the figures for Ardrossan with those for Wallaroo, one can see the advantages to be gained, so I hope members will look at the table. During the loading of the *Pontos*, the largest ship that has taken grain from South Australia, a length restriction was placed on the port of Wallaroo, which restriction would exclude this vessel from returning there. I am at a loss, as are many others, to know why it was necessary to do this, because I witnessed the berthing of the ship and I was there when she sailed. Consequently, I can say that there were no problems of any kind. This ship berthed with ease and, later, she just slipped her moorings and away she went, yet she is excluded from returning! Captain Carlson, when asked about the port, said that there should not be any restrictions on length or beam of vessels at Wallaroo and that, if the port was dredged deeper, it would be excellent in all respects. He knows much about handling large ships.

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

Mr. HUGHES: Before dinner, I was dealing with the length restrictions placed on the port of Wallaroo while the *Pontos* was in port. I want to elaborate on one or two things that Captain Carlson, the captain of the ship, had to say whilst the ship was in port. Captain Carlson pointed out that Wallaroo had only one problem and that was draft, but this is not even a problem nowadays with efficient

dredging equipment. Captain Carlson was most praiseworthy of the port and said that it was marvellous that ships could berth, without danger, unassisted by tugs, a major expense to shipowners.

It was whilst the ship was at Wallaroo that for some reason or other the department saw fit to place this length restriction on the *Pontos*, which was the largest vessel to take grain from South Australia. Placing this restriction on the port meant that when the *Pontos* returned to South Australia it would not be able to berth at Wallaroo, where it had berthed quite comfortably without the assistance of any tugs, and upon completing loading it had left the port without any assistance and sailed away. This is of great concern not only to me but to people who work in connection with the port and to the growers in that area and further afield, because these people maintained that if the ship could come in without any trouble and depart with its cargo unassisted there was no reason why this type of ship could not be allowed to return to pick up large cargoes of grain from Wallaroo.

The captain said that if the port were dredged deeper it would be an excellent port in all respects. I listened very attentively, because these words were spoken in front of me by Captain Carlson, the ship was at Wallaroo, and I had great respect for the master of the ship because he had had charge of ships that had travelled around the world;



this was the type of man to be in a position to be able to assess the value or otherwise of the port. An officer of the Marine and Harbors Department was invited to Kadina to address the Northern Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. In connection with remarks made by this officer, Captain Hilder, during a visit to Kadina on Wednesday, May 28, under the heading "Wallaroo, South Australia's Deepest Port", the local newspaper states:

Captain W. H. Hilder, Ports and Traffic Manager of the Department of Marine and Harbors said in Kadina Tuesday that no port in South Australia had deeper berths than Wallaroo. The dredging just completed had given 31ft. minimum depth. Width of 100ft. was 10ft. wider than any other port. Captain Hilder was addressing a meeting of business and professional men and farmers called by the North Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. Mr. W. F. Wearn, President of the Chamber of Commerce, said that the entire district had become alarmed at the dropping off in shipping from Wallaroo. Deputations had been sent to the authorities and these representations to return Wallaroo to its status as the major port for grain and phosphate would be continued.

Captain Hilder, in the course of his address, said:

The decline in shipping tonnage at Wallaroo from a peak 750,000 tons to last year's 72,000 tons could not be laid at the door of the Department of Marine and Harbors. It was not because the port had been disrated or was poor. The safety precautions insisted upon by the department were only in line with those operating all over Australia. The responsibility of shipping grain out of the port—

and this is very interesting—

lay with the Australian Wheat Board, the Australian Barley Board and South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited.

This emphasizes what I said this afternoon about the co-operative, that in its wisdom it makes representations to the Australian Wheat Board about where these ships should go. They seem to be favouring Ardrossan all the way along the line in preference to Wallaroo. An interesting thing said about the port was this:

Captain Hilder said he could see no reason why the *Pontos*, the largest grain ship ever handled in South Australia and which had been loaded at Wallaroo, could not return to the port.

Yet, because of the restriction that had been placed upon the port, this ship could not return unless the restriction was lifted. If Captain Hilder, who is the Ports and Traffic Manager, with the experience that he must have behind him in shipping can say that he

sees no reason why the *Pontos* cannot return to Wallaroo, I consider that the Marine and Harbors Department should take steps to lift the restriction placed upon this port in connection with ships like the *Pontos*, because she can berth at and leave the port safely. Wallaroo is one of the easiest ports for any ship to berth at or to leave. Somewhere along the line an injustice is being done to that port.

I want the Government to investigate this matter to see, first, why Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited is over-capitalizing at Ardrossan in preference to Wallaroo and, secondly, why ships like the *Pontos* cannot continue to use that port. If only such a ship could be sent into Wallaroo at the beginning of the delivery season, it would automatically make way for grain to be taken into the silos. I think I shall have the assistance of the member for Eyre in this matter, and I hope that the honourable member will support the strong case I have made for Wallaroo and for additional grain silos to be built there rather than to over-capitalize at Ardrossan and so waste the State's money. It is not Government money: the Government, when administering the finances, handles the people's money. To build additional silos at Ardrossan and spend money on port improvements there would be a waste of money.

The loading facilities at Ardrossan belong to the B.H.P. whereas the installations at Wallaroo that take the grain from silos to the ship's side are owned by the Government. Although I was not at a U.F. and G. meeting at Maitland I was informed that Mr. Saint (Chairman of Directors of the co-operative) had said that consideration was being given to establishing a port at Ardrossan at a cost of \$3,300,000.

Mr. Ferguson: That is wrong.

Mr. HUGHES: My information was second-hand, and if I am not correct I hope that the honourable member will clarify my statement and that the statement attributed to Mr. Saint will be corrected. More than one member from my district attended the meeting, and each had the same impression that the statement was made about a port being built a considerable distance from the silos at Ardrossan and that if this were done the co-operative would be responsible for conveying grain to the port.

At a deputation that waited on the Minister of Marine I outlined to the Minister this statement attributed to Mr. Saint, and the Minister gave us a fair hearing. I told him that the statement had been brought to my notice by

members at the meeting. If I am incorrect, I hope that the member for Yorke Peninsula, who apparently attended the meeting, will state the facts. Evidence of the representations to the Minister of Marine and to the Minister of Agriculture showing that one of the members of the deputation also mentioned this statement to the Minister seems to indicate that he was convinced that the statement was made. It is one man's word against another's: I am not saying whether the statement was right or wrong, because I was not there.

I have explained my objection to the building of additional silos at Ardrossan in preference to Wallaroo. Many growers consider that over-capitalization at Ardrossan in preference to Wallaroo will encourage the Government to build a port at and a railway to Ardrossan. Wallaroo is one of the best harbours in the State. It is entirely owned by the Government, as are the installations for conveying grain from silo to ship's side, yet there is this talk about building more silos at Ardrossan.

The Government should treat the matter seriously. If the co-operative is manipulating figures so as to have additional silos built at Ardrossan, a full inquiry into the co-operative should be held. The placing of additional silos at Ardrossan would be a total waste of money. In determining port facilities, it is important to consider that Wallaroo is a two-way port. The import of phosphate rock to the two fertilizer works is of vital concern. Provision must be made for the larger ships that are entering the phosphate rock trade.

The 1965-66 committee to which I have referred did not take evidence on Wallaroo. Consequently the opinion of people in my district, as well as in the districts of Rocky River, Yorke Peninsula and Gouger, was not obtained. The report is biased and must be ignored when we are considering additional facilities. The report, on page 1, deals with country inspections and states:

The committee inspected the various sites that have been proposed for bulk grain loading terminals at Point Gibbon, Arno Bay, Port Neill, Streaky Bay (perforated rocks), Sceale Bay, Point Giles and Point Turton in that order and also the bulk grain reception facilities at the Port Lincoln and Ardrossan silos.

Mr. Ryan: Which committee made this report?

Mr. HUGHES: The special committee appointed by the Labor Government to investigate the need for additional bulk grain loading facilities in South Australia. This report would never have come to me had it not been

for the telephone call I received. It was not tabled in the House; it was purely for Government information. The Labor Government was not prepared to act on it, yet the report had got into the hands of the member for Rocky River. Had he not gone to the people concerned and flashed the report around—

Mr. Venning: What about expressing your appreciation—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HUGHES: The man became quite heated on the subject, wanting to know whether someone was holding out on the people concerned.

Mr. Venning: What about showing your appreciation to the member for Rocky River?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HUGHES: I was telephoned and asked whether I was holding out on people. I told my caller that I did not know what he was talking about and he said, "You must have a copy of the report submitted on March 15, 1966—a report of the committee of inquiry into additional bulk grain loading facilities in South Australia."

Mr. Ryan: What is the date of it?

Mr. HUGHES: March 15, 1966.

Mr. Ryan: A Liberal Government?

Mr. HUGHES: No, it was during the time of the Labor Government; it was a report called for by the Labor Government. I had to tell the farmer who telephoned me that I had never seen the report and had never known of its being tabled in the House. I said I would inquire but was then told the member for Rocky River had a copy. When I asked whence he obtained it, my caller did not seem to know, but he said, "Well, if it is good enough for one member of Parliament to have the report, it is good enough for another."

I contacted the Minister of Works, who told me that there were few copies but that, as one had been supplied to the member for Rocky River, it was only fair that I should have one. I give credit to the Minister for being quite open in the matter and for supplying me with a copy. This was the first time I had had a copy, and I received it just before the Kadina meeting to which I referred earlier. The member for Rocky River would have known that I had not seen the report.

Mr. Venning: Rubbish!

Mr. HUGHES: He used some back-door method in order to get it. The member for Rocky River charged me at the Kadina meeting with not taking an interest in the report when it was submitted, and he asked why I

was making all the fuss. I told the meeting that I had had the report for only a few days and that, if it had not been for the generosity of the farmer in my district who telephoned me saying that the member for Rocky River had a copy, I would never have been able to use my influence in connection with the Liberal Government in order to get a copy. The member for Rocky River knows that is true; he cannot deny that that was the answer that I gave. Indeed, there was loud applause at the meeting, because I was telling the truth. The member for Rocky River immediately would have regretted that he had tried to belittle me at the meeting because, instead of my being made to look a fool, he was on the stage and was made to look one himself.

*Members interjecting:*

Mr. Lawn: That's not unusual for him.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Rodda: What about the Legislative Councillor?

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

Mr. HUGHES: I think the less I say about what the Legislative Council member said, the better it will be for the Government because, when one goes to a public meeting and plays politics, one ought to be sure of his facts if he wants to make a good impression, and this is exactly where an L.C.L. member from the Legislative Council went wrong—he just plucked a figure out of the air. After I corrected his statement, another honourable member from another place tried to put him back on the rails but he, too, was miles off the track. Consequently, after a while they began to think they had better leave it alone. A member of the press interviewed me after the meeting and said, "I never thought L.C.L. members would come to a meeting so ill-equipped and make such statements as have been made tonight."

At the Kadina meeting the member for Rocky River took jolly good care that he quoted figures only up to a certain year. However, he did not know that the Minister of Marine had given me a copy of the figures, which would be correct, because the Minister's department would have to know the tonnages passing over its jetty. I am more inclined to take notice of the Minister's figures than those quoted by the member for Rocky River, and the two sets of figures were altogether different. The honourable member gave figures only up to about 1964-65, because that was a peak year in respect of tonnages shipped

over the jetty. He did not, however, give figures for later years, when they decreased from 224,000 to 56,000 tons. I had not intended to mention this—

Mr. Freebairn: I'll bet you had it written down.

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

Mr. HUGHES: The Minister of Marine has been very co-operative and has helped me on more than one occasion when I have required material, and he is unbiased in regard to representations. The Treasurer, who was once Minister of Marine, would have been sympathetic towards this case; he would have realized that the Government owned the jetty and the installations. Any Minister of Marine would want as much grain as possible to go over the jetty. All I hope is that the Premier takes action in this matter in support of it, because it has now reached the stage when the people concerned cannot get any satisfaction from the Minister of Agriculture and are now approaching the Leader of the Government.

Mr. Ryan: They won't get satisfaction from him.

Mr. HUGHES: If they do not there will be trouble, because the matter is far from finished and the Government will hear about it shortly, not from me but from the people themselves, and the Government will have to take note.

Mr. Lawn: That is why they aren't prepared to accept the challenge of the Opposition to go to the people.

Mr. HUGHES: Exactly, because people in rural areas are fed up with them already, even after the short time they have been in office. All I ask is that the Government thoroughly investigate what the co-operative is doing. Only two years ago I devoted a good part of a speech to congratulating the co-operative on what it had done in building silos in South Australia. However, after what has taken place in the last couple of years I am afraid I cannot continue to congratulate the co-operative, because I believe somehow or other figures are being manipulated whereby silos are being built at Ardrossan where they are not required. If honourable members look at the charts I had incorporated in *Hansard* this afternoon they will see the difference in production in the county of Fergusson and the counties of Daly and Stanley. In some years three times as much is produced in Daly and Stanley as in Fergusson. Of course, I am

now referring to terminal points and not to divisions, there being a vast difference between the two. I was helped tremendously in making these comparisons by farmers and by the Northern Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce which is being backed by the Federated Chambers of Commerce on the matter. Therefore, there is a pretty strong fight ahead if the Government continues to resist approaches on this matter. This is one occasion on which the Government has its back to the wall and it cannot run away, because the people are determined that it will not do so.

Mr. Lawn: The people are bristling.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes. The member for Rocky River, who saw what took place at the Kadina meeting, knows that they are bristling.

The SPEAKER: Order! I draw the honourable member's attention to Standing Order 155 which relates to proximity in debate. The honourable member has been talking about this matter since about 5.10 p.m. He is stretching this far too much. He has stressed this point over and over again and I must ask him to move on to another matter.

Mr. HUGHES: With great respect to your ruling, Sir, I think I have been making entirely different points as I have progressed in my speech. When the Premier interjected this afternoon I told him that if he gave me time I would deal with the matter stage by stage, and that is exactly what I have done. If I have transgressed at all perhaps it has been to reply to interjections, but I know I am not supposed to do that. I believe I have not wasted time and I very much regret that you have said that I have been talking on this matter since 5.10 p.m. and that you think I have made my point. I should have thought that you would be one of the first to support me on this matter. Apparently, that is not so now that you have relinquished the position of General Secretary to the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia. The late Frank Walsh in 1967 released the following press report:

That Cabinet had had continued representation from the member for Wallaroo, Mr. L. C. Hughes, concerning the future of Wallaroo which had always been the premier shipping port for grain for Yorke Peninsula and neighbouring districts. The Government made it clear that Wallaroo will remain the premier port and will receive preference over every other port (including Ardrossan) in the area. It would be absurd to do anything to damage the people's investment in the railway system based on Wallaroo port facilities or these

extension facilities themselves. The Labor Government had no intention of doing so and gave an unqualified undertaking that Wallaroo port facilities would be given priority development.

That was given to the press by the former Premier, the late Frank Walsh. All I am asking and that the people at Wallaroo have been asking now for several weeks is that this Government should at least honour the undertaking given by the former Premier. That is all we are asking, and it is not very much. If the Government does this, it is not only assisting the people in that area but also is putting money into Government coffers and is not wasting the State's money.

Efforts to have Wallaroo improved have met with two major objections, the first being that the berth cannot be deepened because of length of piles. My answer to that objection is that since the berth was last dredged new piles have been driven; in fact, they are still being driven. These new piles are 45ft. into the sea bed. Thus, the berth can now be safely dredged to a greater depth. This perhaps was not possible when dredging took place a few years ago at the time the Hon. G. G. Pearson was Minister of Marine; but it is not so today.

The second objection raised is that the bottom of the channel is rock and cannot be dredged. My reply to that is that modern dredges can cope with all but the hardest rock. Only a suction dredge has so far been used at Wallaroo and no effort has been made to cut the bottom of the channel or berth. The rock in the harbour is very soft and is easily dredgable. Since the opening of this session, the member for Yorke Peninsula has asked a question on this matter of the channel at Wallaroo, and the Minister of Marine and Harbors replied that a seismic survey was to be carried out in this area. I understand that that is more reliable than the old method of picking with a pin and we should know shortly whether or not the channel can be deepened. It is rather strange that they can drive piles to such a depth with no effort. If that can be done, I think the harbour can be dredged easily. In support of this, I quote from the Mines Department's Bulletin No. 39—*The Geology of Yorke Peninsula*. It was published in 1965, and page 19 states:

... boring on the area west of the sulphuric acid works (on the old smelter site) showed granitic rock at about 40ft. below sea level. This was deeply weathered, there being a gradual upward transition from hard fresh granite to a clay with angular granite fragment.

That is a convincing report and seems to indicate that suitable dredging could deepen the harbour.

Mr. Lawn: Why does the co-operative favour Ardrossan?

Mr. HUGHES: I do not know: certain personalities come into this matter and I would not like to introduce them into the debate. The member for Rocky River can tell the House what the people said at the Kadina meeting when they referred to certain members of the co-operative, but I would rather not introduce that matter into the debate. In the past I have congratulated the co-operative on the way in which it has built and managed silos to my satisfaction.

Mr. Jennings: Introducing personalities is alien to you.

Mr. HUGHES: It is, but if the member for Rocky River wants to detail what was said, that is his affair.

Mr. Venning: Why do you think I would, if you don't want to?

Mr. HUGHES: This report indicates that there would not be much bother or expense in deepening the harbour and it would be less costly to deepen the port at Wallaroo than it would be to build another port at Ardrossan. Where most silos are built the Government will eventually spend money to provide more shipping amenities, but it is obvious that the driving of the piles at Wallaroo to a depth of 45ft. (that is, 75ft. below sea level) has not met with any difficulty. In addition to the request of the growers, the Northern Yorke Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, and the Federated Chambers of Commerce of South Australia, I ask the Government, in the interest of the State's development, to develop Wallaroo as the major grain and phosphate port for South Australia. I ask that urgent action be taken to deepen the channel and berths of the Wallaroo harbour and to provide additional grain storage silos at that port, and that, while this matter is being considered by the Minister of Marine and the Minister of Agriculture, no further action be taken to provide additional harbour and grain storage facilities at Ardrossan and Port Adelaide.

Mr. ARNOLD (Chaffey): I add my congratulations on the excellent Speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this third session of the Thirty-ninth Parliament, and I take this opportunity to wish His Excellency and Lady Harrison a most enjoyable stay in South Australia. Reference was made in the Speech to former members of Parliament who died in the

the past year. Of those members, Senator Keith Laught was the only one whom I knew personally. I extend my sympathy to his family and to the families of other members who have passed away. I have great respect for the former members and for their service to the State and to the Commonwealth.

Probably the most important matter mentioned in this debate so far is the Chowilla-Dartmouth issue, and once again I listened with interest to the approach of the Leader of the Opposition on this subject. I consider it high time that he and some other members opposite looked at this matter in a more serious light and tried to place South Australia before themselves, for a change. I have great respect for the member for Hindmarsh (Hon. C. D. Hutchens), and he would know far more about this subject than would any other member on that side of the House.

It is interesting to note that the member for Hindmarsh refuses to be drawn by his Leader into this debate. He was the Minister in charge of the Engineering and Water Supply Department for three years and has a far greater knowledge of this subject than has the Leader of the Opposition. He knows the facts of the matter and I respect his approach to the problem. I respect his honesty to the same degree as I dislike the dishonest approach of the Leader, because although the Leader quotes from the report of the River Murray Commission, he well knows that that report is worthless unless it is related to the report of the technical committee.

Mr. Riches: But it was you people who said that you would build Chowilla.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ARNOLD: I believe that the only thing that the Leader is really interested in is whether he can force an election on the issue, regardless of whether Chowilla, Dartmouth, or neither is built. The Leader hopes to be returned as Premier of South Australia. I think this is apparent from a report in today's *News* headed, "Dam matter of confidence," which states:

"It would be absurd of the Government if it did not regard the Bill to ratify the Dartmouth dam project as a confidence issue," the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Dunstan) said today.

It is apparent that this is the only aspect of the matter concerning Chowilla in which he is interested. His saying that, if Chowilla is not built we will not allow Dartmouth to proceed; does not carry the weight that he might believe it carries. I refer to the *Advertiser*

of June 30 last in which the following article appeared under the heading "New South Wales is Doubtful on Dartmouth Dam":

The New South Wales Government is now a doubtful participant in the \$57,000,000 Dartmouth dam project. The New South Wales Chief Secretary (Mr. Willis) said tonight that it would be several weeks before his Government made up its mind about contributing to the plan for a dam at Dartmouth in north-eastern Victoria. Mr. Willis, who has been spokesman for the New South Wales Government during the illness of the Premier (Mr. Askin) said that he was negotiating with the Commonwealth Government over another water storage project.

"Whether we join in the Dartmouth project depends on the outcome of our other plans," he said. Mr. Willis would not name the other water storage plan, but it is believed that he was referring to a projected dam on the Gwydir River, near Copeton in northern New South Wales. Mr. Willis said: "Although the Dartmouth dam is desirable, so far as New South Wales is concerned it is not a vital necessity."

Mr. Virgo: It is to South Australia, though.

Mr. ARNOLD: I fully agree. The Dartmouth dam is vital to South Australia, because as a result of this project we can increase our base entitlement of water from 1,250,000 acre feet to 1,500,000 acre feet, thus leading to a 30 per cent increase in development in both irrigation and industry.

Mr. Virgo: You ought to try to convince the electors of Chaffey on that.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ARNOLD: People in the Upper Murray area are faced with the prospect that without an increase in water for expansion there will be no further development and, therefore, no increased activity within the Renmark Irrigation Trust or in the Lands Department irrigation areas. There will also be no further private irrigation or industrial expansion. I think we all realize that without a controlled expansion of industry and agriculture both will stagnate and that consequently the position will merely continue to deteriorate. We in South Australia are the undisputed leaders in the Australian wine industry but, if we do not produce the necessary quantity of grapes to cope with the demand, we may rest assured that the requirements of wineries will be met by growers in Victoria and New South Wales.

Mr. Virgo: They will have the water from Dartmouth.

Mr. ARNOLD: On February 4 last I said that the ultimate goal would be to see both projects go ahead simultaneously, and I think

the member for Edwardstown will recall that at the time he interjected and said, "But you want it both ways."

Mr. Virgo: You haven't a mind to make up.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Chaffey.

Mr. ARNOLD: We know that, without unanimous agreement, not even one dam can be built.

Mr. Virgo: You have got legislation. Wake up to yourself!

Mr. ARNOLD: I am glad the honourable member referred to legislation. We have legislation that agrees to the building of a dam that will not cost more than \$32,000,000 and which will give certain benefits to South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. The honourable member will be well aware that the estimated cost of the Chowilla dam is now about \$68,000,000 and that there are no benefits to be derived from Chowilla by Victoria and New South Wales, so I do not know what kind of a lawyer the honourable member is.

Mr. Virgo: I am not a lawyer at all.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Edwardstown is out of order, and he must cease interjecting. I will not warn him again.

Mr. ARNOLD: On the legal and technical advice supplied to us, it appears that we cannot win by going to arbitration on this matter; this is borne out by a letter I received only today from the United Farmers and Graziers. The letter, which refers to the zone 9 annual conference, which is in my area, states:

Dear Sir,

I draw your attention to the following resolution which was unanimously carried at the recent annual conference of zone 9, which constitutes all fruitgrower members in the river districts, of the above organization.

"That this zone resolves—

1. That whereas the River Murray Commission Act requires unanimous agreement among the three States and the Commonwealth Governments before a dam can be built on the Murray River system; and that the Commonwealth Government and Sir Henry Bolte have stated they are not prepared to provide the finance to build the Chowilla dam in accordance with the agreement passed by the States and the Commonwealth."

The organization strongly urges that both dams be built simultaneously. This would be an excellent move if it could be achieved but, as the member for Edwardstown said, we know that it cannot be achieved. I agree that, with the attitude of the Eastern States, this is almost impossible, but I still believe that, if

we go about this in the correct manner, we can eventually achieve the lot. I have heard it said that we would like to have the best of both worlds in regard to this matter. If by some chance both dams were constructed simultaneously it would not be on the basis of South Australia's receiving a guarantee of 1,500,000 acre feet—it would be on the original basis of 1,250,000 acre feet, which would not enable South Australia to expand.

Mr. Ryan: How about the wishes of the people of Chaffey?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ARNOLD: The benefits to be derived from Chowilla were calculated on the basis that there would be no flow past Mildura. Once this quantity is reinstated at a rate of between 600 and 900 cusecs (members can find this in the report if they know where to look) this would amount to roughly 500,000 acre feet of divertible water a year. Once this flow is reinstituted the benefits from Chowilla to Victoria and New South Wales virtually diminish. I believe that if we approach this in the right way we can achieve a guarantee of 1,500,000 acre feet for South Australia as well as Chowilla. It may be of interest to members if I quote from the report of the Murray Valley Development League's 25th annual meeting and conference of the general council held at Waikerie on June 19 and 20. The statement read at this meeting was as follows:

The South Australian Engineer-in-Chief and River Murray Commissioner (Mr. H. L. Beaney) had this to say at our no. 6 regional committee meeting on May 28: "I confidently predict that within 15 years another storage will be wanted on the Murray. As a personal forecast I feel that Chowilla will then be the best prospect."

For anyone to say at this stage that, if we do not get Chowilla at the same time as Dartmouth or get it built first it will never be built, is without foundation and carries little weight. I believe that is an emotional outlook and the sort of outlook whereby South Australia will finish up with no dam at all and with no increase in water entitlement. Then there will be a general stagnation as we saw in the three years of the previous Government.

Mr. Ryan: You didn't say that at the election, did you?

Mr. ARNOLD: What I said at the election was—

Mr. Ryan: That you would build Chowilla.

Mr. ARNOLD: If the honourable member likes to look back and see what I said at the election—

Mr. Ryan: You didn't say anything: Hall said it all for you.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. ARNOLD: I believe the Leader of the Opposition will have to think very carefully about this matter before he makes his final decision on where he stands, because if we are forced into the position where we can have no dam at all he will virtually have stopped any further expansion in this State. I know that is probably desirable from his point of view but it is certainly not desirable from the point of view of the State.

Mr. Ryan: He is prepared to go to the electors on it. Are you?

Mr. ARNOLD: Going to the people seems to be the theme song of members opposite. In many ways they act like spoilt children because whenever they lose they want another try.

Mr. Ryan: We didn't lose.

Mr. ARNOLD: These statements from the Opposition sound to me like the sort of things one hears at a kindergarten. I express my appreciation to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Works for the work done and development that has taken place educationally in the Upper Murray during the last 12 months. I refer especially to the work at the Berri and Renmark Primary Schools and the Glossop and Renmark High Schools. The two new primary schools are a credit to South Australia and an inspiration not only to the children attending them but also to their parents.

Another interesting school is the Winkie school. On Saturday, June 14, I was privileged to attend a "back to school" jubilee celebration at that school, which past students attended. One of the early headmasters conducted the proceedings. Whilst there, I had a glimpse of the activities going on in the various classrooms and the teaching methods. I decided last Monday to return, and I spent the whole morning at the school watching it in operation. It is regarded by the Education Department as a special school. The enthusiasm displayed by the children in the new approach to education being followed at the school is amazing.

The children start arriving there at 7.30 in the morning, not because they want to play but because they are keen to get to school.

They go to their classrooms and immediately start preparing for the day's schooling. It is a unique set-up, in that for the first hour and a half the children conduct their own lessons. First, they go through the newspaper and pick out various items of interest. The individual child is encouraged to delve into things.

The teachers are not trying to teach the children parrot-fashion—that they have to learn this and that; the children are encouraged to learn for themselves. The methods of teaching reading, for example, are producing amazing results. This is a credit not only to the headmaster and his staff but also to the staffing section of the Education Department for the care it takes in selecting the staff to carry out this programme. I hope the department's enthusiasm in promoting this special school will continue.

There is a somewhat different problem there from that facing most schools, in that the children are reasonably equally divided into Australians, Aborigines and New Australians. From a teaching point of view, this poses some problems, but the careful selection of the staff sent to this school has achieved amazing results in the last two or three years. I give full credit to the staff of that school and the Education Department for the programme being carried out.

Mr. Clark: There is a brilliant man in charge of it.

Mr. ARNOLD: Another important problem in my district relates to the citrus industry. The Citrus Organization Committee has the responsibility of marketing the fruit, and one of its biggest problems is disposing of the juice. The co-operative packers have an outlet through the co-operative-controlled juice factory, but this does not assist in relation to the fruit packed by private packers, which amounts to about 30 per cent of the crop. The present over-production, caused by the inability of the local market to absorb the fruit, is causing considerable concern and depressing prices to an uneconomic level.

I believe the most effective way to overcome this problem would be a short-term stabilization plan, which could be implemented by the Commonwealth Government. That Government has had similar plans for other primary industries with problems, and I believe that the citrus industry should be given this assistance now. The plan's object would be to guarantee a payable return on, say, export fruit, and this would remove as much fruit

as possible from the local market to be disposed of overseas. If this plan were instituted for five years the industry would become stabilized, because plantings are static, although some new plantings are still to come into full production.

Because of the biannual cropping of citrus, the produce of this industry is extremely difficult to market effectively. This year production will be down, but next year it is expected to be almost double. The industry needs a stabilization plan of some kind, because it is certainly worth assisting. We produce possibly the best fruit in the world, and as other primary industries have received this kind of assistance in the past I see no reason why the citrus industry should not receive some help now to assist it over a temporary problem. The increase in population and the static plantings mean that within five years this industry will again be an economic proposition for growers.

It is pleasing to note the progress that has been made on the building of the Kingston bridge. The contractor has commenced building the causeway across the Kingston flats to Cobdogla, and this extremely important link in the main highway system to other States will improve the tourist potential of the Upper Murray tremendously. On June 20 I attended the annual meeting of the Murray Valley Development League at which an extremely interesting idea, although it may sound far-fetched, was suggested. The idea was that a suitable company that produces television programmes be encouraged to produce a series, not in the form of a documentary but in the form in which *Homicide*, *Riptide*, and similar programmes are presented, based on the Murray River steamer days about the turn of the century.

Unlimited stories of this era could be used in an excellent series and the publicity obtained would be worth much money to South Australia. Many overseas visitors come to Melbourne and Sydney but do not see much of South Australia. However, if a programme such as I have suggested were shown in Melbourne and Sydney, the influx of visitors to this State would greatly increase. From the stories handed down to me about the rivalry and competition on the river in those early days, I am confident that an extremely entertaining programme could be developed and that it would promote South Australia.

Many people are interested in the Aborigines in the Upper Murray area, and many Aboriginal families live on the Gerard Reserve.



Recently a Select Committee of the Legislative Council inquired into the welfare of Aboriginal children, and many interesting points were raised with that committee. I consider that there is insufficient incentive for the Aborigines to leave that reserve and establish themselves in the district with the rest of the population. However, they could be assisted to do this if an advisory board were set up by the Government, with a membership comprising an equal number of Aborigines and Europeans. The Aborigines could refer to such a board readily for advice on legal and departmental matters, and they would be assisted to gain the confidence to leave the reserve and establish themselves in the community. The Lands Department has a similar type of advisory board that makes recommendations to the Minister in the interests of growers.

There is considerable interest in the Upper Murray area at present in rehabilitating irrigation areas. The Renmark Irrigation Trust is at present implementing a rehabilitation programme that will result in a completely new closed irrigation system, including pumping stations, thus bringing the Renmark system into line with some of the most modern systems in the world. In paragraph 22 of his Speech, His Excellency said:

My Government intends to commence a long-term programme of irrigation works to replace open channels with piped main in upper river districts and to continue the Renmark Irrigation Trust rehabilitation works.

I agree with this wholeheartedly, except that I do not believe it should be carried out as a long-term programme. If an irrigation system is to be installed on a long-term programme, the system will be out of date before it is finished. It is no use entering into a long-term programme when the margin between cost and profit is so small.

I believe that a system should be selected whereby in the Lands Department irrigation areas in the Upper Murray district, including Berri, Barmera, the Cobdogla irrigation area, and Waikerie, a complete overall plan will be made for rehabilitating the distribution system. The pumping stations in most cases are good, but the distribution system is out of date and, with the recommendations being made, most of the modern irrigation methods cannot be put into effect, because our distribution system does not permit it.

For example, the modern concept of drip irrigation can be carried out only when water is available at all times, and the new system at Renmark will be ideally suited to this

programme. The modern system operating in certain overseas countries is achieving remarkable results, in that the quantity of water used, compared with the production that is occurring, represents a vast improvement on the methods being used in Australia. With water becoming such an important item in this country, this matter should be seriously considered. I believe that the Government should prepare a case for rehabilitating departmental irrigation areas in South Australia which should be presented to the Commonwealth Government as a rehabilitation project because, when one considers the enormous revenue in the form of excise duty received by the Commonwealth from these areas, one will see how good an investment it would be for the Commonwealth.

It is one thing to introduce a completely new type of system, but it is absolutely useless to go ahead and plant varieties that do not have the best potential yield. In this connection I refer to the work being carried out at present by the Phylloxera Board. The new varieties it is at present introducing will enable South Australia's wine industry to supply the fine types of wine being demanded by the public and to maintain its position in the market. The board has embarked on a programme, which the Commonwealth Government has agreed to subsidize, entailing the propagation and clonal selection of new and existing varieties of vines.

At present not much work is being done in this field. When one considers the cost of pulling out existing plantings and the loss of revenue incurred while the new plantings are coming into bearing, it is ridiculous in this day and age to be replanting these areas with stocks of vines that are not the best that can be achieved. Consequently, the board's contribution will be very valuable to the grapegrowing industry. The Agriculture Department will carry out this work at Northfield, Nuriootpa and Loxton.

Regarding land tenure, the Land Board, in its work of converting miscellaneous leases of grazing country to perpetual leases, has not yet reached my area, but I hope it will do so soon. The miscellaneous lease is virtually worthless to the lessee from the viewpoint of using it as security when he wants to borrow money to build a house or buy plant. I hope the Minister will be able to hasten the conversion of miscellaneous leases by lessees desiring it, thereby giving these people a tenure that will enable them to develop at a much faster rate. I support the motion.

Mr. VIRGO (Edwardstown): I think I should commence by offering my sympathies to the member who has just resumed his seat and to other Government members, because they have had to stand up and try to praise one of the dullest opening speeches I have ever read. I am very pleased that members on this side do not have to do that, and that they do not have to do that backscratching of Ministers at which Government members seem so adept. I am pleased, too, that the Premier is present in the Chamber, so that I can remind him that in a democratic Parliament a member is entitled to ask a question and explain it without the Premier, with his usual dictatorial attitude, calling "Question", as he did when the House was last in session. I assure the Premier that it will keep!

Mr. Lawn: He may want leave to make a Ministerial statement.

Mr. VIRGO: He may not get it. I regret that the member who has just resumed his seat has left it almost immediately, as I want to refer to the points he raised about the Chowilla dam. He spent a quarter-hour of a rather dull speech dealing with this subject and trying to justify the about-face attitude he and other members on the Government side have adopted. However, I will leave my remarks on his speech at this stage, because what he said is not nearly as important as the matter I shall now raise.

Unlike the member for Chaffey and other members who have preceded him, I am not raising this point to try to make a political football out of something that is of importance to people. I am raising the matter in the hope that in the rather wide description of Bills the Government intends to introduce, as outlined in the Governor's Speech, it may see fit to do something to rectify one of the most blatant rackets going on in South Australia today. I remind members of the Liberal and Country League of the constitution by which they are bound.

Mr. Lawn: How many copies do you have?

Mr. VIRGO: I have several. In fact there was consternation in the building last week when the Secretary of the L.C.L. was trying to get hold of me. A message was sent around the House that R. Y. Wilson wanted G. T. Virgo. There was a bit of a unity ticket going on there. Let me remind members opposite of their *Constitution, Principles and State Platform* which, under the heading "Objectives of the Liberal Party of Australia", states *inter alia*:

An Australian nation:

4. In which an intelligent, free and liberal Australian democracy shall be maintained by:

(e) Protecting the people against exploitation.

I hope the Attorney-General is in his room with the loud speaker on, because I told him I would have some comments to make that particularly affected him. I hope all Government members, Ministers, back-benchers and blunder secretaries will take note of what I say and do something about it. I want to refer to the racket whereby people are being taken down by unscrupulous television repair people. I am not referring to all television firms; there are probably some reputable ones. However, I have information before me that I will relate to the House.

Mr. Rodda: Let's hear it.

Mr. VIRGO: If the honourable member will shut up and listen he will hear it and so will everyone else. I have in front of me information showing that a firm operating under the name of Milleradio is a disgrace to this community; it is taking people down and exploiting the public, and this Government ought to take action immediately to prevent any further exploitation. I will cite the actual case. The person who has given me the information has supplied it in the form of a statutory declaration, so I am not referring to some fantasy of imagination. If the House desires, I will table the statutory declaration. This person telephoned Milleradio last Friday, June 27, and inquired about having some servicing done to his television set. The trouble was that early in June it began to show a dark vertical riband on the left-hand and right-hand side of the screen; but, otherwise, the picture and the sound were perfect. On that particular Friday, this person telephoned a firm shown in the Telephone Directory as AAA Television Repairs, 287 Waymouth Street, the telephone number being 51 1630. That firm has a quarter-page advertisement in the pink pages. This advertisement states, "80 per cent repairs completed in your home". When this person telephoned, he was informed that the cost of a service call was \$3.50, which included up to half an hour spent on repairing the fault. It covered half an hour of time.

Mr. Broomhill: It seems quite reasonable to me.

Mr. VIRGO: It is too reasonable—that is the catch. If a person goes to a reputable firm, he will pay \$5 or \$6. The catch is, "Get them in on the job and, once you have got them in—

bang!" Listen to the rest of this! At about 8.20 last Friday night the technician called at this person's home and went inside with a little box that looked just like a tool-box. He did not open it so we do not know what was in it; it may have contained the weekend groceries, a bag of peanuts, or sand or gravel—we do not know. He pulled a screwdriver out of his pocket, took the back off the television set and said, "No, there is nothing we can do about this." He put the back on again and said, "We will have to take it back to the shop." I doubt very much whether this man was any more of a television technician than you are, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Ryan: He would not be much good.

Mr. VIRGO: Perhaps the Speaker is a television expert. There is no guarantee that this fellow was a television technician, yet he is paid a television technician's rates. He is nothing more than a delivery man; he knows nothing about television sets. He goes out to a house and says, "No, we cannot do it here; we shall have to take it back into the shop." He then loads the set into the van, but the catch is that the person has to sign the docket before he takes it and that docket is an open order to do the repairs necessary to put the set in order.

Mr. Langley: You may not even get the same set back.

Mr. VIRGO: In this case, the person did not get the same set back complete. Before the technician takes it, the person is required to sign a docket authorizing the technician to take it and the firm to do the necessary repairs. The person concerned was rather intrigued by the way this all happened, and, after a while, decided that he had better do some checking up; so he turned over the pink pages of the Telephone Directory. I invite honourable members to do the same. If they do, they will find, starting at page 334, a quarter-page advertisement "TV Malfunction? Get expert action 51 1630, 287 Waymouth Street." No name is mentioned. The next quarter-page advertisement on the same page states:

AAA TELEVISION REPAIRS  
TV REPAIRS

51 1630

80% repairs completed in your home  
287. Waymouth Street.

Then they get cunning: the next advertisement states:

ADELAIDE  
TV  
REPAIR SERVICE  
51 6619

But the address is 287 Waymouth Street, Adelaide. Then we find another advertisement that states, "Emergency Television Service" with the telephone number 51 6619. Another advertisement is for "Milleradio". This firm was in trouble recently with the Prices Branch, and I hope it gets into trouble again and will be run out of the State, because it is a Victorian-based firm. About 12 separate insertions are shown in the pink pages of the telephone book: if 100 different advertisements were inserted there would be one chance in a hundred of a person, who is looking for someone to repair a television set and looks at the pink pages, selecting one of these advertisements, but if one firm puts in 12 advertisements the odds are much better for it.

Mr. Lawn: These are quarter-page advertisements, too.

Mr. VIRGO: Yes. Returning to the details that I have been citing, the set was taken away on the Friday night with the authority signed to do the work required. At five o'clock on Saturday afternoon the person rang 51 1630 and was informed that the fault could not be located, although the company claims in its advertisement that it has the best workshop and equipment that it is possible to obtain. Naturally, the person directed the firm to return the set to him but this could not be done until a further payment of \$2.50 was made: a charge of \$3.50 had been made to pick up the set, so that the firm received \$6 to send an unqualified man to pick up the set, take it to the workshop, and then return it to the person's house, yet nothing was done to it.

It is almost incredible the number of traps that these firms have set for people. In this case, before the set could be returned to its legal owner, he was required to pay \$6. I have all these details of the transaction if any member disbelieves me, shown under the name of Milleradio. Milleradio was not telephoned in the first place, but the catch was that before the set was taken off the van \$6 had to be paid and the note had to be signed. This is treated as a receipt of money and of the set. The person is required to sign, "Received the above unit O.K." before the set is put in the house, let alone switched on. The payment was made, the signature was attested and the set was put in the house. Then the next shock came. There were what are described as sharp bends in the picture, and I think all members have seen a television set with sharp bends in it.

In addition, the picture was almost continuously snowing, although neither fault had been there before. What redress was there? Payment had been made before the set was put in the house, and the note was signed.

This person then did what probably should have been done in the first place. He contacted the manufacturer, formerly Astor Radio and now Electronic Industries Limited. On Tuesday the technician from that company called, inspected the set and corrected the fault without taking the set from the house, thus proving conclusively that there had been no need in the first place to take the set for a ride around the countryside. However, there is worse to come. The technician found in the set a valve of a type that had been out of production for six years and he asked the owner when he had had repairs done to the set and who had put the valve in. He was told that the set was less than two years old, that it had never previously been out of the house, and that no other person had touched it. The plain facts are that the firm to which I have referred is taking sets from houses, stealing parts, putting back faulty parts that it knows will break down in a short time, and returning the sets to the owners.

Mr. Broomhill: Do you think it is an isolated case?

Mr. VIRGO: No, because several other people have told me of their complete dissatisfaction about television repairs. A most disgraceful situation has developed, involving exploitation at its worst, and it requires immediate attention. Let us look at the history of Milleradio. What interesting reading it makes! A search of company records shows that this is a private company, registered in the name of John Alister Greenlaw Miller, of 16 Lyndoch Avenue, East St. Kilda, Victoria. I will deal with some of the problems that Victoria has faced and probably still faces with this crowd of shysters: I cannot call them anything else. This firm has a history of different people being its nominees in South Australia, and it is strange that we should find that these nominees change rapidly: from 1959 until the present time six different people have acted as the firm's nominees in this State. Having taken this matter a little beyond the bounds of South Australia, I have examined the Victorian position, because the authorities in Victoria have at least displayed some interest in it in an attempt to rectify the situation.

x

The Victorian Government in 1964 passed legislation to constitute what is known as the consumers' protection council. While that may not necessarily fill the bill in South Australia, I believe the idea of this council is right. Whether it is set up as an extension of our Prices Branch or as a separate entity is not important: the important thing is that consumers must have protection. We cannot stand idly by and allow the exploitation, to which I have just referred, to go unnoticed.

Although the relevant Bill in Victoria was passed in 1964, it took a long time before it was actually implemented, but it was nevertheless implemented and the council set up. This council consists of a person representing the interests of manufacturers, one representing the interests of retail traders, another engaged in advertising and sales promotion, three people representing the interests of consumers (two of whom must be women), and one person appointed by the Government as chairman.

In its first report, after it had been in operation for nine months (from December 1, 1965, to August 31, 1966), the council did not have much to say about the firm of Milleradio, but by the time it had operated for an additional 12 months it had much to say about that firm. I think the House ought to know what it said, because I suggest that if we had a similar organization here we would probably have a similar report. The report stated:

Of 231 complaints received during the year, 131 were from the firm Milleradio. They alleged over-charging, faulty workmanship, and delays in returning the appliances, and whenever an appliance was handed over for repairs the owner was obliged to sign documents classified by the firm as service contracts.

That is exactly what happened in the case I have cited this evening; it is still being done. The report continued:

This gave Milleradio authority to carry out whatever repairs it considered necessary, without regard to cost. Complainants told the council that price quotes were sometimes given or promised, but neither the promises were fulfilled nor the quotes adhered to. Below are three examples of Milleradio at work—

and these are so revealing that members ought to hear them—

Milleradio quoted an 18-year-old youth \$50 to repair his 17in. television set, agreeing to take \$10 deposit and the balance in weekly payments.

Mr. Ryan: Is this the same Milleradio that operates in Adelaide?

Mr. VIRGO: Yes. The report continues:  
When he—

an 18-year-old youth—  
collected the set, the youth was presented with a bill for \$97 and found the credit agreement had been altered without his knowledge to cover the extra \$47—

not bad—from \$50 to \$97—

He later found the set was still faulty and returned it to Milleradio, where he was told that more repairs were needed and this would cost still more. The youth objected and Milleradio demanded immediate payment of \$97 or it would sue him. Another firm quoted the youth \$24 for the required repairs. The council referred the youth to the Legal Aid Committee.

I hope it did the right thing by him, but I do not know. In connection with another complainant, the report says:

Complainant left a portable TV set with Milleradio, asking that no repairs be made until he received a firm quote. Several days later Milleradio contacted the complainant, saying the repairs had been carried out at a cost of \$20. Complainant agreed to pay only if the work was guaranteed. He found the set was not functioning properly, returned it to Milleradio for attention and was later charged \$3 for the work. The set was still not working and it was left with Milleradio again. The set was returned three months later with an account for \$31.25. The council advised the complainant to contact the Legal Service Bureau.

Repairs to a stereophonic tape recorder sent to Milleradio cost \$43. The owner found the unit still would not operate properly and returned it to Milleradio, which then repaired the tape recorder satisfactorily. Eight months later the owner received a bill from the firm for \$50.82 for additional repairs. He refused to pay and the council advised him to consult a solicitor if Milleradio threatened legal action.

Not long after complaints about Milleradio became regular, the council asked the firm to comment on 14 of the allegations. The reply received was so unsympathetic that the council decided it was pointless to approach the firm for further comment. The council now tells complainants that the only avenue of redress for Milleradio's aggrieved customers is through legal advice. The same answer is given for complaints against the debt collection agency set up by Milleradio, Central Debtors Directorate, Box 100, Toorak.

This is the report of the consumers protection council set up by the Victorian Government, and it was tabled in the Victorian Parliament.

Mr. Ryan: That debt collection firm does not operate in Adelaide, too, does it?

Mr. VIRGO: I have not been able to find that out. From the way it operates, I do not think there would be very many. Its policy is: "Either pay up or you do not get your goods." In 1968 this same organization tabled its report with Milleradio still in the forefront.

The report states:

T.V. servicing calls for special training and experience, but need not be charged for at a level likely to embarrass the owner of the appliance. Consumers should not leave sets with a repairer with an order to proceed with repairs, without a firm quote and an agreement to supply a fully itemized statement of work done and the charge for labour and each part fitted. In the year under review, 82 complaints were received against the firm Milleradio, and over the past three years 234 complaints have been lodged against this firm.

Mr. Jennings: I think they are crook.

Mr. VIRGO: I am absolutely certain they are crook and the worst part is that they are exploiting South Australians.

Mr. Ryan: And they do it legally.

Mr. VIRGO: Yes. I hope this is impressing our bright Attorney-General enough so that he will take immediate steps tomorrow morning in relation to it. The report gives three other examples of complaints received by the consumer council as follows:

An elderly consumer gave to Milleradio the chassis of her television set, after being told that the tuner needed repairs. The cost was to have been small. After a considerable delay, the consumer was advised that the cost of repairs would be \$80 and that she would have to pay in cash outside her home before the appliance would be reassembled. The consumer, an elderly lady, was advised by us to take legal action, which she did, and the result was most favourable.

The second case is as follows:

A consumer gave to Milleradio his television set for repair, but demanded a firm quote before any repairs were made. He was told that the cost would be small, but to ring for a firm quote. When he contacted the firm, he was advised the cost would be \$50; he told the firm he could not afford that much and demanded the return of his appliance, but was advised that he would have to pay \$25 before the set would be returned, although no repairs had been effected.

I do not know what they consider small amounts, but they must work on a different basis from me. The report continues:

A consumer gave to Milleradio his television set for repair. When he signed the repair order form, he demanded that he be advised of the cost before any work was done, and the order form was endorsed "estimate required". The consumer rang Milleradio on eight occasions before obtaining any information. Eventually, he was advised that the set had been repaired at a cost of \$78.50 and to pay in cash before delivery. The consumer was extremely annoyed and indicated to the firm that it had no authority to do these repairs as he had requested a quote first. Consumer was informed that he would have to pay, or his property would not be returned. Eventually, he submitted to these demands, but to his regret found that the appliance was not in working order.

And so this monotonous story goes on and on, a story of downright theft and fraud. I hope the Attorney-General will take immediate action tomorrow morning in relation to this because what Milleradio is doing, and possibly other firms of which I do not know are doing, to the public of South Australia is serious and something that requires immediate attention.

Mr. Ryan: What action is taken in Victoria?

Mr. VIRGO: The Government is trying to take action through the consumer's council. The weakness is that the council was set up to investigate everything but all it can do is bring back a report to Parliament. It cannot prosecute. It is like giving legislation without teeth. This thing starts being wrong with false advertisements in the pink pages of the Telephone Directory. Whilst this is not a matter concerning other States, I am sure that if the Attorney-General or the Premier were to take it up with the Postmaster-General in Canberra with a request that he do something, it would carry much more weight than if I did it personally. I now refer to the 1966 report of the Consumers Protection Council, because it dealt with this matter. It reported as follows:

In an attempt to help consumers judge how fairly they were being charged for repairs, the Council approached manufacturers of domestic electrical appliances and appropriate trade associations. It suggested that manufacturers published lists of repairers whom they endorse and also provide the Council with information about costs of typical repairs. The response was disappointing. Service associations offered lists of members' names but manufacturers were not inclined to endorse a particular company. Neither manufacturers nor trade associations cared to publish information about costs for carrying out typical electrical appliance repairs.

Further on, the council had this to say:

The Council believes the P.M.G.'s Department can help in this field by barring entries in the pink pages classified directly that tend

to mislead the consumer. For example, some repair companies use names so close to those of major manufacturers that some consumers confuse them with agents or service divisions of the manufacturers.

A most important point is involved here. I hope the Attorney-General and the Government as a whole will act, for urgent and long-range action is needed. The people of South Australia are entitled to know that, when they call in a service man to fix their television set, he is qualified to fix it. Unfortunately, that is not the case at present.

In the interests of the community and of the trade, all qualified television repair men should be licensed. It would be a simple operation. We already have an Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Act in operation. It would take very little to amend it to extend its provisions to cover competent qualified television set repairers. Then, when a householder calls in a television repair man, he or she can first ask him to produce his licence, in exactly the same way as, if we call in an electrical man, we can ask him to produce his licence to prove his competency. We would not then suffer the exploitation that is current at the moment. In fact, I have even heard it suggested (I cannot say whether it is right or wrong but, from what I have read of this firm, nothing would surprise me), that these fellows going out from Milleradio are on a bonus for every set they can get back into the workshop. This calls for immediate action. I implore the Attorney-General and, in fact, all members of the Government to take immediate action on this matter. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 9.40 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, July 3, at 2 p.m.