

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 29, 1969

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

### PETITIONS: ABORTION LEGISLATION

Mr. LAWN presented a petition signed by 78 persons stating that the signatories were deeply convinced that the human baby began its life no later than the time of implantation of the fertilized ovum in its mother's womb (that is, six to eight days after conception), that any direct intervention to take away its life was a violation of its right to live, and that honourable members, having the responsibility to govern this State, should protect the rights of innocent individuals, particularly the helpless. The petition also stated that the unborn child was the most innocent and most in need of the protection of our laws whenever its life was in danger. The signatories realized that abortions were performed in public hospitals in this State, in circumstances claimed to necessitate it on account of the life of the pregnant woman. The petitioners prayed that the House of Assembly would not amend the law to extend the grounds on which a woman might seek an abortion but that, if honourable members considered that the law should be amended, such amendment should not extend beyond a codification which might permit current practice.

Petition received.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER, at the request of the member for Ridley (Hon. T. C. Stott), presented a similar petition from 53 persons. Petition received.

### QUESTIONS

#### FISHING VESSEL

Mr. CORCORAN: All members of the House will be aware of the tragedy involving the fishing vessel *Neptune* that apparently happened in the South-East over the weekend. So far as I can ascertain, the sea was not rough when the vessel departed for Port Fairy. From my own knowledge I can say that two of the people on board were very experienced seamen who were not likely to take unnecessary risks. Of course, the fact that the vessel was being taken to Port Fairy for an overhaul does not mean that the vessel itself was not seaworthy, for it is normal at this time of the year to take vessels of this type to a place where maintenance can be carried out. Apparently the tragedy occurred

not long after the vessel departed from the sea port of Grey. Can the Minister of Marine ascertain whether, between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m. on Saturday, any shipping was present near where the tragedy apparently happened, as I would be grateful for this information?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I know that all members agree that this was a most tragic occurrence and extend their sympathies to the families concerned. The honourable member has raised several interesting points. Although my discussions with officers of the department are presently concerned with other aspects of the tragedy, I will urgently inquire into the matters raised by the honourable member because they are of some moment, and I will let the honourable member have a reply as soon as possible.

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES

Mr. NANKIVELL: Regulations under the Education Act relating to travel allowances for students also set out provisions regarding the distances that country children must travel before becoming eligible to travel on a departmental bus or a contract bus provided by the department. At present the distance is three miles for a primary student and five miles for a secondary student. As metropolitan primary schools are now built so that children do not have to walk more than half a mile to school, will the Minister of Education consider revising these regulations in order to permit children living closer than three miles from a school to use the school bus; increasing travelling allowances for parents who have to take their children more than three miles to a school bus; and making it a little easier for children, who attend secondary schools and who live more than five miles from a bus, to be eligible for a boarding allowance to enable them to attend a school near where they can board, thus eliminating the need for them to travel long distances to school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Having listened with interest to the points raised by the honourable member, I will call for a report and inform him as soon as possible.

#### TEACHER SHORTAGE

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: In reply to my question last week, the Minister of Education said that replacement teachers had been appointed to the Findon High School in order to relieve the pressure on matriculation classes. Although the two teachers appointed are making a courageous effort, it has not been

possible to reduce the size of more than one class. Therefore, I am compelled to ask the Minister what qualifications the two teachers appointed have and what teaching experience they have had.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As the honourable member will appreciate, I do not know this, but I will call for a report to obtain the information for which he asks.

Mr. HUDSON: The Minister of Education may be fully aware of the problems about the size of matriculation classes at Findon High School but she may not know that matriculation classes at several metropolitan high schools are larger than the average size of class in the particular school. I am thinking especially of Brighton High School, where some matriculation classes have more than 50 students. It has been the department's policy to provide matriculation classes at country high schools. Can the Minister say whether it is correct that the department will postpone establishing matriculation classes at certain country high schools next year because of the great difficulty in providing matriculation teachers at numerous existing high schools in the metropolitan and country areas? If this information is not correct will she say what other methods she intends to adopt not only to prevent a recurrence of what happened at the Findon High School but also to try to reduce the very high class sizes in many metropolitan high schools?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The question has many parts. I have not heard of any change in the policy of providing matriculation classes at country high schools where these are requested and where the number of students is sufficient. I also point out that we are just as anxious to provide these facilities at country high schools as at metropolitan schools. In fact, 11 per cent of the matriculation classes in South Australia have 10 students or fewer in them which means that many of our classes are provided at country high schools. Another interesting point about which I should like to tell the honourable member is that 80 per cent of the matriculation class teachers are graduates. Of course, this figure relates to teachers in country, metropolitan and technical high schools, and the percentage for country high schools is the same as for metropolitan schools. I have not tried to disguise the secondary schoolteacher shortage, particularly in the science fields. This shortage is world-wide, not peculiar to South Australia. In recent years there has been a big

decrease in the number of teachers wanting to do science courses in the teachers colleges. We cannot just produce teachers out of thin air. I gave a complete statement in reply to a question last week, and that information may be obtained by the honourable member in *Hansard*. I repeat, in reply to the first part of the honourable member's question, that to the best of my knowledge no change has been made in policy. No recommendation has been made to me at this stage. We do not like big classes, whether matriculation classes or any other classes, and we are doing everything possible to contain the situation. However, factors influence the availability of teachers and we are suffering similarly to other States and other countries.

#### FREIGHT RATES

Mr. VENNING: On October 15 last year I asked a question on whether rebates on rail freight for the carriage of stock could be increased. At that time, when a consignor of sheep or lambs consigned two or more rail trucks of stock, the consignee was entitled to a 25 per cent rebate on the freight cost. I was told in reply to my question that it was not intended at that time to increase the rebate but that the Railways Commissioner would further consider the matter. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether the Commissioner has considered the situation with a view to making it possible for purchasers of two or more rail trucks of stock from the Adelaide abattoirs to receive the 25 per cent rebate on freight?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will make inquiries.

#### BLINMAN SCHOOL

Mr. CASEY: As I understand that the Minister of Education has a reply to a letter I wrote to her some time ago concerning the facilities at the Blinman Rural School, will she give me that information?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: An officer of the Public Buildings Department visited Blinman in connection with the intended installation of a septic system at the school. The officer concerned has established that an adequate water supply is available. He now intends to draw up plans and specifications for a new toilet block at the school, a toilet to serve the residence, a new water connection for ablution purposes, and other modifications of the school that were discussed during his visit. I am informed that, although it may take some time to have the drawings completed, funds approved, and tenders called, action is being taken to overcome the difficulties.

## GAS

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Recently, the Minister of Works said that the construction of the natural gas pipeline from Gidgealpa to Adelaide had been completed two months earlier than the maximum time allowed under the contract. Can he say, first, whether, as a result of that earlier completion, the spur line to Angaston will be completed two months earlier than originally expected and, secondly, whether natural gas will be made available to industry in the metropolitan area and to the cement works at Angaston several months earlier than originally expected?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: As the honourable member realizes, the original date for introducing natural gas to the metropolitan area was November 3 this year, and this was the date that the Electricity Trust and the South Australian Gas Company had been using in relation to putting their particular plants into operation. The fact that the pipeline has been completed about two months ahead of schedule is a remarkable feat. Also, I understand that the purification plant at Moomba will be available about the end of September. The honourable member now raises the specific question whether the product will be available at Angaston earlier than expected, and I take it that this question also applies to like consumers who will draw special mains off the trunk main. I will ascertain these facts and inform him as early as possible.

## WALLAROO HARBOUR

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Marine further information in reply to the question I asked last week concerning the survey of Wallaroo harbour?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I am able to confirm my statements to the honourable member last week that the survey carried out at the Wallaroo harbour was done at both the old and the new channels, and the swinging basin was also surveyed. Good data was procured and it is now being evaluated and interpreted in Sydney.

## FLAMMABLE CLOTHING

Mr. RODDA: Last Monday night a little girl named Kerry Haggatt, of Naracoorte, while wearing a cotton Supertex chenille dressing gown, was standing in front of an open fire and the dressing gown exploded into flames. At present Kerry is in Naracoorte Hospital, suffering from severe body burns, and she will remain there for several weeks. The fire was extinguished by her father, who also suffered

extensive burns to his hands and arms. I have spoken to the parents of the child and there seems to be no warning on this type of garment that it is likely to ignite when near an open flame. It is serious that articles of this kind are sold to the public without any warning, more especially as this child was standing not at the fire but only near it when the garment exploded. It is more by good luck than good management that she is alive. Will the Minister of Labour and Industry investigate the production of this type of garment and warn the public of the hazardous nature of its use?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I agree that in recent years far too many tragic cases of this kind have occurred, most of the cases having resulted in children suffering burns because a particular type of clothing has become ignited when near a fire or radiator. This matter has been discussed at two conferences of Labour and Industry Ministers from the various States, and I have seen experiments conducted to show the degrees of flammability of various types of material. Although some materials are comparatively flame-proof, others are frighteningly flammable. The Standards Association of Australia was asked to work out an acceptable standard of marking a certain type of clothing in a way similar to that adopted for textile labelling, in which case apparel is to be marked as containing a certain percentage of wool, cotton, nylon, and so on. At the Ministers' conference in New South Wales earlier this month, I was disappointed to find that the Standards Association could not formulate an acceptable standard. I expressed concern about the matter and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization is now being asked whether it can devise an acceptable standard. Difficulty has been experienced recently with legislation on this subject in Great Britain. I point out that not only is the question one of controlling clothing manufactured in Australia but it also involves clothing sent to Australia from such places as Europe, the United States of America, and Hong Kong. However, all Ministers agreed, as an interim measure and as a matter of urgency, to conduct a programme of educating mothers and others who buy from stores, suggesting that they avoid purchasing certain types of material for children's clothing. Further, we intend to publicize a safety code on clothing, stating the type of clothing that may be worn. Children's night attire should not consist of long flowing nightdresses or nightgowns: this type of garment should be cut so that it hugs the body. Speaking for

South Australia, it is my desire that we introduce urgent legislation that will be acceptable uniformly throughout Australia so that provision can be made in this case. I assure the honourable member that the Government regards this matter as urgent.

#### GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. McKEE: Has the Premier a reply to my question of July 24 concerning gauge standardization?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The standardization of the Broken Hill to Port Pirie railway was referred to in Parliament on July 1, 1969, when January, 1970, was quoted as the expected completion date.

#### URAILDA SCHOOL

Mr. GILES: Last night, I received a telephone call from a member of the Uraidla Primary School Committee who complained that there was a possibility of a danger to the school from a eucalypt growing in the school-yard. This morning, in company with the Headmaster, I inspected this tree, which is a beautiful, rare type of eucalypt, of which, I have been told, there are only a few in the Adelaide Hills. It must be hundreds of years old. The problem is that there are some dry limbs on the tree, and the committee has asked that these be removed. A man in the Adelaide Hills who is noted for doing this type of work removed some of the smaller dangerous limbs, but he refused to go higher up the tree because he considered that even the live limbs were dangerous. The Headmaster and the committee do not want the tree removed but, if it is dangerous to the children and if there is a possibility of the limbs falling off the tree on to the children in the yard, they are anxious that it be removed. Will the Minister of Education arrange for an expert to inspect the tree as a matter of urgency to see whether there are any dangerous limbs on it and, if there are, to make sure that the tree is made safe for the children playing under it?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: When the member started to talk about the tree, I thought it might be a sugar gum because, increasingly in our schools, permission is being requested for sugar gums to be removed because they are a menace in many school-yards. However, I can understand the concern of the honourable member and residents of the district to keep the tree if that is at all possible. I will call for a report to see what can be done to preserve it but, if it is dangerous, I am afraid that we will have to remove it.

#### ELECTORAL REPORT

Mr. HUDSON: On July 2, I asked the Premier whether any amendment to section 7 of the Electoral Districts (Redivision) Act was contemplated as a result of the report of the electoral commission where it drew attention to the problem with respect to Garden Island and Torrens Island. In reply, the Premier said:

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.

As it is almost four weeks since I asked my question, can the Premier say whether or not the Government has reached finality on this fairly simple matter?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: True, it is nearly four weeks since the honourable member asked his question, but I thought that he would have been told the Government's intention by now.

Mr. Hudson: No.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Apparently, the honourable member has not. I consulted my colleagues, and we agreed to introduce legislation to remedy this defect. However, as we did not want to open up lengthy debate on the issue, I asked the Leader of the Opposition whether it would meet with the Opposition's approval if a simple amendment were to be considered. I pointed out that I would show the Bill to the Leader or his Deputy before it was introduced in the form of a simple amendment which I hoped would not attract debate. In addition we did not wish to open up again the subject matter of distribution, especially at this time when the commission is still deliberating.

After considering the matter, the Leader replied that this was a procedure satisfactory to him. The Bill is now being drafted and will be shown to the Opposition before it is introduced. It is in the simplest of terms that will be sufficient to cover the point which has been raised by the honourable member and brought to the Government's notice.

#### FINDON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. BROOMHILL: Last week the Minister of Education announced that a new wing was being added to the Henley High School, an addition which naturally meets with my approval, because it will mean that some of the existing timber classrooms may be removed from the schoolgrounds. The Minister said that the new wing was necessary because of increased enrolments during the past few years, and that 1,330 students were estimated to be

attending the school by 1975. I point out that about 1,400 students are attending Findon High School and that one of the many complaints being made by parents relates to the fact that the school is surrounded by wooden classrooms. This may well have some bearing on the staff problem because, no doubt, members of the staff are also unhappy about the existing situation. Has the Minister of Education considered the problem concerning the temporary classrooms at the Findon High School, and does she intend to take steps similar to those announced regarding the Henley High School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will get a report for the honourable member and bring it down for him as soon as possible.

#### TENNYSON SEWERAGE

Mr. HURST: A few weeks ago I communicated with the Minister of Works, informing him that some of my constituents, living in an area north of Hillview Avenue, and bounded by Military Road and Seaview Road, Tennyson, who were having difficulty with their septic tank systems, desired to have sewerage extended into the area. As I understand that the Minister's department has been examining the matter, will the Minister ascertain how far his officers have progressed and let me know the outcome?

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

#### UPPER MURRAY ADULT EDUCATION

Mr. ARNOLD: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Upper Murray Adult Education Centre?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Minor alterations have already been carried out to provide accommodation for the Principal's office at the Upper Murray Adult Education Centre at Renmark. A sketch plan and estimate have been prepared for two alternative schemes for proposed main alterations and renovations to the Ozone theatre building. These plans have been considered by departmental officers and are at present with the council of the centre to enable the council to give its considered views on them. A reply is expected shortly.

The scheme which is then favoured will be forwarded to the Public Buildings Department and, subject to approval of the necessary funds, it is expected that tenders might be called about six months afterwards. A sketch plan and estimate have also been prepared for new accommodation consisting of one large classroom, two "normal" size classrooms, dress-making and art/craft rooms, small library,

offices and staff facilities. The Public Buildings Department programme for this new accommodation visualizes the calling of tenders in about October of this year and, if this is achieved, the completion of the work by September, 1970.

#### CLARE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. ALLEN: It has been brought to my notice that there is a need at the Clare Primary School for an opportunity or remedial class. I understand that such a class is conducted at Gawler, Wallaroo and Port Pirie. Clare would be a suitable centre for a class of this nature, as both primary and high schools are served by school buses from a wide area of surrounding districts. Will the Minister of Education have a survey of the district made in order to ascertain how many children would be assisted by such a class and, if sufficient numbers could be obtained, would she ask the department to consider commencing soon a class of this kind at the Clare Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes.

#### MODBURY HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: On February 19 last, in reply to a question asked in the House in connection with an alternative high school site for Modbury Heights, the Minister of Education informed me that the Commissioner of Highways had been asked whether he would negotiate for the purchase of an alternative site and to exchange it for the site already held by the Education Department in section 1586, which is affected by the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report. Has the Minister anything further to report on this matter?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Advice has now been received that the Solicitor-General considers the Commissioner of Highways has no power to acquire land solely for the purpose of subsequently exchanging it. As a result of this opinion, the Education Department will now negotiate for the purchase of the alternative site, and compensation will then be sought from the Highways and Local Government Department.

#### THREE-CORNER JACK

Mr. EDWARDS: Last year I asked the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a question about three-corner jack, which is growing at the railway siding of Warrachie and at Murdinga. Indeed, this weed presents a real problem in the area, because, when trucks come into the railway

yard with loads of sheep, etc., and go away laden with superphosphate, they pick up the weed and spread it along the roadside, taking it eventually on to farms. As this weed is very hard to eradicate, will the Attorney-General ask his colleague to have the problem looked at again this year, and looked at earlier than was the case last year when the weed was killed in some places but not all, as in places it has grown again this year?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will certainly ask him to do so.

#### MURRAY BRIDGE SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: It was a delight to have the plan of the new Murray Bridge High School brought to the House a few days ago. About 30 years ago the school was known as the Murray Bridge Agricultural High School. Although in the new plan three acres of land is provided for agricultural work, it is not obvious that there is a laboratory for agricultural high school work. Will the Minister of Education see whether there is to be such a laboratory for this type of work at the new school?

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

#### POTATOES

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question about potato imports?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have the following reply from my colleague:

The Chief Horticulturist of the Agriculture Department attended a meeting with industry groups in Adelaide and agreed to submit information to the Tariff Board on the potato industry in South Australia. A detailed statement was prepared and has been sent for presentation to the board at its meeting in Melbourne. The submission covered production trends and cultural practices. A copy is available for perusal at the Agriculture Department. Arrangements were also made for the Potato Board to submit to the inquiry details of quantities marketed and prices paid to growers in recent years.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about the tonnages of potatoes imported into South Australia?

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

The following details of potato imports from Victoria, Western Australia and other sources during the period July 1, 1968, to June 30, 1969, have been furnished by the Chairman of the Potato Board:

Source	Tonnages	
	Table Potatoes	Seed Potatoes
Victoria . . . . .	5,628	1,852
Western Australia . . . . .	3,303	—
New South Wales . . . . .	1,140	—
Queensland . . . . .	2,678	—
Tasmania . . . . .	50	—

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about potatoes being brought into South Australia from Western Australia?

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

The following particulars of tonnages of table potatoes imported from Western Australia each month from July 1, 1968, to June 30, 1969, have been furnished by the Chairman of the South Australian Potato Board:

Month	Offloaded	Tons
July, 1968 . . . . .	Adelaide	470
August . . . . .	Adelaide	1,716
September . . . . .	Adelaide	755
October . . . . .	Adelaide	134
November . . . . .	Adelaide	162
December . . . . .	Adelaide	66
January to June, 1969 . . . . .	—	Nil

There is a gentleman's agreement between the South Australian and Western Australian boards, which work through the medium of the Federal Potato Co-ordination Committee, that neither board will market potatoes in the other's State without the approval of the local board.

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Lands a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question concerning a member of the Potato Board who imported potatoes from another State, contrary to an instruction or a decision made by the board?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Agriculture reports that it is a fact that a quantity of potatoes from another State was received by a firm of which a merchant member of the board was a proprietor. It is also a fact that at that time the board considered that imports of potatoes into South Australia were against the interests of marketing South Australian supplies. However, under section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution the board has no authority to issue instructions regarding interstate trading.

Mr. EVANS: Will the Minister obtain from the Minister of Agriculture the name of the State whence potatoes were imported by the merchant member or by the firm of which the merchant member of the board was proprietor?

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

Mr. EVANS: Will the Minister ask the Minister of Agriculture to ascertain from the Potato Board or from the department's own records whether potatoes have been imported from Western Australia and off-loaded at Whyalla, Port Augusta, and Port Pirie? It seems that the department has provided a reply from the Potato Board that potatoes have been off-loaded in Adelaide, whereas I am led to believe that some potatoes imported by merchants have been off-loaded in these northern towns. Will the Minister obtain that information?

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

#### ART GALLERY

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: This morning it was suggested to me that the Public Buildings Department had made an error. Knowing this department to be efficient and to be often blamed unjustly because it is not appreciated that not only does it do work for other departments but also at the request and on the instruction of other departments, I ask the Minister of Works whether it is correct that toilets at the Art Gallery that were completed only a few months ago are being demolished for rebuilding and, if that is so, why it is so.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I entirely agree with the honourable member when he says that, although the Public Buildings Department is efficient, it is often blamed in error. I will certainly inquire into the matter he has raised. As I know some work is taking place at the Art Gallery, I shall have the details examined and inform the honourable member as soon as possible.

#### WHEAT

Mr. VENNING: I refer to wheat quotas for South Australian farmers. Some growers from the district of the member for Stuart (Mr. Riches) came to see me over the weekend. They are in the Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited zone of which I am Director and which is one of the earliest harvesting areas of the State. As their crops are well advanced and their prospects are good, these growers are looking for their quotas so that they can anticipate or calculate the quantity of grain that they will have over their quotas. They are concerned that they be told their quotas so that they can prepare storage on the farm now. I know that the committee that handles quotas in South Australia is efficient,

having on it eight growers as well as representatives of C.B.H., the Agriculture Department, and the Australian Wheat Board. I know the members of the committee will do an excellent job, but, as I also know their job is most difficult, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to give his personal attention to the situation to see what progress has been made and whether the committee requires help from him?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understand that the returns from the growers were due on July 11. Until the returns were in it would not have been possible for the committee to make any firm arrangements. However, I will follow up the matter.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: In the weekend press (and this will have special interest for you, Mr. Speaker, as a representative of a wheatgrowing district) appears a long article drawing attention to the possible illegal trafficking in wheat that could take place under section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution if the wheat situation was difficult after the next harvest. Those who are involved in the wheat industry will know that, if the farmers are obliged to store wheat on their own farms, there will be a great temptation to sell wheat illegally or improperly outside the Wheat Board orderly marketing framework. Will the Minister of Lands ask his colleague whether South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited expects it will have sufficient storage available to handle the expected crop to be reaped in South Australia this year?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will refer the question to my colleague. I do not know when the crop estimate will be available, but if the Minister has any information in this respect I will ask for that, too.

#### MILLICENT RETURNING OFFICER

Mr. CORCORAN: Will the Attorney-General ascertain what steps have been taken to appoint a new Returning Officer for the Millicent District?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER SCHOOL

Mr. BURDON: As during the next few weeks students of the Mount Gambier High School will move into a nice new school, can the Minister of Education say what the department has in mind for the old school when it is vacated? Does it intend to clear the area of the present wooden buildings, and what does it intend to do with the original stone building?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I think it is more than likely that the temporary wooden buildings will be used elsewhere. Although I understand that the Regional Officer of the Education Department in Mount Gambier is to be housed in the old Mount Gambier High School solid construction building, I will confirm this by obtaining a full report, which I will probably bring down one day this week.

#### WATER RATES

Mr. CLARK: My question concerns a matter that seems to me to be similar to that contained in a question asked by the member for Hindmarsh earlier this session. A letter I have received from a constituent, when referring to his excess water bill, states:

Last year my bill for excess water was payable by July 22, 1968, while this year my bill for excess water is payable by June 25, 1969. I rang the Engineering and Water Supply Department and protested about this but was given no explanation why it should be so.

The letter continues:

To have an account such as this suddenly demanded a month early with no forewarning makes it difficult to work to a budget.

If I give the Minister of Works the name, address, and the number of the assessment of my constituent will he obtain an explanation for me?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I shall be pleased to do this. Recently, several members have drawn my attention to occurrences of this type but, on inquiry, a valid reason for the incident has been given. Some of the occurrences have been inadvertent because of the functioning of the computer, but I inform members that these instances are not likely to occur again. The member for Whyalla had information about a series of cases, but when these were investigated it was found that the postman delivering the accounts had stolen them and several cheques, and the ratepayer's first advice had been the demand notice. However, I shall be pleased to obtain the information for the honourable member and for any other members concerned in the same way.

#### WELLINGTON BRIDGE

Mr. NANKIVELL: I think my question should be directed to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, but if it concerns the Minister of Works I shall be pleased if he will reply to it. It relates to the possibility of providing a floating bridge at Wellington to replace the punt. I ask this question because of the interest shown

by the Meningie District Council in the construction of a bridge on the more southerly end of the Murray River in order to facilitate crossing by motor traffic at that point. Will the Minister concerned obtain the necessary information for me?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I suppose as Minister of Marine I am interested in this question, because the Murray River is an inland harbour. I will consider the virtues of the suggestion and ascertain whether I can help the honourable member in this matter.

#### SILO LAND

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to my recent question about the availability of land to extend wheat silos at Port Pirie?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I inform the honourable member that there is sufficient free space within the leasehold of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited at Port Pirie for extensive extensions to its silo facilities without the need for extending the present leasehold area, although this will involve certain extra expenses in handling equipment as compared with a straight-line extension of the present line of silos. A recent request by the company for additional land upon which to erect further silos (using the straight-line method) was refused partly for the above-mentioned reason but mainly because the extra area sought forms part of the very limited area behind No. 1 berth, which is the only general cargo berth at Port Pirie. This area is required for stacking and handling general cargo, in addition to which it is used for stockpiling materials for construction projects.

#### PINE PLANTINGS

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Agriculture a reply from the Minister of Forests to the question I asked on July 23 about the availability of radiata pine seeds for private individuals who wish to grow their own seedlings?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Conservator of Forests reports that small quantities of radiata pine seeds (up to 2 lb.) are now available to *bona fide* resident landowners.

#### SCHOOL TERM

Mr. HUDSON: My question concerns the term dates for the 1970 school year and, in particular, the intended commencement of the school year on February 3. This will mean a reduction of one week, I think, in the coming Christmas vacation. I believe that regulations



provide the Minister with authority to extend vacations or, indeed, to reduce them, as the appropriate regulation states:

Vacations may be extended or reduced if, in the opinion of the Minister, circumstances justify such extension or reduction.

In view of the current difficulties being experienced with the morale of teachers in South Australia, can the Minister of Education say what circumstances she considers justify the reduction of the coming Christmas vacation by one week?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be happy to explain to the honourable member the change in dates in school holidays and school terms for next year. The honourable member is probably aware that a change is necessary every seven years, otherwise the commencement of the holidays would be as late as Christmas Eve; so an exercise is always necessary to establish new school dates over that period of time. This matter is dealt with early in the year and several factors have to be considered. First, it is laid down that there shall be 203 working school days, the rest of the year being spent in weekends or holidays.

Mr. Hudson: Is that the established practice or is it laid down in regulations?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: This is the established practice. Also, we have to consider the dates of the Royal Show and university term dates. We have been asked for a considerable time to make our vacation dates conform to those in other States, and this was done at the meeting of Directors-General of Education in March this year when, with the exception of those in Queensland, all dates were brought into almost complete conformity. I have satisfied myself that every-one of the aforementioned conditions have been met. The department usually refers matters of this type to the South Australian Institute of Teachers for its comment. The institute has been pressing for a longer holiday in May, and we are hoping to move towards providing a fortnight's holiday in May, which is what teachers have requested for some time.

#### NARACOORTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: An opportunity class is needed at the Naracoorte Primary School. I understand that some officers of the Psychology Branch have had discussions with people at Naracoorte. As some young people in Naracoorte and surrounding districts require this sort of education, can the Minister of Education say what progress is being made with the investigation and whether this class is likely to be established next year?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: From time to time communities in various parts of the State request the establishment of opportunity classes, and establishment usually follows a survey made by officers of the Psychology Branch. One of the prerequisites for the establishment of such a class is a requirement about the number of children who could benefit. I know that at present several surveys are being undertaken by the Psychology Branch but, as I do not know whether they include the one to which the honourable member has referred, I will refer the matter to the Director-General for a report from the Psychology Branch. Of course, difficulty in establishing these classes is sometimes experienced in obtaining teachers who want to undertake this kind of work. It is a matter not of appointing certain people to do this work but of whether teachers want to undertake this specialized teaching.

#### GAS APPLIANCES

Mr. LANGLEY: Last Saturday I called to see a lady who, despite assurances by the South Australian Gas Company, was perturbed about happenings in other States when natural gas has been installed. A report in today's *Advertiser* states:

High-pressure salesmen working for appliance retailers have tried to convince householders that their gas equipment is obsolete.

I do not know whether this lady had a call from a salesman of this type, but such activities have been engaged in at various times and usually involve elderly citizens. This type of salesmanship is doubtful. Can the Attorney-General say whether legislation will be introduced to safeguard legitimate salesmen as well as the public, as I am sure that all other members have had many similar complaints about salesmen ignoring the ethics of salesmanship merely to get sales?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: As I have said, I think last week in reply to a question, one of the matters canvassed in the report of the Adelaide University Law School on the law relating to consumer credit and money-lending is door-to-door selling. Perhaps the circumstances which the honourable member has mentioned, and to which I saw a reference in this morning's newspaper, come broadly within this description. The matter is being considered at present but I cannot say whether legislation will be introduced. However, it would be more immediately helpful, I believe, if the honourable member would give me the name and address of the lady he has mentioned, and I shall have inquiries made about the case.

### TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Mr. RYAN: Since I have been a member representations have been made to me and by me about the installation of traffic lights and pedestrian crossings in my district and nearly always I have been told that these installations are extremely urgent, and I agree thoroughly. I have been told many times that a priority list has been drawn up because sufficient finance is not available, especially from Government and local government sources. However, at a meeting one night recently at which this matters was raised, I was told that lack of finance was not at present the main reason for the long delay in providing these installations but that the reason was that essential parts were manufactured overseas and a long delay was involved in receiving them. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether the delay is now due to the time taken in importing parts? If this is the reason, will the Attorney-General take up with the Premier the possibility of having these parts manufactured in Australia (in South Australia particularly) to give continuity of supply?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will inquire.

### COLEBROOK HOME

Mr. EVANS: My question refers to a report that Colebrook Home may close. On two occasions last evening I saw the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs being interviewed on television and, in my opinion, in both cases his answers were evasive or weak. Can the Minister give a more detailed report to the House on when Colebrook Home will be closed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I appreciate the honourable member's frank criticism of me. Normally, I try to be entirely frank on television and on every other occasion. However, on this occasion I did show (and quite rightly, I hope) some unwillingness to answer the question: in fact, I was not willing to answer the question and this is what I said, and said straight out, I hope. I hope that this is not being evasive: I was merely saying that I did not want to answer the question. Colebrook Home has been carried on for a number of years (since 1944, I think) at Eden Hills by the South Australian Branch of the United Aborigines Mission in premises leased from the Government on, I think, a five-year term. The current term is due to expire on October 31 or November 1 of this year. The Minister of

Lands, who is the formal landlord, has given notice that the lease will not be renewed. Since that notice was given I have had discussions with representatives of the U.A.M. and I have offered to allow the lease to run on (that is, to continue, but not on a fixed term) until the premises or, more properly, the site is required for some other purpose by the Aboriginal Affairs Department or the Social Welfare Department. That offer is at present being considered by U.A.M. and, that being so, I see no good reason for making public the reasons that prompted the advice I received from both departments not to recommend to the Minister of Lands that the lease be renewed. I very much hope that the U.A.M. will accept the offer that I have made on behalf of the Government to allow the lease to run on, and I do not want to do anything at this stage that would prejudice the mission's consideration of my offer. That is why I have declined to give the full facts of the case. I do not think it would help to do so: in fact, I think it would be unhelpful in the present circumstances.

### MEAT MARKETING

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my question about meat marketing and the membership of the committee established?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Agriculture has forwarded to me the following letter, signed by the Auditor-General:

The Meat Industry Advisory Committee was set up by Cabinet as an advisory committee to the Minister of Agriculture to make an examination of all aspects of the organization of the meat industry in the State, to examine the effects of country-killed meat coming to the metropolitan area from slaughterhouses, other than those inspected by the Department of Primary Industry, to suggest any variation considered desirable to the present form of organization of the industry, and to advise on any changes of legislation considered desirable as the result of such examination. Included in the above is an examination of the legislation relating to all abattoirs in the State and health matters associated with the industry. The committee consists of the Auditor-General (Mr. G. H. P. Jeffery) as Chairman, Mr. M. L. Dennis (Chairman of the Public Service Board), and Mr. J. R. Dunsford (Director of Lands). The committee is being assisted in its operations by Sir Edgar Bean, formerly Parliamentary Draftsman. Any interested party in the State was invited by advertisement or approach to give evidence before the committee. These hearings are still continuing and should be completed in about one month. It is expected that the report will be submitted to the Minister about the end of September.

## WEEDS

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my question of July 2 regarding the appointment of a weeds officer for the far western district of Eyre Peninsula?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Director of Agriculture, who is also Chairman of the Weeds Advisory Committee, reports that the matter of the appointment of a weeds adviser for areas on Eyre Peninsula outside district council boundaries has been discussed by the Weeds Advisory Committee, following strong representations made by the Streaky Bay, Murat Bay, and Franklin Harbour District Councils. The committee agreed that there should be periodic weed inspections in those areas outside of council boundaries that are being farmed. It was also considered that in these areas weed control should be carried out along major roads for a sufficient distance to provide reasonable protection for the local government districts. It has not yet been decided whether this work would be better handled by the appointment of a Government weeds officer or by working through the local authorized officer. The committee has asked one of its members resident on Eyre Peninsula and the Senior Weeds Adviser of the Department of Agriculture (Mr. A. F. Tideman) to investigate the matter, and a meeting with the Western Eyre Peninsula Weeds Board is planned for August 5, when field inspections will be made. I expect that in due course the Weeds Advisory Committee will submit to me its report and recommendation, which will receive my earnest consideration.

Mr. EDWARDS: This question concerns the weed problem existing not only on Eyre Peninsula but along many of the roads throughout the State. I should like to know why landowners should be held responsible for weeds growing along roads abutting their properties when many of those weeds are spread by men working in maintenance gangs on these roads and by the presence of the road graders commonly used. These graders are able to spread weeds, because they pick them up and push them along from one part of the road to another, and seeds, which are often picked up and which adhere to one particular part of the grader, are usually dropped farther along the road. Another problem relates to the spreading of soursofs on Eyre Peninsula through people obtaining parcels of trees and plants from Adelaide nurseries.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is debating this question, and I cannot allow him to continue. He must direct his question.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am sorry if I am doing that, Sir. At present, it costs the landholder who lives alongside a three-chain road and whose property extends for some distance along that road between \$75 and \$100 a year to have this weed problem kept under control. People who do roadside work for councils charge \$6.50 an hour to do the work, and to treat boxthorn bushes they charge \$1 an hour. This can add up to a great sum of money. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport this question: why should weeds on the roadside be the responsibility of landowners when these are public highways and many of the weeds are spread by members of the public as they travel along these highways?

The SPEAKER: Order! I cannot allow that question to be answered, as it calls for an opinion.

## CHURCH HALL

Mr. CLARK: I quote from a letter I have received:

May I bring to your notice the plight of our association, which is "The Apostolic Church of Australia". About 170 children attend our Sunday school classes in the North Downs Residents Association Hall at Elizabeth Downs. Of these, 60 children attend youth work on Friday nights. Unfortunately, this hall is not available for our use any more, so we need emergency accommodation. We appeal to you, as our State member of Parliament, to help us in our dilemma, as we feel that you are the only person who can help us by approaching the Housing Trust to obtain some type of temporary hall or hut. We have our own block of land on which to place a temporary building. We do appeal to you to help us in this emergency. We are prepared to pay all expenses for the removal of any temporary building and will undertake to take full responsibility for it while it is on loan.

I have no knowledge of this church, except that it is a Christian church and that I was visited shortly after I received the letter by three young men representing the church, with whom I was most impressed. It seems to me that, if the church could possibly get the use of a Nissen hut that was not being used (or something of that nature), it could carry on its work. At the moment, it is forced to work in a number of private houses. Will the Minister of Housing look into this matter with the trust to see whether this church can possibly be helped?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: If the honourable member would be good enough to let me have the letter and confer with me about it, I will inquire to see what can be done.

### RIDGEHAVEN SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: On April 11, 1968, the Public Works Committee recommended the construction of a primary school at Ridgehaven, at an estimated cost of \$285,000, and construction of this school is now well advanced. Land which adjoins the school and which is owned by Messrs. R. G. and D. W. Lokan has been subdivided as a result of approval given by the city of Tea Tree Gully and the Director of Town Planning in November and December, 1968, respectively. This plan extends from Highland Drive through to Lila Crescent. The matter I raise concerns access to this school from the southern end. In April, I spoke by telephone to officers of the Education and Public Buildings Departments and drew their attention to the need for access from the southern end. I was told that consideration would be given to the placing of a hand gate at the south-east corner of the school's boundary fence facing Lila Crescent but that, as two departments were involved, a clear indication that this would be done could not be given. I seek from the Minister of Education an assurance that such action will be taken.

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

### ROLLING STOCK

Mr. VENNING: I refer to a question I asked on September 24, 1968. On that occasion, tenders had been called for standard gauge rolling stock of steel and aluminium and the contract had, at that stage, been let to the South Australian Railways, which had tendered for steel containers. In the meantime, the authorities decided to call further tenders for standard gauge rolling stock, including bulk trucks for grain, etc., in steel. When I asked my question last year, I was told that, following the receipt of tenders, a recommendation had been made to the Commonwealth authorities that the order be given to the South Australian Railways for manufacture in steel, as its price was the most favourable received for construction using this material. However, the Minister for Shipping and Transport directed that tenders be recalled, specifying steel construction only. Tenders have closed but a decision has not yet been made as to whom the order will be given. Can the Minister representing the Minister of Roads and Transport say to whom this order has been given and what are the quantities of the various types of rolling stock in connection with the contract?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will try to find out.

### LARGS NORTH SCHOOL

Mr. HURST: Parents of children attending the Largs North Primary School are concerned about (indeed, they are irate at) the lack of teachers and the number of multiple classes being conducted in that school. There is one class comprising 24 grade 7 and 14 grade 6 pupils, totalling 38; a class comprising 21 grade 6 and 18 grade 5 pupils, totalling 39; a class comprising 25 grade 5 and 12 grade 4 pupils, totalling 37; a class consisting of 28 grade 4 and 10 grade 3 pupils, totalling 38; another grade 3 class consisting of 40 pupils; a grade 2 class with 39; and a further mixed class with 22 grade 2 and 17 grade 1 students, totalling 39. There is also a class of 40 grade 1 pupils who are at three different levels of teaching, and there is a further mixed class of grade 1 pupils comprising 16 who began in the February intake and 20 who began in the mid-year intake. I understand that the numbers in these multiple classes are contrary to the instructions which the department has laid down as being desirable in mixed classes. Will the Minister of Education do all she can to see that additional teachers are sent to this school? I understand that an application was made in June for an additional teacher and, had that teacher been made available at the time, four of these multiple classes would have been unnecessary.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The honourable member's question relates to a situation that has been brought to my attention in a letter received from a parent of a child attending the school. I thought it quite likely that I would be asked a question by him today on this matter and, although I have sent a letter to the parent concerned, it may be of interest if I reply in the House to the points he has raised. I have received a report on the matter from the Director of Primary Education. Although the enrolment at Largs North has recently increased to 346, the staff of nine assistant teachers and a headmaster without full-time class responsibility is in accordance with the staffing scale at present in use. The average class size of 38.4 compares favourably with that in schools with a similar enrolment. We are doing everything we can to bring down the class sizes in our schools.

The implication that children in double grades are educationally handicapped cannot be accepted. Modern teaching techniques and curricula are such that teaching is directed towards individuals and small groups of children rather than towards the class unit as a whole. Under such conditions, a child in a double grade is not at a disadvantage in any

way. As teacher resources have been appreciably reduced by resignations and retirements since the commencement of the school year, it would not be possible to appoint another assistant to Largs North Primary School at present without creating a greater teaching problem at another school. In these circumstances, it is not intended to increase the staff at Largs North unless the enrolment rises later in the year. The position will, of course, be reviewed when appointments for 1970 are made. I can add much regarding this matter of teacher shortages, but I think I have already done so in the information I gave last week when I was replying to a question that had been asked about the matter. However, the information I have just given has been supplied in a letter to the parent who drew my attention to the situation existing at the Largs North Primary School.

#### SEACOMBE ROAD

Mr. HUDSON: For some time Seacombe Road in my district has been in urgent need of reconstruction. I have been informed that the Highways Department has now allocated subsidies to the Brighton and Marion councils for reconstructing this particular road, which is in a poor condition. I have also been informed that this work is likely to be delayed, and has already been delayed to some extent, by the Engineering and Water Supply Department's not having completed a sewerage drain that is to be installed on this road. Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether my information is correct and, if it is, will he take steps to ensure that the necessary work to be carried out by the department is undertaken with a minimum of further delay?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will inquire for the honourable member.

#### PRICES

Mr. McKEE: Has the Treasurer a reply to my question of last week about the staff of the Prices Branch?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The present staff of the Prices Branch numbers 34 (including four females and two juniors). At July 1 last year there was a staff of 37. Three officers who either retired or resigned since then were not replaced. The Prices Commissioner did not seek replacements for these officers. It is unlikely that there will be any large reduction in the staff, as some of the activities of the branch (for example, the number and variety of complaints from members of the public concerning overcharges and misleading practices) have grown in recent years.

#### CATERING COURSE

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Last evening at Edwardstown I addressed an enthusiastic meeting at which one of the folk asked me what provision was made for courses in catering at the Institute of Technology and whether the Minister of Education planned to expand this field of instruction. Can the Minister get me this information?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am rather divorced from culinary activities these days. Of course, the Institute of Technology is an autonomous institution, as the honourable member probably knows. Although I believe there is a course in institutional cooking at the institute, I shall have much pleasure in ascertaining from the institute the extent of this course and whether it contemplates establishing a course in catering.

#### GRAIN

Mr. CASEY: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question regarding the payment made by the Australian Wheat Board to South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited for the storage of wheat and barley?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The co-operative states that no attempt is made to fix storage and handling charges on a "per bushel" basis. Both the Australian Wheat Board and the Australian Barley Board reimburse the bulk handling authority on a monthly basis for actual costs incurred in storing and handling their grain.

Mr. CASEY: Will the Treasurer obtain for me the exact figure of the capital facilities allowance (C.F.A.) for the previous 12 months, so that I may have some idea of the sum the Australian Wheat Board paid to the co-operative for storing its grain, and also what the Australian Barley Board paid for storing barley?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The annual report of the co-operative recently came into my hands. However, I have not read it yet, nor do I know whether the honourable member has seen it. I do not know whether that report gives this information, but I will try to obtain it.

#### WATER STORAGEES

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister of Works obtain for me details of the present storages in the reservoirs in the upper reaches of the Murray River and the Menindee lakes?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will try to have a report for the honourable member this week.

### SCHOOL SUBSIDIES

Mrs. BYRNE: When the Labor Government was elected to office in 1965 it was noticed that those State schools that first applied for subsidy and were generally better equipped were getting the best cut of the cake. Consequently, a distribution scheme was introduced, the amount of subsidy for a particular school being decided on the enrolments and on any special project being undertaken, with special consideration being given to new schools with their additional needs. When the school's allocation was decided, the school committee or council could spend up to the limit of the allocation instead of submitting applications for additional sums of subsidy throughout the year. Expenditure could be made only on approved items. If a school did not desire to take up its full allocation, the unused balance was distributed to other schools which could use, and desired to use, more than their original allocation. In addition to revenue funds being supplied for subsidies, the Labor Government introduced the provision of Loan funds on a liberalized basis for assembly halls, swimming pools, change rooms, and canteens. Can the Minister of Education say whether this is still the policy of the present Government or whether a change has been made?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: To the best of my knowledge, there has been no change in policy, but as the honourable member's question is quite involved I will get a report for her.

### WARNING DEVICES

Mr. BURDON: Often in the past I have asked that protective devices be provided at railway crossings in Mount Gambier at Pick Avenue, Crouch Street and Commercial Street West. Serious accidents have occurred at these crossings and, as I do not want to see another accident, I should appreciate it if the Attorney-General would ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether money could be provided in this year's Estimates to provide these necessary safety facilities.

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

### AIRCRAFT NOISE

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about having research conducted into aircraft noise at the Adelaide Airport?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I have received from the Commonwealth Minister for Civil Aviation (Hon. R. W. Swartz) the following letter:

I am very conscious of the problem as it affects Adelaide Airport and other major capital city airports of the Commonwealth. I think it will assist you if I outline what is being done in a practical way now to alleviate the problem, and other noise abatement activity which I hope will produce results in the more distant future. My department has done a great deal towards noise alleviation by way of restricting the hours of operation of jet aircraft and engine ground running during the late night and early hours of the morning and by the application of operational noise abatement procedures. The scheduling of jet aircraft operations at Adelaide Airport is not permitted between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., except in special circumstances, in which case specific approval for each flight is required. In-frame engine running is restricted to between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. or, if an operator considers there is a justifiable need for engine running outside these hours, related to the safety of scheduled services, the arrangements provide for this to be done under conditions which cause least disturbance to people living close to the airport: for example, run-up in a remote part of the airport.

Pilots of jet aircraft maintain take-off power during the initial climb phase to gain height as quickly as possible in the interests of noise alleviation. The aircraft climb on runway centre line heading to a height of about 800 feet before reducing power and turning on to course. Experience has indicated that this "steep" climb technique is preferable to a slower climb rate, from the noise alleviation point of view. Night training activity is not permitted after 9 p.m. at Adelaide Airport. Subject to favourable weather and traffic conditions, aircraft taking off do so in a south-westerly direction, which means that the initial climb is conducted over relatively lightly-populated and water areas. Jet aircraft are required to maintain runway heading until three miles from the end of the runway before turning on to course for their destination aerodrome. This allows them to assume a reasonably high altitude before they pass over the more heavily built-up areas if the particular air route is so orientated. The runway used for this purpose is runway 23, designated as the preferred runway for take-off. There are occasions, of course, when conditions do not permit use of this direction for take-off, but records indicate that it accommodates about 80 per cent of the total jet aircraft departures.

The preferred runway for landings is the reciprocal direction (runway 05) to the north-east. This provides for approaches over the water and the land area referred to earlier whenever conditions are favourable for use of this direction. The records show that on the average about 30 per cent of jet aircraft landings are accommodated on runway 05. In the context of jet operations at Adelaide Airport, it appears that about six or seven of the total 16 jet movements a day would use runways for take-off and landing other than the preferred runways. As indicated earlier, this is dictated by traffic and wind conditions that do not permit the selection of preferred runways.

I think you will be aware that a House of Representatives Select Committee was appointed to investigate all aspects of the aircraft noise problem in Australia and, in due

course, the committee will make its report to the Government. Without in any way prejudging the committee's deliberations, I feel sure that the legal aspects of noise control will receive due consideration. You may recall that the committee heard evidence from Adelaide witnesses during May last. Quite apart from the committee's investigation, the legal position regarding noise control measures is being pursued independently by my department but I am not in a position at the present time to comment on the possibility of Commonwealth legislation being introduced or the effects of any such legislation *vis-a-vis* the powers of State authorities.

My department is also co-operating with oversea aviation administrations in noise abatement activity. Representatives of the department will attend a world-wide meeting to be convened by the International Civil Aviation Organization in November next. The meeting will develop guidance material for application by aviation administrations throughout the world, and I have no doubt that a great deal of useful information will flow from that meeting which will assist us here in Australia with our aircraft noise problems. In the meantime, I can assure you that everything possible is being done by my department's officers at Adelaide to keep the problem under control.

#### MEMBER'S REMARKS

Mr. HUDSON: I ask a question of the member for Stirling. Last week, in my absence, certain remarks, supposedly made in an alleged conversation said to have taken place between me and the member for Stirling, were attributed to me by the member for Light. These remarks attributed to me referred to other members on this side. The remarks of the member for Light were withdrawn but, because I think it is desirable that there should be a correct record in relation to the debates of Parliament, will the member for Stirling confirm the fact that his colleague's statement concerning the alleged remarks I was supposed to have made to him, and he to the member for Light, were in fact not true?

The SPEAKER: Order! Before the honourable member replies I should say that, generally, questions of this nature are not considered to be in order, but as this is a matter of public interest I think I should allow the question on this ground. Does the member for Stirling desire to reply?

Mr. McANANEY: I have the member for Wallaroo continually misquoting me in the House. I have now asked the member for Light not to misquote me again in the House.

The SPEAKER: Has the member for Light noted that reply?

#### PENCILS

Mrs. BYRNE: Pencils are provided in polling booths by the Electoral Department for voting at Parliamentary elections. As it has been suggested to me that the pencils should be replaced by ball-point pens (there is not much difference today in the cost if that is the main consideration) will the Attorney-General consider this suggestion?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will examine it.

#### THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Attorney-General has been good enough to inform me that he has a reply to a question I asked recently about third party insurance. As I would be grateful if he would give me that information, would he do so now?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am indeed happy to give the reply to the honourable member. Exemption from stamp duty on registration or on the third party insurance certificate is granted, not because that applicant is limbless, but upon the Registrar of Motor Vehicles being satisfied that in consequence of the loss by him of the use of one or both legs, he is permanently unable to use public transport. It could well be that a limbless person is able to use public transport. On the other hand, this may not be so in the case of a person with apparently sound legs but whose powers of locomotion are impaired through some other disability.

This then becomes largely a matter of opinion, and it was contemplated in legislation for such concessions that in cases that were not obvious, the opinion should be given by a medical practitioner. It was considered that statutory or other forms of declaration were not sufficient to cover all cases satisfactorily. Any expense in obtaining a certificate is only incurred on the initial claim for exemption. Further certificates are not required on renewal.

#### AIR POLLUTION

Mr. McKEE: The Premier will recall that during the last session I asked questions about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Select Committee on Air Pollution, which took evidence in this State. As the Premier has said that he will make the report available to the House as soon as it is received, will he now ask the Minister of Health whether the committee has submitted a report to the State Health Department regarding its findings on air pollution in South Australia?

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

#### CAR NUMBER PLATES

Mr. GILES: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my question about the use in Victoria of South Australian traders' plates?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: At the conference of registration authorities in Hobart in 1965 the matter of traders' plates was discussed and the conference recommended that these plates be recognized in each State for the purpose of moving an unladen and unregistered vehicle to a destination in another State. The Victorian Government, however, has refused to alter legislation to enable this agreement to be honoured in that State, despite representations from South Australia. Representations will continue to be made in an attempt to standardize this matter throughout Australia.

#### SOCIAL WORKERS

Mr. McKEE: The Minister of Social Welfare will recall that many times last session I asked him to consider appointing a permanent social worker at Port Pirie and on one occasion he told me that, when he had appointed two social workers in other country centres, he would consider such an appointment at Port Pirie. Can the Minister say whether Port Pirie will be considered soon?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am afraid I cannot hold out much hope for the honourable member.

#### SIDEBOARDS

Mr. HUDSON: Members on this side were greatly interested in the Attorney's attempt at growing sideboards and greatly disappointed, I might say, when that attempt appeared to have ceased, as it seems that the Attorney has now returned to his glabrous and, perhaps, pristine state. Various rumours have been circulating about this matter, one being that the Attorney decided to return to a glabrous state because of the kind of sideboards appearing and another being that the Premier directed that no other member of his Party was allowed to grow sideboards. Will the Premier indicate to the House whether, in future, he will adopt a facultative attitude to any anti-glabrous attempts by members of his Party?

The SPEAKER: The question is rather personal and I do not know whether I should allow it. Does the Premier wish to reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The subject is important, Mr. Speaker, but I do not know whether I should take time to reply to it. I do know that some members on both sides are more interested in growing hair on top than on the sides. I think the honourable member is in a somewhat similar category to me, in that his hair is receding, and he has adopted a much more conservative attitude that matches his reactionary politics. I assure the honourable member that it is a matter of Ministers' desires or abilities and it is no choice of mine that they are not producing something similar. I have received correspondence on this matter, one letter stating that I should act in a more conservative manner. However, I am leaving that to the honourable member and his Opposition colleagues. I intend to take a forward stance in the matter.

#### GOVERNESSES

Mr. CASEY: The Minister of Education may recall that I asked her a question some time ago regarding the allowance granted by the Commonwealth Government to people living in the outback areas of the Northern Territory who employ governesses. She may remember that she saw evidence of this firsthand when she went to Alice Springs earlier this year. When I asked my earlier question, I suggested that the Minister take up this matter in Cabinet to see whether it would consider the granting of such an allowance in South Australia. Can she say whether this matter has been considered by Cabinet? If it has not been taken to Cabinet, will she raise it soon, as many people are interested in this matter (I received a letter on it only today).

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am not sure whether, in answering the honourable member previously, I gave him the facts on this matter. I have written to the Commonwealth Minister for Education and Science, asking him to let me have details of the Commonwealth scheme and any relevant information and application forms used in applying for such an allowance. On receipt of those details, I intend to take this matter to Cabinet to see if this scheme could be extended to people who live in the Far North and employ governesses to supervise and teach their children. As soon as I have a reply I will take action in the matter, and I hope to be able to give the honourable member a reply later.



## EXCESS WATER

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS (on notice): What was the total amount received as payment for excess water for each of the financial years 1967-68 and 1968-69?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The amount received for excess water in 1967-68 was \$3,117,000 and, in 1968-69, \$3,415,000 was received.

## BARLEY

Mr. HUGHES (on notice):

1. When was the first load of barley from the 1968-69 harvest delivered to silos at Ardrossan?

2. What was the date of receipt at Ardrossan of barley in excess of 200 tons from the 1968-69 harvest?

3. Were the Ardrossan silos filled with barley from the 1968-69 harvest? If so, on what date?

4. When were the silos re-opened to receive barley?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The replies are as follows:

1. October 17, 1968.

2. October 31, 1968.

3. Yes, on December 9, 1968.

4. December 12, 1968.

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 MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: BUSINESS DIRECTORIES

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In the last few months I have had a number of complaints concerning the activities of some interstate concerns, which apparently publish business directories, namely, Commercial Classified Directory, which gives its address as a South Sydney post office box number, and Farrell Printing (Australia) Proprietary Limited and the Australian Business Index to New Zealand which give different New South Wales post office box numbers but the same address and telephone number. These concerns send out proposal or subscription notices in the form of invoices, apparently to mislead those to whom they are sent into believing that they have already incurred an obligation to pay for an entry in a directory. In one case the cost of the entry is set at \$46. Unless the recipient looks very closely at small print on the notice, he misses the endorsement to the effect that it "is a solicitation form and not a bill".

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There is, in fact, no obligation whatever incurred by the receipt of these notices. Whilst it may not be illegal to do this it is certainly sharp practice. Such complaints have been received in my department before, and my predecessor in 1967 issued a warning to the public on the matter. I now do so again and hope that the facts which I have stated and my warning against this trickery will be given wide publicity.

## ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on the motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 24. Page 472.)

Mr. FERGUSON (Yorke Peninsula): When I asked leave to continue my remarks last week, I was referring to a committee that had been set up by the previous Government to determine whether it was necessary to establish any further storage or port facility in respect of the export of grain from South Australia. The committee went to certain places and took evidence. I know that in Yorketown great interest was displayed in this matter, which was reported in the daily paper. At the hearing there, about 170 people were present, and many of them gave evidence. On that occasion, the committee commended the people who gave evidence, which was helpful in the committee's reporting to the Government at that time.

Not only did the committee go to various places and take evidence: it also took evidence from other witnesses. Among such witnesses, I think it took evidence from one person at Ardrossan and two people at Port Lincoln. I believe that the member for Wallaroo is fearful that, because the committee took evidence at Ardrossan and Port Lincoln, it might have some bearing on the decision of the committee to make the recommendation that Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln and Ardrossan should eventually become the "super" terminal ports for South Australia, but I remind the honourable member that it was his Government that set up this committee. That Government did not have to accept the committee's report, but it accepted it and announced to the world that Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln and Ardrossan would in future become the "super" terminal ports for handling grain in South Australia. The Government of the day, having adopted the report to make certain ports "super" terminals (and Ardrossan being one of these "super" terminals), I think it would be fair to

say that South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited would be justified in upgrading the storage capacity at that port.

The matter of the Select Committee inquiring into the necessity of further storage facilities was another matter of concern to the member for Wallaroo. Regarding this matter, he condemned the member for Rocky River for having had access to a report that had not been tabled in this House. He said:

The honourable member knows that I did not possess a copy of this report and that he should not have had one. 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.

He said that he got in touch with the Minister and that he demanded a report that had not been tabled, whereas a few minutes earlier he had criticized the member because he had handed the report to the member for Rocky River. I think the member for Wallaroo is making a mountain out of a molehill. After asking questions subsequent to the last one I mentioned in my remarks last Thursday, I finally asked a question of the Minister of Agriculture about the committee's report. The question I asked (at page 4220 of *Hansard*) on March 1, 1966, was as follows:

Recently I asked the Minister of Agriculture about a committee set up to inquire into terminal silos for bulk handling of grain. Can the Minister say whether a time limit was set for the presentation of the committee's report and, if it was, did the time expire yesterday?

The Minister of Agriculture replied:

No time limit was set, but I hoped to have a reply for the honourable member while the House was in session. Last week I received a report from the committee stating that it had procured all the evidence it needed and had heard everyone that wished to tender evidence. It reported that it hoped to furnish a report early in March, and I hope that that report will arrive soon.

After I had asked the Minister that question and had received that answer, it was evident to me that he did not want to table, and was not going to table, this report.

Mr. Rodda: When was that?

Mr. FERGUSON: I asked that question on March 1, 1966.

Mr. Venning: When did the Minister make the announcement about these "super" terminals?

Mr. FERGUSON: The Minister did not actually make the announcement: I think the Premier of the day announced that Port Adelaide, Ardrossan and Port Lincoln would be the "super" terminals. As I believed the Minister was not going to table his report, I approached him and asked him whether he would give me the report so that I could read and consider it. He readily agreed to my having access to it. Also, I asked him on behalf of the member for Flinders (Hon. G. G. Pearson) whether he, too, could peruse and consider the report; he readily agreed.

Had the member for Wallaroo displayed any interest in this report at the time, he, too, would have asked the Minister whether he could read and consider it, to form his own opinion about it then. The member for Wallaroo at that time was not particularly interested in this committee or in the report but, when a crisis arose in the industry in respect of storage and shipping, he made use of this report.

Mr. Rodda: He was interested in it when the member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning) had it.

Mr. FERGUSON: That is quite right; we want to be fair to everybody concerned. There are not very many matters and there is not much information to which the members of this House do not have access if they adopt the right attitude and go about it in the right way.

There is another record I should put straight. I believe the member for Wallaroo asked me to do this when he was speaking to the Address in Reply. He then said that he had been told that Mr. Saint, who was Chairman of C.B.H., had made a statement at the Zone 5 conference of the United Farmers and Graziers, held at Maitland, that a new terminal port could be established at Ardrossan at a cost of \$3,000,000. I was present at that meeting and at no time did I hear Mr. Saint make this statement. I know a report was published in the *Yorke Peninsula Times* about that meeting, in which there was the statement that a new port at Ardrossan could be established at a cost of \$3,000,000. I was amazed when I read that report, because I had heard nothing about it at the meeting.

I have been in contact with Mr. Saint, who assures me that he did not make this statement at that meeting. He could have said on that occasion that this port could be developed. Of course, he can make mistakes just as much as other people can. Perhaps he has his imperfections as other people have theirs, but he is a primary producer of great ability.

There is no person more able to make decisions on behalf of the industry that he represents than he is. The Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry paid Mr. Saint a great compliment at the opening of the United Farmers and Graziers conference last week for the great part he had played in representing the growers' interests in negotiating the last wheat agreement.

I know Mr. Saint and believe he has the ability in every field to represent the growers in that industry. He has had a wide training in business interests in one of the largest stock firms of our State and Commonwealth. He also has had great experience in practical farming, and his experience over a period of years as a member of the Australian Wheat Board in negotiating sales on behalf of growers puts him well out in front of many other people in South Australia.

As regards the establishment of Port Giles, it is constantly being said that if only we had a deep sea port we would be able to get rid of some of the surplus carry-over of grain we are likely to have this year. Only last week the member for Eyre (Mr. Edwards) said that if only we had deep sea ports in South Australia we would be better able to sell and ship more of the wheat we expected to have as a carry-over this year. But could we do this? We have been informed by grain representatives that we are getting our share of shipment regarding China sales.

As announced last week by the Minister of Marine, the Port Giles facilities will be completed by May 1, 1970. We shall then be able to boast of a deep sea port in South Australia and to see what effects this has on sales and on the shipment of grain grown in this State. Port Giles will be of great advantage to cereal growers in the southern part of Yorke Peninsula. Indeed, those growers would have been saved thousands of dollars in costs had this port been established some years earlier. Those who originally recommended and planned that Port Giles be established could well have had great foresight.

Some days ago the Premier announced that investigations were proceeding in connection with developing the salt industry on Southern Yorke Peninsula. Indeed, had Port Giles not been established as a deep sea port, the company concerned might never have started its investigations, because developing this industry in such a location would depend on the availability of a deep sea port in order to get

the salt away. The Mines Department made a geological survey of Yorke Peninsula in 1965 and, in a bulletin issued at the time, it stated that there was brine at shallow depths in the Peessy Swamp that contained 30oz. of salt a gallon, compared with 4½oz. of salt in sea-water. It is therefore easy to see why this industry is being investigated in the Peessy Swamp area.

If the negotiations being carried out come to fruition, Port Giles may become another port in South Australia at which 60,000-ton ships are able to be accommodated and loaded (and I emphasize that it may become the second port). In recent months, the first ship to be loaded with 60,000 tons or more left South Australian waters. This was the ship which I believe is called the *Endeavour* and which was commissioned in the United Kingdom by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited. This ship came out to Australia and loaded iron ore on the western side of Australia; it took that cargo to Port Kembla, and then came back to Whyalla to trade with pellets between that port and Japan.

On the first occasion that it loaded at Whyalla, this ship took on 67,000 tons, and I believe this took place in about one day. I gather this was made possible because the ship was of recent construction and because, although Whyalla has only a 34ft. berth, it has a rise and fall in tide of 9ft. to 10ft., thus enabling the ship to leave the port at high tide.

The member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes), while referring to ports, said that he had had a difference of opinion with members in another place at a meeting at Kadina concerning what it cost to dredge the port of Wallaroo on the last occasion. The honourable member claims to know what that figure was, but I have not yet seen it in print. All members of this House know perfectly well that the expenditure required for this dredging was more than the sum that could be spent unless the matter was first placed before the Public Works Committee. This matter was placed before that committee at the time, and it related to the deepening of three jetty berths from 27ft. and 28ft. to 31ft. low water; the approach channel (28ft. by 250ft.); the swinging basin (to 28ft.); and lights and buoys. The estimated cost of the dredging on that occasion was \$644,000. I cannot imagine that the actual cost of this work would have been any less than the estimate by the Public Works Committee in its report made on June 6, 1963.

During the last year the Minister of Education visited schools on Yorke Peninsula, this being the first visit that had been made to these schools for many years. I am sure the visit was appreciated by all those on Yorke Peninsula concerned with educational matters, and I am sure that much good was achieved from the point of view of not only the Minister herself but also of those associated with the schools there. Many matters of particular interest to those connected with schools on Yorke Peninsula were considered. At present, students attending Yorke Peninsula schools do not have the advantage of a Matriculation class, because such a class is not conducted in any of these schools. However, I believe that in the coming year, through the co-operation of the various area schools and the high school on Yorke Peninsula, it will be possible for students on Yorke Peninsula to undertake a Matriculation course.

People on the peninsula are also interested in the provision of agricultural education. Indeed, the peninsula being a primary-producing centre, it would lend itself to the provision by the department of this type of education. Those concerned are particularly anxious that an agricultural course be made available soon to students in my district. The member for Albert (Mr. Nankivell) had something to say about the course being provided at the Urrbrae Agricultural High School and about the type of agricultural education provided in Western Australia for boys interested in this training. My thoughts are not quite the same as those of the member for Albert, who said that he did not see any necessity to establish in South Australia the sort of system operating in Western Australia.

However, I believe that this system could be adopted to advantage. Many boys who live in the remote parts of the State desire to be able to obtain agricultural education similar to that provided by the Education Department in Western Australia. As a matter of fact, some parents in my own electoral district have considered sending their boys to Western Australia for agricultural education. However, it is not easy to gain entry into one of these agricultural high schools in Western Australia; this shows how popular they are. There are five such boarding high schools in various parts of Western Australia, so boys requiring agricultural education can get it. Although I realize that, because of the fictitious price of land here, it would be very difficult to set up this type of school in South Australia, I believe that in

more remote areas land could be acquired at a reasonable price so that boys requiring this type of education could benefit from it.

I said earlier that the Minister of Education had a most enjoyable time when visiting schools on Yorke Peninsula. However, she did not go through the area unscathed; at every school we visited we heard complaints concerning the co-operation and co-ordination of the Public Buildings Department. I do not intend to make unjust criticisms, but I know that every member is concerned about certain happenings in the Public Buildings Department. I wish to refer to a particular case at Yorketown. Last year finance was approved for renovations and additions at the Yorketown Area School; among them were new toilet blocks. When we visited the school members of the school committee told us that on three different occasions representatives of the Public Buildings Department had inspected the site but, after the first inspection, each of the other representatives did not know that the site had previously been inspected.

I was recently asked to inspect school residences at Maitland, which are in great disrepair. Requests had been made about this matter 12 months previously, but no reply had been received from the Public Buildings Department. Last week the member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Burdon) eulogized the previous Government for having established regional centres throughout the State for the Public Buildings Department and other departments, but I do not think they have been of great advantage. In their early stages some of these centres were understaffed, and the staff members in charge of them spent more of their time answering telephone calls than making inspections of matters needing attention. So, I cannot see that setting up these regional centres represents a very great advance. I trust that the Minister of Works will do what he can to remedy the present situation, and I hope that there will be a little more co-ordination and co-operation by the Public Buildings Department. I support the motion.

Mr. HURST (Semaphore): In supporting the motion, I extend to His Excellency Sir James Harrison and Lady Harrison my good wishes for the very important appointment they have received. The member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) and I escorted the Governor and his wife around our districts to familiarize them with two of the best districts in South Australia—Semaphore and Port Adelaide.

Our Governor is well qualified and I have no doubt that he will carry out his duties with the utmost dignity. I express my sympathy to the families of the late Senator Keith Laught, the Hon. Clarence Goode, the Hon. Robert Richard Wilson, Mr. Hector Burnard White and Mr. Even Ernest George, all of whom rendered honourable service to this State.

His Excellency's Speech dealt with many matters, some of which have been dealt with and some of which are to be dealt with by the Government this session. Some of the matters are important, and some were commenced by the previous Government. Any Government in this State undoubtedly has a tremendous task. Some of the Ministers, through paucity of funds, often find it difficult to carry out the work they are allotted. However, they bring about some of their problems themselves through pursuing the political policies that they follow.

At election time they make promises and align themselves with their colleagues in other places, and they try to influence the people and gain votes by kidding about what they will do, but when they attain the responsibility of office and when they are asked questions they give irrelevant replies.

While the Minister of Education is present, I believe I should refer to some of the problems facing schools in my district. There is no question but that education is becoming a greater problem every day. I have said previously in the House that the Commonwealth Government should face up to its obligations and allocate a greater sum towards education. If the Ministers concentrated their attack on the Commonwealth authorities, instead of trying to cover up some of the problems by quoting statistics that do not reflect the actual position, they would do a greater service to the people of South Australia than they are doing. In the five years I have been a member, I have never encountered so much discontent over lack of facilities, too few teachers and the lack of other provisions in our schools. I believe it is the duty of every member to raise this matter, emphasizing to the Minister the education situation in South Australia.

Only this afternoon I raised with the Minister the question of multiple classes and a lack of teachers at the Largs North Primary School. I asked that assistance be provided to try to relieve some of the strain on teachers, who are doing the best they can in the circumstances. I believe this sort of thing will lead to further resignations from the depart-

ment, and this will aggravate the situation still further. The figures I have quoted of numbers in classes are, to the best of my knowledge, accurate. I believe these matters must be brought to the Minister's attention constantly and that the Minister, in turn, should bring them to the notice of the Commonwealth authorities. We know that many teachers have resigned. Although I do not know the full ramifications of the Education Department, I know of schoolteachers who are resigning to go to Canada and to take positions in other industries. It may be that, to bridge this gap, the services of some retired teachers will have to be enlisted. Something will have to be done to relieve the undue strain being placed on teachers.

I want to refer to the Taperoo Primary School, which has comprised only temporary buildings for the last 15 years. It has been the subject of correspondence to the press to which the Minister replied. People in my district rightly claim that they are getting a pretty shoddy deal with regard to education. All the classrooms in this primary school are of wooden construction, and the shelter shed is not sufficiently large to accommodate all the students.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Will the honourable member be seated? I draw attention to the state of the House, and I ask the Clerk to ring the bells.

*A quorum having been formed:*

Mr. HURST: The Minister replied to the letter in the press regarding the overcrowding and damp, smelly and draughty conditions at the Taperoo Primary School. Whether children come from Taperoo, Largs North, Largs Bay or anywhere else, they are human beings and are entitled to facilities equally as good as in any other district. It is just not good enough continually to be given excuses in relation to this matter. The Minister is in charge of the department and her responsibility is to see that these matters are dealt with. Replying to the question to which I have referred, the Minister said that the school was built in 1953 with 12 timber classrooms at a time of unprecedented expansion when it was not possible to meet urgent needs in solid construction. This was not possible in 1953, and this school is still waiting for solid construction buildings. Why should this area be singled out to put up with prefabricated classrooms for all these years? The press report of the Minister's reply states:

"In 1963 an infants school of eight classrooms in solid construction together with a

large activity room and administrative facilities was built," she said. "A pre-cast concrete craft centre has been built at the school, and facilities for a library and activity room have also been provided." Mrs. Steele said that for some time the department had been considering the replacement of the prefabricated rooms—

this has been going on since 1953—

with a solid construction building, but priorities for new schools and other urgent replacements had delayed new buildings for primary-grade children. "Plans and specifications were begun some months ago with a view to calling tenders early in 1970 for new buildings to replace the timber rooms," Mrs. Steele added.

Although that states that plans have been started, just what is being done? So often in this Chamber we are told that plans and specifications are being drawn up and that tenders are being called, but we want to hear that the actual jobs have been commenced. I think it was last year that the Public Works Committee investigated the building of a high school at Royal Park, reporting in favour of the school. The report stated that it was expected that the school would be opened in February, 1970, with 200 pupils and that the number would increase to 430 in 1971, to 660 in 1972, to 800 in 1973, and to 900 in 1974. In reply to a question I asked about this matter, I was told that plans and specifications were being prepared and that tenders would be called. This is another school that is urgently needed in my district in order to alleviate the present situation, but from developments that have occurred one can expect that by the time the school is opened the demand for accommodation will be so great that what is provided will be out of date.

Mr. McKee: The Government is out of date.

Mr. HURST: Of course: it is deteriorating. The position has become worse, and there is, indeed, a crisis in this State. Because of the size of the district I represent and the demands made on my services, I seldom have the opportunity to see television, but a few evenings ago I watched on television a teacher from the Education Department. This teacher said that action would be taken to raise money from their own salaries in order to draw the attention of the public to the deplorable situation existing in education in this State. It is not good enough. We have not improved. I shall not enumerate the achievements of the Labor Government when in office but, obviously, as a result of the change in policy with a change of Government, and the fumbling and fiddling

around, coupled with the indecision of the person responsible (namely, the Minister), the position is getting worse. We have read of the present situation at the Findon High School, which, although not in my district, has many children of my constituents attending it. Evening after evening I receive telephone calls from people complaining about the difficulties under which these children have to work. Most members have received a letter from the Findon High School Staff Association, signed by its President.

Mr. McKee: I have received letters from every school association in South Australia, not only that one. I have even received one from the United Farmers & Graziers Association.

Mr. HURST: I will speak later about that organization's correspondence. The association at the Findon High School considers that classes are too large and that generally the beneficial class size is 30 pupils or less. But what is the situation today? Not a single class has fewer than 30 pupils. With this appalling situation, it is obvious why teachers resign.

Mr. McKee: Who would want to work under these appalling conditions?

Mr. HURST: The conditions are appalling. Last Sunday a young trainee teacher living in my district told me that it cost her \$8 a week for fares on public transport. The present Government, of course, is responsible for the high cost of fares. How does the Minister of Education expect to encourage people to join the staff of the department when it pays a mere pittance as a salary on which these people are expected to live? These trainees may have to ask their parents for assistance. Education is a responsibility of the nation and not of individuals, and something must be done to overcome the present situation. The lack of facilities, the lack of staff, and the lack of training for staff to take the necessary classes, are legitimate complaints that must be considered by the Minister. I believe the Minister has been told to cut down expenses in order to help balance the Budget.

Mr. Broomhill: It is not entirely all her fault.

Mr. McAnaney: Why didn't you increase your percentage each year on education? You didn't do any better with education than you did with other things, and you should be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. HURST: It seems that the Minister of Education is receiving instructions from outsiders, because I was not aware that the member for Stirling was responsible for education.

If this is taking place, the sooner the Minister realizes that she is being led up the garden path by some Government back-benchers who do not know, the better it will be.

Mr. McAnaney: Why didn't you lead your Minister on the golden path?

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order! The honourable member for Semaphore.

Mr. HURST: I appreciate the protection you are giving me, Sir. Obviously, Government members are trying to use strong-arm tactics to stop me from saying what I intended to say. The truth hurts, and it is evident that some Government members cannot take it.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: Rubbish!

Mr. HURST: The Minister of Works should be patient, because I intend to tell him about some of his responsibilities and obligations.

Mr. Clark: And about time, too.

Mr. HURST: I have had much regard for the Minister of Works, but recently he has been trying to pull the wool over the eyes of some of us. This will be a golden opportunity for me to give him some constructive suggestions and advice about his obligations as Minister in charge of his departments. I, like the member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson), often become concerned about the lack of foresight in planning school buildings. I was disgusted at the state of the buildings at Taperoo, and I should be grateful if the Minister would look at some of the buildings in my district.

Mr. McAnaney: How many hundreds of schools has she looked at already?

Mr. Rodda: I think the member for Semaphore is misrepresenting the member for Yorke Peninsula.

Mr. HURST: The Minister is obliged to look at schools in every district: no particular district should get preference. I will not be brushed off by these answers. Schools are receiving very shoddy treatment. It is all right for the Minister to go to schools in areas where people are flush with money and provide facilities, but I represent a working-class district, a responsible district, comprising people who are entitled to as much consideration as are the people of the District of Stirling. The case presented by members in this House shows clearly that the Minister just does not understand. Indeed, she is not competent at making decisions. We have only to consider what happened regarding giving leave to children so that they could see on television the landing on the moon. When

the Minister was asked the position about granting this leave, she called for a report and decided to leave the matter to individual headmasters.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: That's quite wrong, and you know it.

Mr. HURST: The Minister was reported in the press as having said she would leave the decision to headmasters.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: Of course I made a decision, and I conveyed it to the radio stations.

Mr. HURST: Even the newspapers that are always taking the part of the Liberal and Country League have been critical of the indecision in this matter. It was not a fair go to the headmasters. No wonder the Education Department cannot hold staff, when the people in charge are not competent to make decisions and do not give a fair go.

Mr. Rodda: You are making a shocking statement.

Mr. HURST: The statement in the *News* can be checked, and the Minister knows what has happened. What about the cartoon in the *Advertiser*, depicting a person with a rabbit's teeth and a rabbit's ears? This shows that newspaper's opinion of the ability of the Minister of Education and her failure to give decisive instructions to schools about what to do. The people of South Australia are extremely annoyed.

Mr. Rodda: That's not true.

Mr. HURST: They definitely are, and what has happened reflects no credit on the Minister, because decisions must be made in such a way that people who have to understand them and carry them out will not be faced with chaos.

Mr. Broomhill: But you aren't singling out the Minister of Education, are you?

Mr. HURST: I am not singling out any Minister, and I do not engage in personalities, but I am telling the Ministers about their responsibilities to the people of South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order! The honourable member for Semaphore.

Mr. HURST: Thank you, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker. I am pleased that you are trying to maintain the dignity of this Chamber. I am often appalled at what happens here. We are told to conduct ourselves properly and carry out our business in a dignified manner but, because of lack of dignity in the right place, members are becoming utterly disgusted

and are losing respect for the people holding high positions. I commend you, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, in this regard.

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Will the honourable member please address himself to the motion?

**Mr. HURST:** I appreciate your task, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, in trying to convince some members on your side of the House what ought to be done. I am sympathetic towards you, as are most other members on this side. Everything that comes from this side is designed to help you rather than hinder you, because we realize that you are being constructive on this matter.

I refer now to hospitalization in South Australia, which comes within the administration of the Chief Secretary and Minister of Health. I want to refer particularly to the long delay being experienced by my constituents and others in getting admission to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Upon receiving complaints from medical practitioners in my district, I wrote to the Chief Secretary, asking that something be done to avoid the delay experienced by people who need eye treatment. Some of these people are pensioners who have given to this State the best years of their lives, and they deserve as much respect as do any other citizens. The mere fact that they are pensioners does not mean that they should be pushed aside, turned out to tether, as a horse is let go, and not given the attention that they deserve. People have experienced delays of up to 12 months in getting specialist eye treatment, and I think it appropriate to place on record the Chief Secretary's reply to my letter. This states:

I refer to your letter dated May 13, regarding the waiting period for appointments with eye specialists at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Reports received reveal that in each case the hospital authorities are aware of the delays being experienced in dealing with all persons requiring an outpatient consultation at an eye clinic and not only to pensioners and that, furthermore, every effort has been and is continuing to be made in conjunction with the honorary eye surgeons to seek a solution to the problem. However, the situation is most complex as will be demonstrated by the following points:

1. The number of patients currently being seen by each honorary eye surgeon at an outpatient clinic is substantially greater than normal and cannot continue to be coped with at this level.

2. The number of persons seeking attention continues to increase particularly as it is now almost inevitable that any pensioner requiring spectacles seeks an appointment at a public hospital eye clinic.

3. It has not been possible to fill several honorary positions in the respective eye departments.

4. In an attempt to provide assistance to honorary eye surgeons applications have been called for salaried positions of eye specialist but these have not produced any applications.

5. Preference must always be given to patients who have eye conditions requiring urgent attention and to patients attending with eye injuries requiring emergency treatment.

I got a fairly lengthy explanation of the problem, but let us analyse it. I know that the problem exists, and that is why I referred the matter to the Minister. Why does he write back and tell me, "This is why we cannot do it"? What I want to know is: what is the Minister doing in a practical way to remedy this situation? Are not these cases deserving of treatment? Is that the attitude of the present Government? We want practical solutions to these problems. We have not the facilities, statistics and staff at our disposal that the Ministers have. This type of answer is not satisfactory, but it is going on and on, and this is where we get to. Some Ministers must take more notice of cases directed to them. This is by no means a laughing matter. While this reply concerns eyes only, I know full well (because people have made representations to me) that where operations are needed there is a long waiting list. What is the position? The hospitals themselves cannot keep people in for any great length of time.

**Mr. McKee:** People cannot afford to go there, anyhow.

**Mr. HURST:** It is getting to that stage. This situation must be looked at seriously. I do not know in what state we should have been had it not been for the initiative of the Labor Government in conducting a referendum on whether or not the people would approve of a lottery to help meet the costs of hospitals. We took measures for increasing revenue without imposing any burden or hardship on the people of South Australia and the present Government is benefiting from those measures. What sort of a position would this State have been in but for the three years of Labor Government? I appreciate that it would have been an embarrassment for men of your calibre, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker. I do not really know what is going on.

**Mr. McAnaney:** I am glad you admit it.

**Mr. HURST:** The Ministers do not know what is going on. If they did, members would not be getting answers in the way that we on this side get them. It is clear proof that the Ministers must look at the situation. At present,



they are up in the clouds and think they are astronauts. Let them put their feet on the earth and get down to something solid and constructive. They have the facilities, the manpower and the machinery to be able to provide the answers to these problems and, if they cannot provide them, let them be big enough to resign from office and let this Party take over and do the job required to be done.

*Members interjecting:*

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order!

Mr. HURST: Again I thank you, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, for the dignified manner in which you are trying to maintain order in this Chamber to enable a few constructive remarks to be directed at the people who are responsible but who are not carrying out their responsibilities. I appreciate your fairness in this. I do not think you will ever get on the front bench; it is not that you do not have the ability, but I do not think you are in the little circle. However, I can visualize some members opposite being on the front bench before long. When the member for Eyre (Mr. Edwards) was speaking, he referred to members on this side of the Chamber and to who was breathing down so-and-so's neck; but I am disappointed with the team on the other side of the House.

Mr. Ryan: It is not a team.

Mr. HURST: Honourable members know that I am fair and that I will give credit where credit is due. I would not make that remark unless I sincerely believed that—and I am sorry to have to say it. I am disappointed at the calibre of members opposite. The member for Eyre referred to someone breathing down the neck of someone else on this side of the Chamber and possibly looking to take the Leader's position. One has only to hear the forthright remarks of the member for Eyre to be convinced that members opposite will not pull the wool over his eyes.

Mr. Burdon: He even attacked his own Government.

Mr. HURST: And he will do it. We have noticed the improvement in him since he entered this Chamber. He has shown a sense of humour, and he writes out his speeches and sticks to them meticulously. It is evident from the remarks of the member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson) that he is jealous. There is much jealousy on the other side of the House. He alleged that the member for Eyre had made an incorrect statement when, speak-

ing on behalf of his constituents, he made the situation about the Wheat Board fairly clear at a public meeting; the member for Yorke Peninsula was trying to imply that the member for Eyre's facts were not straight. Whether or not they are straight, we are not concerned about the personal feuds of members opposite. However, this is the report of what the member for Eyre said at the Streaky Bay meeting on May 7:

The Australian Wheat Board and South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling were playing "ducks and drakes" with South Australian farmers, Mr. Edwards, M.P., told a public meeting here on Monday night.

There were 16 people present. He can rally the masses in his district and appeal to people to come and listen to his logic, yet we find the member for Yorke Peninsula trying to depreciate his efforts. Following his improvement in this Chamber and talking about breathing down people's necks, I believe that the member for Eyre is breathing down the neck of the Premier. That is not only my belief: I have had that mentioned to me outside Parliament. Earlier, I was inclined to dismiss this but, when I see the member for Yorke Peninsula get so concerned and so worked up about this statement, I begin to believe there is something in it. When I see the improvement the member for Eyre has made, I begin to believe that he ought to be on the front bench, because he would be the most competent man on that side of the Chamber. It is rumoured that he will be taking the first seat available on the front bench before the life of this Parliament is ended. This is what people are saying about him.

In His Excellency's Speech, reference was made to industrial development in the State and to the Premier's recent oversea trip to undertake personal negotiations with industrial leaders who had shown interest in establishing enterprises in South Australia. I would be remiss in my duties if I did not record here my utmost disgust at the present Government's action regarding the former Director of Industrial Development. I knew that officer, having had the privilege over some years to take part in negotiations with him (and it is not always a privilege to negotiate with employers). I found Mr. Currie to be a gentleman, a man of character, and a person on whom one could rely. No person could question his qualifications or his sincerity; nor could one question his effort to do whatever job was required of him.

Mr. Rodda: Is that why he called us a lousy lot of goons?

Mr. HURST: With all due respect to the member for Victoria, I suggest that he refrain from making such interjections because, after all, when one analyses the depth of the interjection, one realizes that Mr. Currie's description is a most fitting one.

Mr. Rodda: He sent a private letter to your Leader.

Mr. HURST: If that is so, I think he should have called members opposite something else, too, because it is quite apparent that the member for Victoria has been doing some snooping in members' offices. If he has been delving into members' private affairs, it is about time he was stopped. Private letters are meant to reach only those to whom they are addressed. Where did the member for Victoria get the letter? Most of my private letters are kept in my office. The member for Victoria delves into the private business of people and is not prepared to acknowledge a fact of life. Actually, he would be the least qualified person in this Chamber to express an opinion on a qualified industrialist, whereas I have at least had the privilege of working with industrialists. While I may disagree with some of their policies from time to time, I think I am able to assess their capabilities as well as can any member on the other side.

The action taken by the Government in this respect constitutes a scar that South Australia will bear for many years, and it was a retrograde step concerning industrial development in this State. Indeed, it has put South Australia in such a position that, as stated by our Leader, people of calibre and ability, whom we want for important jobs, will be reluctant in future to apply for those jobs.

Mr. Lawn: They can't trust this Government.

Mr. HURST: That is so. I hope that during the next election the people will express their view concerning who ought to be governing. While dealing with industrial development, I point out that I am not opposed to Ministers' going overseas, for I think these overseas visits represent a forward step.

Mr. Lawn: What about sending the Minister of Education?

Mr. HURST: Ministers must have sufficient background and ability in order to understand what is going on overseas.

Mr. Lawn: Don't you think that applies to the Minister of Education?

Mr. HURST: I do not have an opinion yet, but there is a question mark alongside that matter, as far as I am concerned. I believe that members and Ministers should have the opportunity to go overseas—

Mr. Lawn: On a one-way ticket?

Mr. HURST: That would have been a godsend in one case. I believe that going on overseas visits provides the basic training that members of Parliament should have. There are not sufficient problems in South Australia to keep Ministers busy without going on overseas missions at the time when we are suffering from the difficulties in question. We have education and hospitalization problems, as well as problems in practically every Government department and yet the Government is running away from those problems and not doing the job that it is supposed to do. I previously read in the press that the Minister of Works was going overseas, and I was given to understand that the purpose of his visit was to investigate containerization. Indeed, the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) and I believed he intended to encourage the big shipping combines to interest themselves in using Port Adelaide, and I thought that was an exceptionally good thing. The purpose of the mission had my wholehearted support.

However, reports of these visits are not made officially to the House. Members are expected to read press reports, and the Government makes sure that the House does not sit sufficiently long to enable members to obtain the information they desire. The Government is governing by regulations and by making administrative decisions so that it cannot be criticized. The Minister of Works, if he considers that he can do something further for the District of Port Adelaide by going on an overseas mission to try to encourage the big shipping organizations to use our port, has my support as well as that of the member for Port Adelaide. This problem has been encountered, and it must be tackled effectively.

Mr. McKee: What was achieved by the visit?

Mr. HURST: I do not know. I believe that the principles of the mission were sound. However, we see that the prospective Leader of the Party opposite (the member for Eyre), at a public meeting on May 7, is reported in the *Advertiser* as saying that Mr. Coumbe is overseas researching pusher-barge systems of carrying cargo from ship to deeper anchorages, and we read that that member expects a detailed report on the Minister's return. What

was the Minister investigating when he was overseas, when we understood the purpose of his visit was to investigate containerization and bulk handling facilities? We have evidence of members of his own Party running around at public meetings about two months ago making certain statements, and yet we do not have the benefit of a report on a situation greatly concerning our districts. The Attorney-General went overseas to look at certain things.

Mr. Hudson: They had a Cabinet meeting in London.

Mr. HURST: I am not surprised to hear that. Provided Ministers go overseas on legitimate business for the benefit of the State, such travel has my support. We should, however, know more about the results of these trips through official reports, instead of through hearing garbled remarks. Most of us realize that the Attorney-General has plenty of problems in his own department. When the Labor Party was in Government he asked a series of questions about delays in court cases and availability of courtrooms, but what happens when he gets the responsibility of administering the department? How much progress has been made? I believe he has been a complete flop in handling his portfolio. I am sorry about this because, as a result, he would find it difficult to hold his rank if he went back to practising his profession, because he must be disappointing his professional colleagues. He purports to be interested in legal matters, but he has not made many alterations in this field. On July 26 in the *Sunday Mail* the following article appeared:

"I don't know how we're going to fit cases in," the acting C.S.M., Mr. V. C. Matison, told the Police Prosecutor, Mr. Frank Higgins, in the Adelaide Magistrates Court this week. "Unless of course, we let them languish indefinitely."

He was referring to people who have been in custody, come before the court, and have to be remanded again. Mr. Matison had just about ploughed through a heavy list—most of the cases were remanded—when a man on a charge of larceny appeared before him. The man had been in custody for 11 days and he was again remanded.

"From now on, I will be ruthless when people who have been in custody come before me," Mr. Matison said. "Other cases would have to be remanded—even if they have to be remanded to next year." Mr. Matison pointed out that on that particular day there were 12 lengthy contested matters before the courts and there were only four magistrates to hear them, in addition to all other matters.

As members of Parliament, we are supposed to legislate, and the Minister is supposed to administer his portfolio in such a way that

British justice is done. Is the "justice" that has been described what we know as British justice? It is disgusting. On ordinary actions delays of up to two years are occurring before cases come before the court. This Parliament is entitled to know just what action the Attorney is taking to rectify this situation. In many such cases hardship is inflicted on individuals and their families. Far from being rectified, the position is becoming worse, and the Attorney-General can offer no excuse whatsoever. He is a qualified legal man, so he ought to have the necessary knowledge to deal with these matters. It is up to him to put something positive before Cabinet and before this House to rectify the situation.

I wish to refer to the report of the Magistrate of the Adelaide Juvenile Court (Mr. L. M. Wright). I have heard members opposite refer to the conduct of young people today, and I ask members: how can any Parliament or any Government expect to get the respect of the youth of this country when people in responsible positions act like children of two or three years of age? In this State and elsewhere we are reaching a situation where people are becoming fed up with highfalutin replies from such people. Ministers must see that they carry out their responsibilities according to the traditions and customs laid down. Only the other day on television we saw men walking on the moon. However, while such wonderful scientific progress is being made, in this State we are encountering problems that make me wonder where we are going.

How can we expect to have the respect of the younger generation when this type of thing is permitted to continue? This must be brought to the attention of the public. While I do not like criticizing the actions of people in responsible positions, I would be remiss in my duty if I did not do so. The Attorney-General is reputed to be educated, but he is so politically drunk that all he can see is politics. He has got to the stage where he will never grow up. The following is an extract from an article in the *Advertiser* of July 12:

On Mr. Wright's attitude that some punishment is necessary as a deterrent, the Attorney-General (Mr. Millhouse) said yesterday: "There has been a great deal of controversy about the policy Mr. Wright has adopted. It is a policy which has caused me some perplexity. This is the first opportunity he has had properly to explain the reasons for the policy he has adopted and to justify it. I am anxious to have the reaction of people interested."

I believe this statement implies that the Attorney-General does not agree with the policy of Mr. Wright. Does any member think that the Attorney-General will receive the respect of young people when they hear him publicly criticizing judges and then saying that he is trying to gauge public reaction? He is frankly admitting that he does not have the ability, intelligence or know-how to overcome this, because he is playing politics at the lowest possible level even against people in honourable positions, against honourable gentlemen who have qualifications and have been appointed by Governments to carry out their jobs free of politics, but these are the type of irresponsible statements the Attorney-General is making.

Mr. McKee: Did you hear what the member for Light said?

Mr. HURST: I was utterly disgusted by what the member for Light said, and I do not think his remarks are worth commenting on: it is beneath my dignity to comment on them. Therefore, I ask members not to talk about the honourable member's speech, for I will not sink to his level. Incidentally, I was surprised that the member for Yorke Peninsula did not refer to the attitude and conduct of the member for Light in this Chamber. These matters contribute to the problems with which we are confronted. Members of Parliament should give a lead to young people in this country in regard to these problems. Young people are educated and will not listen to the petty, stupid politics put over by the Attorney-General. A child in grade 2 would wake up to what the Attorney-General is getting at politically.

Another matter in His Excellency's Speech related to natural gas, which is to be supplied to our homes and industries. I should be most grateful if the Minister of Works would give me some attention now. I think he would agree that it is practically impossible, merely by way of questions, to deal adequately with every problem. At the end of my remarks on this subject, I intend to make a positive suggestion to the Minister, and I appeal to him to listen to what I have to say and to give it some thought. After all, Parliament has a duty not only to look after the interests of the majority but also to protect the minority, and we must see that this is done. Early this session I directed to the Minister a question about the conversion of domestic appliances for the use of natural gas. When in Melbourne, I read a press report about numbers of accidents and other problems encountered in relation to the conversion to natural gas.

Later, I asked the Minister whether he would inquire of the Gas Company the methods it was adopting to deal with this matter in South Australia. On June 24, the Minister replied as follows:

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

The actual conversion of domestic appliances will be undertaken by Stone and Webster Services Proprietary Limited, which company has had considerable experience in this work. Mr. Floyd Dunn, Job Supervisor for that company, has had 27 years' experience in natural gas conversions: he is assisted by a staff of American supervisors. The Gas Company has also appointed a Gas Conversion Engineer to work in close co-operation with Stone and Webster Services Proprietary Limited and a team of the company's service fitters will be specially trained as inspectors to check the efficiency of the Stone and Webster conversion crews. The General Manager of the Gas Company concludes his report as follows:

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

I do not question the sincerity of the General Manager of the Gas Company in supplying this information. However, I have been informed (and I have not been able to check this with the Minister) that, although Stone and Webster are the contractors converting for the Gas Company, many subcontractors are working on this job. Indeed, I believe

the Gas Company intended to ensure that men employed on conversions were adequately trained so that they could cope with this problem. There is no need for me to detail these matters, for the Minister knows the problem of the conversion to natural gas. It was reported to me that one technician was asked what he had done before going on to gas conversion, and he told the householder he was formerly employed as a television technician.

Mr. Ryan: Was he employed by a sub-contractor?

Mr. HURST: I believe so. The Minister would know that a television technician would not know all the ramifications involved in these conversions. Indeed, these people, when converting, have created much suspicion in the minds of consumers in this particular area. I do not wish to criticize the employee for saying that he was a television technician, but there were no fewer than seven call-backs. This is a dangerous situation and I believe that the Gas Company has to ensure that, whether the work is done by a contractor or by subcontractors, technicians doing this work have had sufficient instruction and training and are adequately supervised, in order to minimize the accident rate. I am not an alarmist, but we have to face the situation that, even with the utmost protection being taken, a super-optimist would not say that there will not be some appliance blow up, and possible fatalities.

I have a letter from a constituent of mine who saw a report in the newspapers, at the time I raised this question, concerning an accident at Elizabeth. I believe the woman concerned appreciated the manner in which the Gas Company assisted her and took her to the hospital. My constituent has asked me who would be responsible for medical expenses and household repairs that were incurred because of an explosion. This is an intelligent question and one that I think the Government should consider. I appreciate the attitude of the Gas Company, but no-one wants to see accidents. Natural gas is coming and we want it, because it will be beneficial. The ultimate benefits will be great for the State, but we have to ensure that people who have gas connections made to their premises are covered by some insurance should explosions occur as a result of the conversion of appliances and that some insurance covers them for personal injury.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: They are not covered now.

Mr. HURST: I am not aware of any obligation.

Mr. Rodda: Are you speaking as a technician?

Mr. HURST: I suggest to the member for Victoria that he take notice of this. Although he has never been connected to a gas main, thousands of people in South Australia are interested in this question. I appreciate the attention the Minister is giving to me and I should like him to refer this question to Cabinet, because I believe—

Mr. Rodda: I am not criticizing you at all.

Mr. HURST: —that if the Gas Company does not agree to some form of insurance to cover people in the event of a mishap, then the Government has to act to ensure that those people in those circumstances are not at a disadvantage compared with most other people who are receiving the advantage.

Mr. Ryan: The only redress is through civil law.

Mr. HURST: Yes, but how many householders and workers would be able to take action at civil law? In the light of the build-up of the waiting list for court hearings, we must realize that to say one could take action at civil law is not a satisfactory answer. I believe that the Minister is wise enough to realize the wisdom (and I also have sufficient faith in him) of conferring with the Gas Company on this question, in order to ensure that people are covered against accidents. I am not an alarmist, but the Minister knows that there will be some accidents because, no matter what is done, they will occur. I trust that he will see the wisdom of the proposition to protect people of this State, and that he will appreciate that this problem cannot be covered merely by asking questions in the House. I am most grateful that His Excellency referred to this question. All the matters to which I have referred are contained in the Speech, and this has given me the opportunity to convey my thoughts to the Minister. I turn now to another problem.

Mr. Lawn: What problem?

Mr. HURST: Probably the member for Adelaide, who lives in the city of Adelaide, does not encounter the wide variety of problems that I and the members for West Torrens and Glenelg and others who represent seaside councils, encounter.

Mr. Lawn: I encounter problems, too.

Mr. HURST: We are faced with many problems, and I refer particularly to the question of soil erosion. At the request of the Woodville council, which has expressed grave

concern about the removal of sand dunes from its foreshore and the area it covers, for about 3 or 4 years I have asked questions about the type of leases, the tenure of leases, and the conditions under which people are required to make replacements after removing sand. This sand is important for industry in this State, and I would be the last person to advocate that we should try to close down industries. I realize we have a major problem in encouraging further industry to come to this State, because of the bungling and muddling of the present Government's administration. I have no doubt that the Labor Party will be confronted with problems that we cannot visualize at present, because of the fumbling that is going on now. Because Australian Consolidated Industries has certain leases, there has been a considerable removal of sand dunes. Recently, the member for West Torrens and I attended a seminar on the problem of the Normanville sand dunes.

Mr. Broomhill: It opened our eyes, too.

Mr. HURST: We were particularly impressed by the calibre of the speakers.

Mr. Ryan: It was non-political, too.

Mr. HURST: Indeed, I believe that they were professional men. Naturally, the member for West Torrens (Mr. Broomhill) and I recognized their ability immediately and we also realized that we were not dealing with alleged professional men of the status of the Attorney-General in the present Government.

Those attending the seminar included the Chairman of the Town and Country Planning Association of South Australia Inc. (Mr. Higbed), Professor Jensen of the Department of Architecture and Town Planning at Adelaide University, the Director of the South Australian Oceanographic Research Institute and President of the Marine Science Association (Mr. Sprigg), the District Clerk of the Yankalilla council (Mr. Lyddon), and other local government clerks. We were privileged to hear archaeologists and other people most competent in their particular fields delivering papers at this well-attended seminar. I was unable to make an inspection with the party, but I look after my district and move around reasonably well and an inspection was not necessary to me: I knew the problem already and had mentioned it in this House.

I understand that Australian Consolidated Industries now intends to remove sand dunes at Normanville for the manufacture of glass. The seminar, after hearing papers from such people as doctors and archaeologists, expressed

the opinion that it considered that this work should not be proceeded with, and they considered that it was not too late for the Government to take preventive measures to curtail this activity. The statement about curtailing the particular activity is a fairly bold statement, when one considers that, economically, A.C.I. has to get the right type of raw material from which to manufacture its goods. Indeed, there is much competition in this line of products and we, as responsible citizens, do not want to force out of the State any industry that we can possibly retain. The learned people at the seminar did not carry that motion lightly. They gave it the mature consideration that it deserved and they sent information to the Government. However, the Premier was reported in the press as follows:

The Premier (Mr. Hall) said today he was satisfied that adequate arrangements had been made to prevent erosion as a result of sand mining at Normanville. He was commenting on a report that a weekend seminar organized by the Town and Country Planning Association of South Australia carried a resolution asking the Government to prevent sand mining from the Normanville dunes until an expert committee could examine the area and make recommendations. Mr. Hall said he had personally checked with the Mines Minister (Mr. DeGaris) who had made a close examination of the project, and he was satisfied that the company, Australian Consolidated Industries was fully aware of its responsibilities.

What a vague phrase is ". . . fully aware of its responsibilities"! I have received replies to questions about leases over sand dune areas at Semaphore South. Some of these leases were granted as mineral leases and I understand that, until 1962, the Act had not authorized the Minister to require the work to be carried out as he directed. In fact, an open cheque was given to any company. I understand that A.C.I. has been doing the right thing, but I also consider that there are other factors involved.

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

Mr. HURST: It was stated at the seminar that it is believed there are sand deposits on Yorke Peninsula suitable for the manufacture of glass.

Mr. Clark: You have taken quite an interest in Yorke Peninsula, haven't you?

Mr. HURST: Yes, I have. Honourable members will recall the interest I took, with the member for Yorke Peninsula, in attempting to have silos established at Giles Point (as it then was). If the situation is as we are led

to believe it is, it is the Government's responsibility to examine the matter to see whether it is not feasible to bring sand from the peninsula to this part of the State. Transporting it by ship would be just as economical as carting sand here from Normanville. The sand dunes at Normanville are an attraction we should be proud of. We were told at the seminar that relics have been found there indicating that it took some 2,000,000 years for the different formations to reach their present state of beauty. The coast there could be a tourist attraction, and we should be careful before we start driving in with bulldozers and disrupting a potential tourist attraction when possibly other sources of sand are available that could even help Yorke Peninsula and assist in the establishment of a deep sea terminal port at Port Giles. If we could bring the sand over here for glass-making without injuring the industry, we could do two things at the one time.

It would be welcomed by the people on Yorke Peninsula because it would encourage decentralization of industry and help to provide some form of employment for workers in the farming areas in their off season. I appeal to the Government not to dismiss lightly the seminar's suggestion. I am afraid it has not been given the mature consideration it deserves.

Mr. Broomhill: It's not too late, though.

Mr. HURST: It is still not too late for a change of mind on this important matter.

Mr. Broomhill: What does the member for the district think?

Mr. HURST: He is silent on the matter. Some strong-arm tactics might have been applied to him to quieten him on this. I am sure he would be most grateful to me for raising this issue, because it would be embarrassing to him and his Government. The member concerned knows there would be no defence that would satisfy the people in his district regarding this matter. I think everyone will agree that we in South Australia must protect every industry possible. Unfortunately, however, the Government is just not giving industries the consideration they deserve. There is a wide variety of industries in my district, and I wish to refer here to the horse-racing industry. This industry covers a wide range of activity, but many people are concerned about its future in South Australia. I was interested to read in the *News* on July 16 last an article referring to statements made about this industry by one of my constituents and headed "Hayes Slates Government Policy". Colin Hayes, one of our

leading trainers, has done much for racing not only in South Australia but in other States. The article refers to that gentleman and states:

"The South Australian Government has adopted the most negative approach to racing of any State in the Commonwealth." This statement is attributed to leading trainer Colin Hayes in a special article in a Western Australian newspaper. The article stems from a visit the Western Australian football team made to Lindsay Park Stud, Angaston, last month when here for the Australian championships. A sports writer accompanying the team compiled a pictorial story on the success of Lindsay Park as a thoroughbred stud since Hayes became managing director of it a few years ago. Hayes, who has trained over 1,400 winners, confirmed today the facts stated in the Western Australian story and saw no reason why they should not be reproduced here. The story opened with Hayes saying South Australian racing had slipped drastically over the past 20 years, although this State had some of the best horses and trainers in the country.

Indeed, I think most of us realize that this is the position. There are some well-bred horses in South Australia, and the industry here is one of which we can be proud and which we should desire to promote and encourage. If we wish local studs to continue operating, I believe something will have to be done to lift the racing industry in this State. However, if the Government continues to turn a deaf ear to the demands of the people concerned, we will find that we shall be losing members of this industry, because breeders and trainers will naturally shift to those States in which they can expect to receive better treatment. The article continues:

"If only the Government would widen their vision on the matter," Hayes said. "It has had the most negative approach to racing of any State in the Commonwealth. South Australia has had a raw deal as far as racing is concerned." Hayes continued: "What is needed here is a top-level conference between racing and Government leaders to seek some way of getting South Australian racing back on the map.

I believe this request should be seriously considered.

Mr. Broomhill: He's an expert in his field.

Mr. HURST: Yes, he is known throughout Australia and also known overseas. It is apparent from figures published that there has been a decline in the racing industry. The article continues:

"If the present situation is accepted by everyone, South Australia could slide right off the racing scene. Many things can be done, and breeders, owners, and trainers must see that racing committees and people in control find a way of telling the Government that

its present policy is crippling to the racing industry." When asked if he wished to elaborate on this statement, Hayes said: "South Australia was the only State to see fit to ban racing during the Second World War, and although this may have been correct from a war effort point of view the Government has certainly done nothing to help promote the industry following the ban. It seems here the policy is to grab every dollar it can from racing without putting anything back into what should be a far bigger industry and a bigger revenue earner for all concerned. Since the ban the Government has adopted a negative approach to the welfare of racing, whereas in all other States the industry has had the support of its Government. Too much money in various forms goes out of the industry each week. Although racing is the fifth biggest industry in Australia, many politicians seem to ignore this fact."

Some politicians, who are inclined to turn a deaf ear, should pay attention to these problems, which cannot be treated lightly. The racing industry involves breeding, the consumption of hay, catering, printing, and practically all other phases of labour. The article continues:

"In Queensland, the Government has seen fit to appoint a Minister of Racing and even in Western Australia racing is making giant strides in all departments and leaving us far behind."

As a State, we should do something about this. The article goes on to state that other leading trainers, such as Mr. Bart Cummings and Mr. Graham Heagney, agree with Mr. Hayes in all aspects concerning his outburst in the Western Australian newspaper. It surprises me somewhat to find that an article dealing with a man of the standing of Mr. Hayes and an industry of the magnitude of the racing industry should have appeared in a newspaper in Western Australia before publicity could be given to the matter here. I am not aware of any action that has been taken by this Government to meet what I consider to be a reasonable demand. I believe that assistance could be given and, as a result, there would be much more revenue coming to the Government and to the racing industry.

Mr. McKee: Do you think there are too many racecourses?

Mr. HURST: I support the plea of this trainer, who suggests that the parties be called together to support this aspect. This is a sound and a wise suggestion. The question of closing racecourses needs to be seriously considered. I am not an authority on this subject, but I believe that a sincere appeal is being made by a person interested in the industry, and no-one can say that this industry does not

benefit South Australia. Having been established and having continued for so long this industry should be considered by the Government, which has an obligation to meet the reasonable demands of these people.

Mr. Ryan: Do you enjoy the sport?

Mr. HURST: I occasionally enjoy relaxation, and I am not ashamed of that. The position is too serious to make a joke of it, because when the employment of workers is affected we all have to take notice. Why wait until that occurs? If it is realized that there are problems, it is the responsibility of any Government to consider what is going on. We appointed a Director of Industrial Development to try to bring industries to this State: not only to bring them here but to hold them here, and the racing industry must be considered. The Premier said that when he was overseas he opened negotiations with industries there, and it would seem from newspaper reports that some of those industries made consumer durable goods.

While it is true we want industries to come here, I am not aware of any scarcity in the products of the industries to which the Premier referred. Obviously additional capital will be required, so why not put the industries that are here on a sound footing? I believe that one factory makes washing machines, but there are literally thousands of washing machines on the market at present and, from reading newspaper reports, I understand that some industries coming here, having to compete with industries that are already established, will find it difficult to sell their products. It is an overloading of capital and, as a result, the consumer will have to pay the price in the long run because people cannot invest capital without getting some return and consumers eventually pay the penalty.

Another matter that is causing serious public concern is the ever-increasing price of commodities resulting from the policy of the present Government. We on this side believe in price control, but my constituents are extremely concerned about the present Government's action in decontrolling so many items. Indeed, the burden on the ordinary worker today is getting to the stage where the position must be considered seriously. Receipts duty and stamp duty have been increased; the hire-purchase duty has been extended; fees for liquor licences have been increased and, ultimately, the increase is passed on to the consumer; hospital charges have been increased, as have bus and train fares, fishing licence fees, bread prices, and many other items.



In addition, some of the Government's proposals will seriously affect the pockets of the workers. One of these is the decision to fluoridate the metropolitan water supply. People are becoming more concerned about this every day and it is most unfortunate that the House could not have debated the matter more fully before a decision was made. My district is an old district, many of the present residents having lived there for many years. We have more retired and superannuated persons and pensioners than has any other district. Many of these people own their own houses and have worked hard to get some comfort for themselves. However, because of the present cost and prices spiral, it is difficult for them to make ends meet. According to reports, they will have to pay for necessary work consequent upon the fluoridation of the water supply. Doctor Edwards, a registered professional engineer and certified corrosion consultant, whose qualifications include Bachelor of Science, Doctor of Medicine, and Bachelor of Literature, stated:

Some specific instances of corrosion failure in cities with fluoridated water follow:

(1) San Francisco has had frequent instances of burst water mains following fluoridation. One 16in. main burst with a resulting repair damage and clean-up cost of \$30,000. Pipe sludge and residue at the break showed a high fluoride content. Reliable laboratory analyses showed a fluoride content in sludge at the breaks of from 1,100 to as high as 22,000 parts a million.

(2) Hot water heaters in San Francisco, formerly lasting (or warranted) for 15 years, now last from nine to 10 years, a reduction of one-third or more in life. This means the annual cost of hot water heaters using fluoridated water increased 50 per cent.

(3) In Miami, Florida, a tremendous increase in water heater replacement was required after fluoridation. Seven local manufacturers of electric water heaters went out of business because their tanks corroded before the warranty period expired. Other out-of-town water heater manufacturers stopped shipping heaters into the fluoridated Miami area because so many of the heaters developed leaks short of the warranty period.

I could cite many more instances of how fluoride causes leaks in appliances and mains. I know that I will encounter many problems in my district when fluoride is added to the water there, because I believe that my constituents, bearing in mind the remuneration that they receive, are heavily enough taxed as it is.

Some parts of this problem are beyond our responsibility. I say that the Commonwealth Government does not face up to its responsibility. Why should we add to this

unnecessary expenditure that ultimately will be imposed on the people when the work is undertaken? I did suggest that there should be some form of insurance in this matter. However, the decision has been taken, and I am afraid that the people will have to pay very dearly for their experience.

I noticed in His Excellency's Speech that it is intended to make amendments this session to the Local Government Act. We are told that the Local Government Act Revision Committee will submit its report this month and that the report will contain recommendations regarding the revision of the Act. This Act will need considerable examination. Members will recall that some time ago amendments were made to give municipalities the opportunity to remit rates in cases where people were experiencing financial hardship. The Port Adelaide City Council made a decision in this regard, and it is one of the few councils to offer this concession. I maintain that responsibility for social services rests with the Commonwealth Government. Most members know that in cases where people are paying rent the Commonwealth Government will acknowledge that and grant a supplementary allowance. However, as most people concerned with administration will appreciate, if concessions are given in one direction someone else has to pay extra in another direction.

I do not believe that the Commonwealth Government does sufficient for aged people. In fact, I believe it is shirking its responsibilities and passing the buck to State Governments and municipal bodies. I appeal to the Minister in charge of this particular section to make vigorous representations to the Commonwealth Government to try to get it to acknowledge that this is its responsibility. Where such cases arise, the Commonwealth Government should make some allowance to reimburse either the State Government or the municipality concerned, or effect some similar arrangement. It is grossly unfair in any society to expect one group of that society to bear a greater burden of taxation than the community as a whole.

In my opinion, the community as a whole should meet this burden. The Commonwealth Government has the necessary machinery, and indeed it has the necessary funds, whereby it could easily make up the small amounts of expenditure which to the Commonwealth would be only small but which to the bodies concerned represent a great problem. This is a problem that we cannot shut our eyes to. It is grossly unfair for these people, at their age of life, to be forced through increased

expenses to go into other avenues of residence. There again it is throwing additional burdens and expenses on to those people when they move, because many of them have reached the stage where they cannot, in fairness to themselves, do so. If they did, they would have to pay what they could ill afford. The Minister of Social Welfare should make it his business to try to convince the Commonwealth Government that there should be some reimbursement to municipalities or, alternatively, that it should accept the responsibility itself and grant a supplementary allowance to those people who have difficulty in paying their rates and taxes, rather than forcing them into the invidious position in which many of them find themselves today.

When dealing with price increases, I omitted to mention the protest that most honourable members received in a letter dated June 4 above the signature of T. C. Stott, M.P., General Secretary, in relation to stamp duties. We were informed of the resolution apparently accepted at a meeting of the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia Incorporated. It is as follows:

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

This resolution is directed to all members of Parliament above your signature, Mr. Speaker. Every member in this Chamber knows this (but it should again be stated publicly) that, if it had not been for your casting vote, Mr. Speaker, the Bill in question would never have been passed. Now, we find ourselves in the position of getting a letter from a person who was responsible for the passage of that legislation, asking us to try to do something about it.

Mr. Jennings: He has a split personality.

Mr. HURST: I can appreciate his doing his job but, after all is said and done, there is much responsibility on the shoulders of the Speaker. I think, Mr. Speaker, you will be wise in future to realize that public opinion will not tolerate this sort of thing for ever. The pressures arising from time to time will demand that justice be done. When we make tangible suggestions and put forward something constructively, it should be a warning that our suggestions should be followed, even if it means that the Government has to go out of office—which would be a great thing for the State.

I come now to the necessity of having a decent terminal at Outer Harbour for overseas ships. I repeatedly get justified complaints from the people concerned about the conditions for passengers coming to the gateway of this State. I have said previously in this Chamber that it is a disgrace. It is the one place where better facilities should be provided in order that people who make Outer Harbour their first port of call should get a good impression. Comments have been made to me to the effect that, if it were animals having to use Outer Harbour, they would be contacting the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Indeed, humans are being treated worse than animals would be treated.

There are no facilities whatsoever, and it is a shocking and disgusting situation. I think the Minister should examine this matter, which has been raised by me in the House time and time again. We have been told during previous Budget debates that provision has been made for building the badly-needed terminal at Outer Harbour, but the project has been frequently deferred, and last year the relevant line was removed completely from the Estimates. In reply to a question I had asked, I was told that work would be proceeding on roads and that ancillary work would be commenced, but that is just not good enough. I later asked the following questions on notice:

1. How many tons of steel have been purchased for the Outer Harbour terminal construction?
2. When was the steel purchased?
3. What was the cost of such steel?
4. What steps, if any, have been taken to prevent deterioration of the steel?
5. When work is commenced will the steel be satisfactory for the purpose for which it was purchased?

I received the following replies:

1. About 330 tons.
2. Delivered September to December, 1965, inclusive.
3. \$47,000.
4. Cleaning and painting with protective coating was authorized on August 14, 1968. Work will commence as soon as the weather improves, as the steel is stored in the open.
5. Yes.

The management deserves a severe reprimand for what is occurring here. In 1965, 330 tons of steel was delivered to the job site, and the cost to the department for this single item was \$47,000. That steel had been lying on the site for so long that cleaning and painting with protective coating was authorized on August 14, 1968. I find it difficult to accept the excuses being made for the delay in commencing work

on this terminal. The sum of \$47,000 has been virtually lying idle since September-December, 1965, and the interest on this sum alone would amount to a considerable figure. In addition, people have had to be engaged to treat the steel to stop its deterioration. Is there any justification whatever for allowing that situation to continue? That is inefficient management, and no-one can deny it.

Mr. McKee: Who's responsible for this?

Mr. HURST: It would come under the Marine and Harbors Department. This is just one item needing attention. The member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson) referred to certain items that involved the Public Buildings Department. Some Ministers have a big responsibility to look at these matters. Of course, everything cannot be remedied in five minutes, but, in the case to which I have referred, the facts are clear on the Minister's own statement. Should we continue to let this happen? These people must be told to plan their work more efficiently. If these things are happening throughout the State, is it any wonder that prices continue to rise?

This adds thousands of dollars a year to the bills of departments, and this money could well be spent on schools, hospitals, facilities for the aged and so on. The Minister must try to do something about this situation. As he will recall, when the Labor Government was in office, his own colleagues raised the matter, the Minister of Education being one member to speak strongly about the lack of this facility at Outer Harbour. I cannot see any excuse for its not being proceeded with. I sincerely trust that the Ministers in charge of the respective departments to which I have referred will seriously consider the problems I have raised, look at them on their merits, and not just brush aside the comments I have made.

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): I rise with pleasure to support the motion so ably moved by my colleague the member for Gumeracha, and seconded equally notably by our friend and colleague the member for Onkaparinga. I wish to associate myself with other members, in a word of welcome to Sir James and Lady Harrison, who are citizens of this country. In addition, of course, Sir James has to his credit a distinguished and illustrious record of service with the Army. Our viceregal couple have very quickly endeared themselves to our people and have been most active in visiting most parts of the State. We were privileged to have them visit

Naracoorte very soon after taking office, and both Sir James and his good lady have won for themselves a special place in the hearts of people in the South-East.

I had the privilege of visiting the Struan Research Centre with His Excellency and he displayed remarkable understanding of the agricultural and animal husbandry practices being embarked on at this establishment. This is good to see. I wish to associate myself with the expression of condolence expressed at the passing of former members of Parliament. Senator Laught and the Hon. R. R. Wilson were old friends of mine of many years standing, and they were men of the highest integrity. We are indeed the poorer for their passing. I did not have the privilege of knowing our other late members, but, on behalf of the electors of the District of Victoria, I express sympathy to all of the bereaved families.

I also join in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on completing over 40 years of long and meritorious service to the man on the land. The name of Tom Stott has been legend amongst wheatgrowers during this long period not only in this State, but also throughout the whole of Australia. You Sir, have won for yourself an honoured place in the history of the wheat industry.

Mr. Corcoran: It all sounds like!

Mr. Hudson: What are you after?

Mr. RODDA: Our friends opposite cannot acknowledge meritorious service. I could say that it sounds like sour grapes, but I will not. Turning to His Excellency's Speech, it is a long document of 42 paragraphs, and properly draws attention to some of the difficulties the Government has experienced, records what has been achieved, and points to a full and busy legislative programme in the days ahead.

Mr. Broomhill: I must have the wrong document.

Mr. RODDA: If the Opposition Whip is patient I will say more about this long document.

Mr. McKee: Is the honourable member reading between the lines?

Mr. RODDA: I started to say, when I was so rudely interrupted, that the member for Gumeracha is to be complimented on his speech and his research in collecting all his facts. It augers well for him as a new member. These same sentiments can be expressed about the member for Onkaparinga, who, early in his speech, was subjected to the cut and thrust of politics when he was chided, I think

by the member for Adelaide, for introducing irrelevant matter, and then had a point of order taken on him by our impartial friend the member for Hindmarsh, who quoted Erskine May and then objected to the honourable member reading his speech. I also noticed that the member for Onkaparinga was given some treatment of "running fire" early in his speech, but this was like water running off a duck's back.

Mr. Hudson: It does not matter what happened to him, you are going to read yours, too.

Mr. RODDA: I am not complaining about what the member for Glenelg said or about the treatment handed to our new members, because our new members are well able to take care of themselves in the "cutting and thrusting" that is forthcoming from our friends opposite. Because they received so much attention from the Opposition it clearly indicates that what they were saying was touching on some tender spots. I say here and now that we have seven new members on this side of the House, every one of them a successful man in his private avocation, and they come to this Parliament well and worthily recommended, and points of order, references to going back whence they came, and to Erskine May will only spur them on to greater achievement.

Mr. Corcoran: Do you think they could teach some of your old members new tricks?

Mr. RODDA: The new members can teach us, because we are never too old to learn, and the Opposition need have no false ideas about upsetting the back bench of the Government. The Leader of the Opposition started out in this debate with a forecast of gloom and had a good deal to say about industrial development. He referred to fluctuations which could occur in our economy as a result of fluctuation in the markets in Eastern States for goods manufactured in South Australia. He then went on to say that the extent to which a State Government can directly affect the situation in present circumstances is merely marginal, and that no Government, of whatever complexion, could be specifically responsible for a revival in the economy that derives from the consumer durables market. What the Leader attempted to do was obvious. For his own political purposes he implied that the rundown in the economy of South Australia during the three years of Australian Labor Party administration was the result of fluctuations outside the State.

Mr. Broomhill: You're likely to find that yourself soon, so be careful what you say.

Mr. RODDA: The honourable member is virtually acknowledging it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for West Torrens can make his speech next week.

Mr. RODDA: True, fluctuations in markets in other States do have an effect on demand for manufactured goods from this State. It is also true that the State Government is a very strong influence on the progress or otherwise of industrial development in the State. We only have to examine the history of industrial development in South Australia in the years after the Second World War to see that, beyond any doubt, confidence in the State Government is a prime factor in the progress or otherwise of industrial development. The actions of the Labor Government in its three years of office destroyed the confidence not only of industrialists operating in South Australia but also of industrialists contemplating establishing within the State.

Mr. Broomhill: What nonsense! Tell us what your Government has done in 12 months.

Mr. RODDA: If the honourable member keeps quiet, I will do that. I can think of nothing more calculated to destroy confidence quickly than irresponsible financial administration. When the Walsh-Dunstan Labor Governments of 1965-68 proceeded to administer on a basis of not bothering to equate expenditure with the financial resources available to it, it is no wonder that confidence was lacking in South Australia. Turning again to what the Leader said, on page 225 of *Hansard*, he stated, "We have been able to develop industries relying on the skills of artisans within this community. It was partly because of the existing skills of artisans and craftsmen in this State that the motor vehicle body-building industry grew up here." Then there followed the consumer durable industries that surrounded them, and this became the industrial base for South Australia. The Leader went on further to say nearly 71 per cent of our industries were either directly involved in the manufacture of consumer durables or in the supply industries to consumer durable industries, and proceeded to unwind in eloquent manner about this State's vulnerability in those areas of Eastern Australia where this State has markets for its consumer durables.

We can agree with the Leader about the excellence and integrity of our people as craftsmen and artisans and as a workforce with an efficient output, but, Sir, on the figures given

by the learned honourable gentleman, being 71 per cent in the fields he mentioned, I believe on examination it is more like 43 per cent. This consumer durable industry is indeed important to the State and the bulk of the companies here serve national markets throughout the Commonwealth with heaviest concentrations between Newcastle and Geelong. The industries are the leaders in our industrial economy, and Mr. Speaker, have developed technology and management skills to a very high degree indeed. These industries are the large employers of labour in all its forms. They require large volumes of skilled people and, furthermore, semi-skilled. They also employ unskilled people, and this is indeed important. My friends opposite do not like being reminded that things are not as black as the member for Semaphore (Mr. Hurst) has tried to make them out to be.

*Members interjecting:*

Mr. Corcoran: He made a good speech.

The SPEAKER: Yes, without interruptions, too.

Mr. RODDA: These industries I was speaking of, besides employing unskilled labour, are also large employers of female labour, in contrast to other types of industry. The chemical industry and heavy industry for which the Leader seems to have a penchant are, by comparison, small employers of labour. The Leader has been on record many times as saying that Adelaide should become the Detroit of Australia, and in doing so he supports the consumer durables, yet in his speech he set out to depreciate our strength in this field.

Mr. Broomhill: What nonsense.

Mr. RODDA: It was interesting to hear the Leader making great play about the lack of advisory services for industry. He made a comparison with the Weitzman Institute of Israel, and he got out his brush and black paint in an effort to write this State down. Mr. Speaker, the Leader made great play about the lack of a design centre. He is reported, at page 226 of *Hansard*, as saying:

However, nothing has happened under the present Government about this. We needed to have the whole of our industry informed with knowledge of the best practices of industrial design. In consequence, we made available the money for the best industrial design centre in Australia. The present Government has been in office now for about 15 months, and what has happened to the industrial design centre? We made the space available and the money available for the local

authority to obtain the subvention from the Commonwealth. More than a year has passed and there is no design centre.

In fact, the Government has agreed to support a design centre. There is presently in Adelaide a resident Director for the South Australian Branch of the Industrial Design Council State Committee, and the design centre is presently actively seeking industry and commerce contribution. The Leader would well know that the funding for this centre must be supported by a Commonwealth Government contribution, and this cannot be obtained until the public has made its contribution.

The Leader knows full well the implication of all these factors. In all of these circumstances, by what right does he claim that we have done nothing in this regard? The Hall Government has a tremendous interest in the value of this centre and the contribution it will make to industrial development in this State. The cold hard fact remains that when this Government came to office in April, 1968, one of the urgent and immediate tasks confronting it was to restore the confidence of the community by among other things adopting a responsible attitude towards the finances of the State. This we have done, and the Treasurer's recent Ministerial statement revealing a surplus for the year just ended is evidence of the Government's achievement in this regard. With the type of oratory so characteristic of the Leader, he tried to imply that the Government was now acting on a "catch as catch can" policy of promotion.

Mr. Broomhill: He was dead right there, too.

Mr. RODDA: He used a phrase, which he obviously enjoys using, as he has used it so often, of "Come to Sunny South Australia" as the present basis of industrial promotion.

Mr. Broomhill: Isn't this right? You ought to know.

Mr. RODDA: Not only is this misleading (if people were prepared to believe the Leader's statement); it is not even the truth. In fact, the Industrial Development Branch of the Premier's Department is now operating on the basis recommended by the very consultants appointed by the Leader, when Premier, who tried to imply that the present industrial promotion paid no attention to the exploitation of local skills and know-how and the use of technical and research facilities.

Would the Leader suggest that the software factory being established by International Computers Limited to produce computer programmes not only for Australia but also for

export to the world was not exploiting local skill, know-how and technical research facilities? Let me give some more examples of where expansion has taken place in recent months. The great electronic industry of this State will bear close examination and those who scrutinize it will be all the better for a close-up view in this area. We have Philips Industries, W.R.E. and associated industries such as De Havilland, Fairy Aviation, E.M.I., Ferrari Ltd. and Texas Instruments, which is presently constructing a new plant, not because of the historical background of its first plant in this State but because it was very much influenced by the proximity to W.R.E. This is a case of an industry recognizing the advantage we have in South Australia.

Then we have the example of Research Laboratories Limited at Darlington carrying out research projects for international companies, and it is expected this company will earn export income in excess of \$1,500,000 this year. It is a case of local knowledge being sold outside this State earning valuable overseas credits. It is of little use to start whistling in the dark when these expansions are taking place and for the Opposition to try to conjure up a story that nothing is being done, when this is precisely what the Government is doing. The fact that we have special skills and outstanding technical and research facilities available in South Australia is an important factor in our current industrial promotion. Members of the Opposition have been very keen during this debate to decry the Premier and the Government, and we heard the member for Wallaroo in his own inimitable way indulge in some odious comment on "bulging bags" when referring to the Premier's overseas visit.

The honourable member for Wallaroo is impatient for action. Let me tell him and his colleagues on the Opposition benches that there has been considerable expansion in industrial circles since the Steele Hall L.C.L. Government came to office. Iplex Plastic Industries has moved to the vacant Diecasters factory at Elizabeth. This should not fall on deaf ears opposite. There are Breotex Limited, Krommenie and Warburton-Franki. South Australian Rubber Mills has made provision for a \$1,000,000 expansion programme to employ an extra 120 men. Wilkins Mitchell is another project that highlights the Industrial Development Branch under the Premier's leadership. In the country, we have the panel-board extension, together with Pict Industry

at Millicent, and the coming on stream of the Carba CO<sub>2</sub> well at Caroline. They are all part of a return to confidence in South Australia.

At Keppoch, north of Naracoorte, the Government was able to provide special housing for men engaged in the stock-feed mixing plant (a lucerne-processing mill) in order to get that venture off the ground. More recent announcements have related to the opening of an R. & D. laboratory by Simpson Pope at Findon, and this is a very real pointer regarding an industry with a work force of 3,500 people particularly in regard to expressing its confidence in South Australia. Malco Industries Limited and the Hill's Hoists Proprietary Limited recent expansion add to an impressive list on the industrial scene, clearly underlining that we are again moving forward. These are some of the things happening under the leadership of Steele Hall and his L.C.L. Government.

The Industrial Development Branch, under the direction of Mr. A. M. Ramsay, with the very able assistance of Mr. Kevin Phillips (and, of course, lately joined by Mr. M. Scriven), is staffed and backed up by a large body of informed people who are constantly in touch with the wide scope of industry, and we are indeed fortunate that these officers are experienced in the negotiation of industrial matters. This is the sort of significant backing the Premier is getting in his role as Minister of Industrial Development. It is indeed idle for the Leader to decry our industrial position now and in the future. Further, it is useless for him or anybody else to talk of "tax holidays" for new companies establishing in Australia. This is not only not available in South Australia: it is not available in any State of Australia. It is not good policy to advocate setting out to "buy industries in South Australia" by providing subsidies, freight rebates or special concessions of that nature.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: They last for only a short time.

Mr. RODDA: They are ephemeral and only get people into trouble. The establishment of a new industry that could not stand on its own feet with respect to making a profit would only be the cause of dissatisfaction to itself and its shareholders and of hurt to the people it might engage temporarily in employment. The Leader made great play of the cost angle and issued a warning to the Government. He devoted several minutes to his version of what could happen to South Australia in this regard, but this was only a smoke screen. He said

there were difficulties once the Commonwealth court decided on a total wage rather than on the basic wage and margin, and he said this decision was supported by the L.C.L. It is well known that the Labor Party has never liked the total wage. Despite what the Leader tries to imply, the differential that protects South Australia's position regarding costs, as against the position applying in the bigger States, is maintained. This is borne out by the expansion that is taking place and by the visits of entrepreneurs who are coming here daily to have discussions with the Premier.

The Leader and the new shining light on the back bench (the member for Edwardstown) brought in the discussion of water for South Australia. The Leader spoke glibly about the legal agreement completed in connection with the Chowilla dam. He knows full well (and after the television debate in which he took part in February last, the public also knows full well) that that legal agreement, in fact, gave no right to South Australia in regard to ensuring the building of a dam at Chowilla. It merely gave a right to this State to create a dispute within the River Murray Commission which would subsequently be taken to arbitration. Quite apart from the legal position in the matter, the vital thing is the question of ensuring that South Australia receives the greatest quantity of water available in all the circumstances. The Government is assured, and the majority of South Australian electors now know that the proposed dam at Dartmouth will provide this vital assurance to the State's future. It is nonsense for the Leader to suggest that the public overwhelmingly desires the next dam to be built at Chowilla.

In fact, when the Leader's Party actively canvassed the situation in the Murray River districts, and when 500 people crowded the Murray Bridge Town Hall to hear the Premier explain the facts relating to the Dartmouth project, the Labor-sponsored motion, put to the meeting in an endeavour to embarrass the Government on its decision in favour of Dartmouth, was overwhelmingly defeated. The member for Edwardstown attempted to get some political kudos for his Party by endeavouring to belittle the members for Chaffey and Murray in his comments about the Chowilla project. Everybody knows that at the time of the last election these members, in common with all members of the Government, supported the Chowilla project on the technical information then available. We were not in Government then and acted in good faith on the best information available to us.

Mr. McKee: They treated the present Premier like a boy.

Mr. RODDA: At that time the Premier of the State was the present Leader of the Opposition, and he had all the facts. He took a decision and it is said he took the right decision, but now he wants to crawl out of it for political purposes. In common with all Government members, the members for Murray and Chaffey, as well as most people in the State, have been big enough since the additional information became available to support the Dartmouth project as the next dam to be established on the Murray system.

With some of his colleagues (not all of them), the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) seems to want to continue with his head in the sand on this vital matter, but if he and others continue with this attitude they will not fool the general public. This has been made clear at meetings held in various river centres, particularly at the meeting held at Murray Bridge to which I referred.

Mr. McKee: Don't kid yourself!

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member from Port Pirie can speak in a minute.

Mr. RODDA: It would have done the member for Port Pirie some good to be at Murray Bridge for the meeting, where he would have seen his friend, Mr. McLaren, try to embarrass the present member for Murray by bringing forward a petition which had on it names of people from all over South Australia. This was misleading to the people at the meeting and his motion was overwhelmingly defeated by about 500 people present. It was interesting to see the politics being played on this issue when the Leader, as Premier, agreed to the further study as a result of which the change of arrangements regarding the next storage on the Murray was taken. Yet for political advantage neither the Leader nor some members of his Party want to accept the findings of the experts.

Mr. McKee: Bolte said he wouldn't put money into the dam.

Mr. RODDA: The member for Port Pirie is in no position to criticize Sir Henry Bolte. The member for Glenelg and one or two of his colleagues have become excited about Parliamentary Under Secretaries and their duties. We have been called bag carriers, the member for Gawler even having the hide to call us "stirrers", whatever that means.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: It's good to have something in your bag to carry.

Mr. RODDA: We are getting plenty; the bulges are getting bigger. I want to assure the member for Glenelg that neither the member for Light nor I engage in any practice of which the member for Glenelg would not be proud. I know that gives us a wide area in which to move, but he need have no fears of the type he must have felt in regard to the considerable staff his own Premier, during his term of office, engaged on special duties. My colleague and I find our duties interesting and pleasant and, although we are not remunerated for them, our work is an enjoyable exercise. I notice that my friend, the member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Burdon), gave the Under Secretaries a special mention in regard to the meeting at Wallaroo and said that both Mr. Freebairn and I were present. I do not want to chide the member for Mount Gambier (we have a common understanding on what is good for the people of the South-East), but it is interesting to note that our movements are always carefully noted by the Opposition.

I refer now to the distinguished District of Wallaroo and its equally distinctive member, and I do not wish to sit down without paying some attention to what the honourable member had to say. Let me say how pleased I was to be in the honourable member's district. It has special meaning to me as my forbears came from Kadina, and the old family farm at the centre has been in the family since soon after the State was founded. I found it interesting to hear the member for Wallaroo's speech, and then attend the monster meeting at Wallaroo.

Mr. Venning: It was a good meeting.

Mr. RODDA: It was a well attended meeting and some valuable points were taken. Before talking about this aspect of the meeting, it was extremely stimulating to hear the member for Wallaroo letting go in his Address in Reply speech in a "Jack the Ripper" fashion with specific reference to certain taxes imposed by this Government last year, and saying that the people were not happy with the taxes. Of course the people were not happy about the taxes—no-one likes additional taxation, and neither was the Government happy to have to impose additional taxation.

Mr. Casey: Why did it impose additional taxation?

Mr. RODDA: I notice that the ex-Liberal member for Frome has a lot to say, but he will have his turn later. The Liberal Government had assumed a big deficit from the Labor Government, and it had the courage

to take this action because of the financial position of the State when it took office. Let me tell the member for Wallaroo and his colleagues that this was caused entirely by the lack of financial responsibility displayed by the previous Labor Government in overspending its Treasury resources, and the general run-down in the economy that resulted from the lack of confidence in the Labor Administration.

Mr. Venning: It was riotous living by the Labor Party.

Mr. RODDA: I have another name for it, but the Speaker may object. The member for Wallaroo suggested we should go to the people on the question of these taxes. He is not the first member of his Party in recent times to have suggested an election. His learned Leader and the Deputy Leader have made similar suggestions, and the present policy of the Opposition seems clearly to be to have an election as quickly as possible.

Mr. Clark: You would not be so pleased with the result of the election.

Mr. RODDA: If the member for Gawler will be patient we will tell him what we think.

Mr. Broomhill: Why not tell him in your own words.

Mr. RODDA: Of course, this is understandable and the Opposition seems to have recognized that the longer the time before a general election, the greater the public support will be for the Government. The public has realized the value of the Government's policies and the resultant increase in State activity as a result of them. The public recognizes that employment has steadily risen since the Government took office, and that security for their future will best be achieved by a continuing L.C.L. Government.

Mr. Langley: What a dreadful thought.

Mr. RODDA: I hope that Opposition members can deduce from that what the public think about us.

*Members interjecting:*

The SPEAKER: Order! If we are going to have this conversation we had better go home.

Mr. RODDA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member for Unley is always drawing attention to shortcomings of the Government, but I am grateful to him, because on his advice my distinguished friend, the member for Stirling, took me to a show in Sydney called the "Pink Pussy Cat", and by golly I saw things there that I thought never existed.



Mr. Langley: You are easily led, and you wanted to go back again.

Mr. RODDA: When I think about this, I always give full credit to the member for Unley. The member for Wallaroo continued long and hard in his speech, casting far and wide and speaking at length on the subject of grain storages. In fact, he spoke at such length that you, Mr. Speaker, were obliged to draw his attention to Standing Order 155, which relates to prolixity in debate. In the course of his long discourse on this subject he said he believed that, "somehow or other figures are being manipulated whereby silos are being built at Ardrossan where they are not required." That is at page 289 of *Hansard*. This aspersion that South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited was acting dishonestly in its assessment of silo requirements was quite uncalled for and without foundation. It is another instance of the member's playing Party politics to try to arrest the growing lack of support he feels from the constituents of Wallaroo.

The honourable member took my colleague the member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning) to task for certain statements he had made at public meetings on Yorke Peninsula, and he seemed to be somewhat steamed up over a report the member for Rocky River had at these meetings. The only reason why Mr. Venning had the report does not relate to special favour, but merely to his initiative as a very able and effective zone director of the co-operative in seeing that the wheatgrowers who have displayed their confidence in him were having all the relevant facts placed before them. Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to burden the House with further details of this matter, as the Premier dealt effectively with the subject at the public meeting at Wallaroo on July 15, 1969, and the member for Wallaroo and his constituents have been given the true facts of this matter. I do not want to resume my seat without saying something about by district. I have drawn the Minister's attention to some inadequacies regarding schools, and the primary school at Penola is due for replacement.

Mr. Broomhill: Do you agree that there's a crisis in education?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member does not want any assistance.

Mr. RODDA: There have always been difficulties in education and the three years of Labor Government did not help in any way,

so when the member for West Torrens asks whether there is a crisis in education he ought to think about his contribution.

Mr. Broomhill: I want an answer.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member can get an answer next year. He is out of order.

Mr. RODDA: The Penola Primary School comprises a scattered set of buildings, some of which are in a state of disrepair. Having gone through the school some weeks ago with the Headmaster and members of the committee, I know that a good case for replacing the school can be made out. The toilets are a long way from the school block and, generally, the people of Penola will be much better served if they have a primary school that is in keeping with the fine high school there. The Naracoorte High School will be overcrowded next year, with an expected enrolment of about 670 students. At present there are 615 students. The Matriculation class is without a room of its own, and students in this class have to move from room to room. The least activity, of course, is in the boys craft centre, where the fourth year boys are having no craft work at all. In this modern day and age, these conditions should not apply. We have excellent teachers there in Mr. Souter and Mr. Whitlock-Simpson, both of whom are handicapped by the lack of these facilities.

I draw the Minister's attention to these inadequacies. I believe that the department has a priority that is very near to the surface for the replacement of the Naracoorte North Primary School, and this will certainly be welcomed by the people in that district. We have spoken for a long time—I say "we" because I think my predecessor (Mr. Harding) raised this matter—about the need for action in regard to the Headmaster's house at Frances. This is another improvement that would make for better education in my district.

The question of drainage rates is one that is worrying the landholders in my district and the district of my Parliamentary colleague, the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran). These high costs, which are being looked at by a committee in the Minister's department, are very worrying to the landholders in the Western Division, and of course with the completion of the drains in the Eastern Division there is much apprehension about the consequences that could arise from charges there. As these high costs are affecting the man on the land, I hope this expert committee can come

up with some solution whereby the cost will be spread in such a way that relief will be brought to these people who are already under great stress because of these very high costs.

Another matter that is currently causing great interest in the South-East is the question of the setting up of an agricultural college somewhere in that part of the State. There are sites available that would be ideally suited for this purpose. I do not want to canvass any locality at this time, but I draw the attention of the Minister and other interested parties to the fact that a particular site should not be lost sight of when some of these decisions are taken. I hope it will not be long before they are taken, for there is a real need to train young people in a specialized direction with regard to this area which has great potential, following this water study of which we are so anxiously awaiting the results. I am pleased to associate myself with the Address in Reply, and I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Mr. McKEE (Port Pirie): Mr. Speaker, on rising to support the motion I would first like to wish His Excellency the Governor and Lady Harrison well during their term of office in South Australia. Like other members, I welcome as Her Majesty's representative such a distinguished Australian. I also extend my sympathies to the families of members of Parliament who have passed away during the last 12 months. I think the honourable member who has just resumed his seat was only kidding himself when he said that the Government had the confidence of the people. It has never had the confidence of the people; in fact, it was never elected by the people.

Mr. Rodda: Oh, don't start that.

Mr. McKEE: Well, it received only 43 per cent of the vote. I am replying to the honourable member, and surely he will extend a courtesy to me. In this debate, members of the Government have simply indulged in personal attacks on Opposition members; they are like the butcher's dog: they apparently can give it but cannot take it. As for the honourable member saying he was elected by the people and the Government had the confidence of the people, if 43 per cent of the vote can put a Government in power, I should like to remind the honourable member that he was elected by the Speaker. If the Speaker constitutes 8 per cent of the vote—

Mr. Rodda: The Speaker has a district. Surely his constituents have as much say as yours.

Mr. McKEE: I do not think he has 8 per cent of the population even in his district.

Mr. Clark: You did not get it through to him.

Mr. McKEE: Then I will have another try. The Government was elected by the Speaker. I am sure the honourable member understands that; it is plain enough. Surely the Speaker does not represent 8 per cent of the people. Anyhow, the honourable member can hardly claim that the Government has the confidence of the people.

Mr. Rodda: You are twisting the facts.

Mr. McKEE: At last he has understood me! The Governor commenced his Speech by saying:

My Ministers recognize the great potential that exists for the development of South Australia.

It is heartening to know that his Ministers recognize this potential, but it is most disheartening and discouraging to the people of this State to have forced upon them a Government without the foresight, ability or initiative to develop this great potential that we hear so much about. What angers me is the smugness, self-satisfaction and conceit of those who constitute the Government. It is hard to believe that a Premier who was elected by one man (I refer to you, Mr. Speaker, because it was you who elected him)—

Mr. Jennings: He was a king-maker.

Mr. McKEE: —could become so arrogant when his only successful achievement was to cultivate a set of—one could hardly call them mutton-chop sideboards; I would say they are hogget-chop sideboards. He has cultivated these sideboards in the hope of attracting some attention to himself. This is obvious because, when a person does these sorts of things, it is obvious he wants some attention paid him. However, I assure the Premier that he had no need to grow any sideboards: the way he and his Ministers are wrecking this State has focused plenty of attention upon him and his Government, judging by the correspondence I have received from several organizations and individuals who have been critical of and disappointed at the way in which they are being treated by a political Party that they have supported all their lives. Surely the Premier is aware of this unrest among his supporters.

Mr. Broomhill: He would not know.

Mr. McKEE: I think he does know. Because of the self-satisfaction, smugness, conceit and arrogance that ooze from the Ministers, and particularly the Premier, I probably would

agree with the member for West Torrens that the Premier is in a cloud up in the sky. He has not got his feet on the ground and has not observed the problems surrounding him.

Mr. Broomhill: Does he get advice from his Under Secretaries?

Mr. McKEE: One would expect him to be concerned, particularly in view of the unusual number of petitions presented lately in this House. Hardly one day has gone by this session when Government or Opposition members (sometimes three or four of them) have not presented petitions.

Mr. Rodda: What about the transport petitions?

Mr. McKEE: That was only one issue. I suggest that the honourable member examines the issues in which his Government is involved and which have led to many petitions. The Government has hardly done one thing with which the people are satisfied.

Mr. Rodda: What about —

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

Mr. McKEE: Honourable members have presented petitions from their constituents protesting against proposed legislation and other legislation that has been introduced by the Government. The people concerned obviously are not happy, and I remind the Government that it is unpopular at this stage. The member for Light suggested the other day that he and his colleagues were prepared to go to the people on the Chowilla issue. This gives some idea of how united the Liberal Party is! I think the Parliamentary Under Secretary may have become a little carried away with his portfolio, or whatever it is, when he made that statement. Indeed, I noticed that he ran into a little trouble, because it was subsequently stated in the press that Mr. Freebairn was not speaking for the Government but was having a go on his own.

Mr. Clark: The Premier stood him in a corner for that.

Mr. McKEE: I believe so; and the member for Light has been quiet since. To remind honourable members opposite just how unpopular they are, I will name a few of the organizations that have written to me criticizing the Government. The Government will recognize these organizations, and I shall be surprised if the bodies concerned have not previously been Government supporters. I refer to the Stockowners' Association of South Australia, the South Australian Dairymen's Association, the South Australian Stud Merino

Sheep Breeders' Association, the Australian Society of Breeders of British Sheep, the Australian Pig Society, the Fruit and Market Gardeners' Association, the Murray Citrus Growers' Co-operative Association, and the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia, the letter from which was signed by the Speaker.

Mr. Ryan: None of those supports the Labor Party.

Mr. McKEE: I think some of them do now. More are coming in every day.

Mr. Clark: Individual members!

Mr. McKEE: Yes.

Mr. Clark: Coming in thousands!

Mr. McKEE: Never before in my time in this House have I received letters from such organizations complaining of the Liberal Government. They are obviously trying to embarrass the Government, and that is not all: the member for Rocky River will agree with me when I say that the wheatgrowers just do not know where they stand. Am I right?

Mr. Venning: No.

Mr. McKEE: Be truthful. If the member for Rocky River is going to interject, I urge him to be truthful.

Mr. Venning: It was not the Government, but the industry that put the quotas on them.

Mr. McKEE: The wheatgrowers are completely bewildered. Am I correct?

Mr. Venning: Not at all.

Mr. McKEE: The member for Rocky River knows this to be true. The wheatgrowers do not know whether the Government will introduce quotas or where they will put their next crop of wheat. They are completely bewildered by the Government's attitude. The Chamber of Commerce, councils and other organizations have openly expressed, in the press, their dissatisfaction. I do not need to elaborate on what they have said regarding the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study and other things.

Mr. McAnaney: How's Dunstan's capsule going?

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order! There is too much conversation.

Mr. McKEE: One letter I have received commences:

You may wonder why a group of traditional L.C.L. supporters should take action which could only embarrass the Liberal Government, and you may well have concluded that the action would only have been taken by a group of responsible people after all other reasonable means of achieving their objective had failed.

Members know where this came from as does the member for Victoria, who is conspicuous by his absence.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: They seem to be doing everything to antagonize the people.

Mr. McKEE: The people who wrote this letter were pretty frank to me and so I suppose I should say they told me that another Party was being formed called the Country Party, or something, and that, as they certainly would not give their votes to the Liberal and Country League again, they would give their votes to the Country Party. They will probably give us their preference votes. All in all, I should say that this unrest does not suggest a rosy future for the Hall Government.

Mr. Lawn: The Stott-Hall coalition.

Mr. McKEE: True. However, as I began my speech by saying that the Speaker elected them, I do not think I need say any more about that. I am sorry, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, that you have relieved the Speaker, because I want to say something that may interest him. It was his vote that elected this unpopular Government.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: He appointed it.

Mr. McKEE: Yes, and only for a brief period anyhow. He was responsible for giving this unpopular Government the power it has at present.

Mr. Corcoran: Do you think he'll get anything out of it?

Mr. McKEE: I doubt it very much. I think he is under the guillotine: I think he has had his chips. Strangely enough, though, I think he has the Government worried at the moment. One never knows what he might pull on the Government, particularly over the Chowilla dam, with which I will deal in a moment. Not only did the Speaker elect the Government, but he also helped it to introduce unpopular legislation, so he must be included in any criticism I make of the Government. The Speaker in supporting the Government went so far as to sell out his own constituents and, as a result, he has met with some adverse criticism in his district. When he saved the Government from being thrown out on a vote of no confidence about Chowilla, his action was not received well in the District of Ridley.

Mr. Ryan: He got his instructions shortly after.

Mr. McKEE: Yes, and it was not long after that that he came back and made several press statements, and I believe he may have to toe the line here and back up his statements.

Mr. Corcoran: Which one? He made about six different ones.

Mr. McKEE: That may be so, but I do not think he will get out of one in particular. He will have to give it much consideration, having in mind that the guillotine is ready to drop, and he may say, "Well, never mind, I will let them sink and I won't do what I suggested I would do and support the Hall Government."

Mr. Ryan: He is finished whichever way it goes.

Mr. McKEE: Of course, and he has no chance. I suggest that if he has an ounce of principle left—

Mr. Lawn: Cut it out! He hasn't even half an ounce.

Mr. McKEE:—he should do the right thing for the people before the guillotine hits him. He may just sit it out and take it easy, because if he is responsible for throwing out the Government he will put himself out of work for 12 months or so, and I suppose he may think that he may as well have that salary from the taxpayers. The member for Victoria made great play about the industrial development in this State, in one of the best speeches I have heard from him, though it was not very good. He spoke at length about these industries that he said were bobbing up everywhere. The people of this State and I are mystified about what happened to the bagful of industries with which the Premier was returning from his overseas trip.

Mr. Corcoran: The possibilities and the probabilities.

Mr. McKEE: The Premier picked up this bagful of certainties and bundle of possibilities on his recent globe-trotting expedition. I understand that when he arrived in England he ran into most of his Ministers and said, "Well boys, what are you doing here? Do you think we will get into trouble for this?" A quick Cabinet meeting was held in Piccadilly Circus or in a large telephone booth, and it was decided that they would have to justify to the people of South Australia why they were all overseas having a tour at the expense of the taxpayers.

A few days before the Premier arrived back, there was some good journalism. The front page of the local press reported that the Premier was returning with a bag full of certainties and a bundle of possibilities, or something like that. We have heard no more of the certainties, so there is little hope for the possibilities and I would say that they have gone. To top this off, the Premier made

a press statement. As the possibilities and certainties had not eventuated, he said, "If we have to continue to travel overseas to attract development to South Australia, we shall continue to do so." Therefore, when this House adjourns, we can expect another bunch of Ministers to go.

Of course, when the Premier is in Australia, the press tries to protect him by highlighting his imaginary fights with the Prime Minister. We get this sort of thing in this hot-air publicity to hoodwink the people into believing that the Premier is a powerful man who will not take "No" for an answer. This is the sort of ballyhoo that we are subjected to by the press:

Premier is angry at rebuffs. The Liberal Party of Australia suffered an estrangement at the Canberra road talks from which the South Australian Premier has just returned today after crossing swords with the Prime Minister (Mr. Gorton).

You would think it was the charge of the Light Brigade! It was the savage battle, the battle of the little big horn. This "happy Liberal family in Canberra" was the honeyed phrase Mr. Gorton used in South Australia to show a close relationship in that happy Liberal family throughout Australia. The press states: This now rings hollowly in Premier Hall's ears.

I do not envy the difficulty that the press has in trying to convince the people of this State that the Premier is a strong man. Sir Thomas Playford must be laughing his head off.

Mr. Lawn: What do they call the Premier in Canberra?

Mr. McKEE: When I was talking to a Liberal from Canberra the other day, I asked him, "What do they think of our Premier over there, Jack?" He said, "To be truthful, although I do not like to say these things because I am a member of the Party, I am afraid things are not as bright as you may think. The Prime Minister refers to your Premier as that prefect from South Australia."

Mr. Corcoran: Shame on the Prime Minister!

Mr. McKEE: I thought that, too.

Mr. Lawn: Not even a head prefect.

Mr. McKEE: No, just an ordinary prefect. The press will never convince the people that Hall is a second Sir Thomas Playford, a strong man. Unfortunately, the people know differently, from bitter experience.

Mr. Lawn: Doesn't he go down to West Beach first thing every morning?

Mr. McKEE: Possibly, but physical strength does not enter into the question at all; he might have that, but probably that is all he has got. Although we have been subjected to personal attacks, I am not going to attack the back-benchers; the Premier is the man responsible for the activities and the welfare of the State, and I know that all these things I am saying are true. I should just like to mention some of the Premier's failings on a couple of the major issues that have arisen since the Hall-Stott coalition came into office. One issue is the Chowilla dam. The Premier weakened over this issue.

Mr. Rodda: You pressed for an investigation into this. Be fair.

Mr. McKEE: The election gimmick was the statement "I will build Chowilla dam." I do not know whether he was going to use a short-handled shovel or a long-handled shovel, or even a pick.

Mr. Casey: Ask the member for Victoria whether the Premier said that.

Mr. McKEE: The member for Victoria knows very well that the Premier did say that; he knows it but he wants to forget it. There are many things that he would like to forget; he has more wrinkles on his face than a prune.

Mr. Casey: He is very silent about that and some other things.

*Members interjecting:*

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order! There are too many interjections.

Mr. McKEE: I wanted to mention a couple of the major failings of the Premier.

Mr. Ryan: You would be here for a month if you mentioned all of them.

Mr. McKEE: We have been subjected to press reports that the Premier was going to use "hard tactics" or "a very hard line" at the road talks. We know how he finished there: he got run over by a steam roller. I understand that Bolte treated him like a schoolboy over the Chowilla dam issue.

Mr. Burdon: He steamrollered him.

Mr. McKEE: There is no mistake about that. As for standardization, it is obvious that the Premier knows nothing, and to justify that statement I should like to refer to a question asked by the member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning) as follows:

I understand that the Premier has an answer to the question I asked last week concerning the changeover from narrow gauge to standard gauge in the Peterborough Division. Can he

now say whether narrow gauge will be used one day and standard gauge the next, or whether both gauges will be used simultaneously for a period? I was concerned about what would happen to the grain on the Wilmington line having to be transhipped at Gladstone and also about the grain from the Quorn-Orroroo Division having to be transhipped at Peterborough.

Mr. Casey: It was a pretty complicated question.

Mr. McKEE: Yes, it was a beauty, wasn't it? The Premier indicated to me today that he had a reply to my question, but he gave me the reply to the question that the member for Rocky River had asked. I was wondering what it was all about. I got the intimation that there was a reply there, and I said:

Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked on July 24 concerning gauge standardization?

This is the answer the Premier gave:

The standardization of the Broken Hill to Port Pirie railway was referred to in Parliament on July 1, 1969, when January, 1970, was quoted as the expected completion date.

I do not know what he means by that. In fact, my question was entirely different. I asked (this was on July 24, not July 1) the following question:

In November last year the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport told the Commonwealth Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Whitlam) that the South Australian Government and the Commonwealth Government had agreed to engage independent consultants to report on an efficient way to standardize the railway line between Broken Hill and Port Pirie.

Actually, this should read "between Port Pirie and Adelaide". It is "Broken Hill" here; it is

an error in *Hansard*. However, this was the question I asked: had they engaged consultants? How much work had been done by the consultants? That was the reply I got. Members can work it out for themselves. Obviously our Premier knows nothing whatever about standardization; yet he claims his Ministers recognize the potential for development.

The most important issues associated with development are gauge standardization and water supply. The Government has sold out on Chowilla to build a dam in Victoria to supply Victoria with water at the expense of the taxpayers of South Australia, because we have to put our quarter into that; and now the Premier does not know whether the Government has engaged consultants. If it has, he does not know who they are and, if they have been engaged, he does not know whether they have done any work. All I can see in this sort of statement is that the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport and the Prime Minister are obviously going to use this standardization between Adelaide and Port Pirie and between Port Augusta and Whyalla as a Commonwealth election issue. If they are going to play politics with the welfare of this State and at the expense of the development of this State, I do not think they will be able to convince the people for too long that it is good politics. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 9.32 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 30, at 2 p.m.