

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, August 20, 1969.

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

PETITION: ABORTION LEGISLATION

Mr. NANKIVELL presented a petition signed by 85 persons stating that the signatories, being 16 years of age or older, 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 that might permit the current practice.

Petition received.

PETITION: COLEBROOK HOME

Mr. EVANS presented a petition signed by 411 citizens who strongly objected to the decision not to grant a licence to Colebrook Home to enable it to care for more than four children under the age of 12 years and to deny it the renewal of the lease of the premises and grounds. The petitioners prayed that the South Australian Government would be guided by the recommendation of the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Welfare of Aboriginal Children that the home should be encouraged to expand its activities.

Petition received and read.

QUESTIONS

CONSUMER CREDIT LEGISLATION

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is now some time since the receipt by the Government and the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General of the Adelaide University Law School report on consumer credit and moneylending.

The Government has not yet announced what it intends to do following the receipt of this report and recommendations. Can the Attorney-General say whether the Government accepts the recommendations in the report and what action it intends to take to initiate legislation to give effect to the recommendations?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In view of the Leader's question, I guess that it must have been while he was away that his Deputy asked me a similar question, and I answered it then. However, I will set out the position again for the benefit of the Leader, as he must have missed the reply I gave previously. The matter is to be considered again by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General at the meeting here in December. The report was discussed briefly at the meeting in Brisbane last month but really only as to its release for publication, and the Leader may have seen something about that. The contents of the report have not been considered in detail by the Attorneys. Some of the recommendations are far-reaching, and it is considered that, if action is to be taken, it should be taken on a uniform basis throughout Australia, as I am sure the Leader will appreciate.

The Attorneys did not consider that they had had sufficient time to study the implications of the recommendations and, even though the report had been circulated to interested parties in the period between the time of the meeting at Hobart in March and the Brisbane meeting in July, in the view of the majority it had not been possible to ascertain reaction to it. The matter is on the agenda for discussion in December. However, several matters can obviously be dealt with by States individually. I think when I replied to the member for Millicent I referred to a couple of matters. The matters of used motor car transactions and door-to-door selling occur to me immediately, and these are being examined by the Government.

LIQUOR PRICES

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked late last month about prices charged for wine purchased in hotels and restaurants and about other related matters?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Yes. The honourable member's question, which was rather extensive, was divided into various points, and the reply is therefore divided into five points. First, I am aware that the Chairman of the Liquor Industry Council (Mr. C. R. Aitken) recently authorized a brief announcement of

a scale of recommended maximum prices of Australian wine served at table in licensed premises. Secondly, the relationship of the standard of service to the maximum price of bottles of wine served at table admittedly presents difficulties. The Secretary of the Liquor Industry Council has pointed out that maximum prices have been recommended to cover first-class hotels. It is expected that lower prices will prevail at hotels with less elaborate facilities and standards. Thirdly, there are four ways of covering the cost of entertainment with meals: a cover charge can be made, the cost can be added to the price of meals, the cost can be added to the price of refreshments, or the cost can be recouped by a combination of these possibilities. The cost of extensive entertainment in first-class hotels will probably result in the use of a combination of these methods but, as long as the on-charge on bottles of wine is kept within reason, I see no cause to object to some share of the cost of entertainment being recouped in this manner. One of the objects of recommending maximum prices is to keep on-charges within reasonable bounds. Fourthly, I am assured there should be reductions in some cases. Finally, I hope that there will be voluntary compliance with the spirit of the recommendations of the Liquor Industry Council.

SAND LEASES

Mr. HURST: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about West Lakes sand leases?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Sand leases Nos. 2857 and 2906-9, formerly held by P. W. Ellis Proprietary Limited and situated near the Grange Golf Club, were cancelled on August 1, 1969, and at the same time reserved from the operations of the Mining Act. The question of compensation in relation to these sand leases is under consideration. Sand lease No. 3000 is held by J. J. C. Williams and is situated about three-quarters of a mile farther south. Negotiations to terminate this lease and provide compensation are proceeding.

STRUAN FARM

Mr. RODDA: For about 24 years the Struan Farm property, a most distinguished property about 10 miles south of Naracoorte, has been used as a home for boys and administered by the Social Welfare Department. The property comprises a valuable area of land and a homestead that is one of the treasures of South Australia. I understand that for

some time the use to which this property is being put has been looked at. Can the Minister of Social Welfare say whether any decision has been made about the future use of Struan Farm?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Government has made a decision on this matter. I guess all members are aware of the criticism of Struan made by the Auditor-General over the years on the ground of cost. I believe the institution has had by far the highest cost for each boy of any institution coming under the control of the Minister of Social Welfare. When I became Minister, after discussing the matter with my departmental officers I subsequently went down to Struan and looked at the property and house to which the honourable member has referred. I concluded that it was just not worth while continuing to use the property for the purpose for which it has been used for about 24 years.

Several factors have influenced the decision made. I have mentioned one already in referring to the high cost for each child at the institution at a time when, frankly, we have so much to do in the field of social welfare, with not nearly as much money as we like to have, that, in my view, the money being spent on Struan is just not warranted. Apart from that, there are other reasons. Few of the boys who go to Struan are really interested in farm work. Although I do not know the precise figure, I think that at present there are only about 15 boys there, and that has been the position in the recent past, because the boys are just not interested in farm work. Those who go there have limited opportunities in such work after they leave. It is a long way from Adelaide, and most of those who can be considered for placement at Struan come from the metropolitan area. As it is such a long way away, it is impossible for them to have visits from relatives and so on, it is rather difficult to get suitable staff, and supervision by senior officers of the department is difficult. For all these reasons it has been decided that Struan Farm should not continue to be used for the purposes for which it has been used and that it should be transferred from the Social Welfare Department to the control of the Minister of Agriculture to be used in conjunction with the research farm which adjoins the property.

SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked yesterday about the amount of Commonwealth assistance received

last year and estimated to be received this year under the line relating to school buildings in the Loan Estimates for technical colleges, teachers colleges, science laboratories and library projects?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: A Commonwealth contribution of about \$2,900,000 is expected to be attracted by the projects included in the Loan Estimates for 1969-70. I think the honourable member will deduce that, as he has said, there has been a reduction in the State figure included in the total to be spent this year. The reason for the increased Commonwealth attraction this year is that last year there was substantial underspending, which has been carried forward, in the recovery, into the new year's accounts. The honourable member will see in the statement of the departmental Loan Estimates that the estimated recoveries for this financial year are \$2,700,000, whereas I have just given the figure of \$2,900,000. Although I am not sure of the reason for the discrepancy in the figures, I think it is probably because of the underspending and non-completion of the programme last year and also because of some factor that has arisen since the figure was prepared. However, I will check that.

Mr. Hudson: What was the figure last year?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The amount recovered from the Commonwealth Government was \$1,600,000.

HAIL STORMS

Mr. GILES: Last year I asked a question of the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, about the effectiveness of rockets in the dispersment of hail storms in the Adelaide Hills. This question emanated from success at Stanthorpe, in Queensland, with the system. The *Sunday Mail* of August 16, at page 25, contains a further report on the effectiveness of rockets for this work, part of the report stating:

With rockets at the ready, West Germany's fruitgrowers are standing by to defend their crops. The growers say that, although the rocket defence system against hail storms is only in its infancy, their losses from hail damage in the Lake Constance area last year dropped to almost nil. On their own initiative, fruitgrowers around the lake have built a network of about 200 mini-bases for hail defence rockets. As soon as a storm that might lead to hail appears, the volunteer squads move their mobile ramps into position, insert the 18in. rockets and ignite them electrically. It requires training to hit the threatening cumulo-nimbus clouds on the right spot, the relatively small updraught zone at a height of about 6,000ft. The rockets explode, spread-

ing millions of particles of silver iodide which trigger the formation of small, harmless ice granules that dissolve on their way to the ground.

These rockets cost about \$6 each. Last year the apple industry suffered a heavy loss from hail damage, the reduction of the normal export figure of about 450,000 bushels to about 30,000 bushels having involved a loss suffered by growers of about \$500,000. Will the Premier, in the temporary absence of the Minister of Lands, ask the Minister of Agriculture to further investigate the possibility of using this system to control hail storms in the Adelaide Hills to prevent what would otherwise be an adverse effect on our apple exports?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member's expertise and interest in the apple industry are well known, and I know that the losses to which he has referred were a blow to the industry in South Australia. As the honourable member says, the dissipation of storm danger by this method is one that is still subject to much experimentation. I understand that the hurricane that recently developed off the United States of America coastline was treated in this way, with the objective of reducing the velocity of the winds at the storm's centre. I will refer this matter to my colleague for a report.

SLEEPERS

Mr. VIRGO: As the Premier has told me that he has a reply to the questions I asked recently on the economic feasibility of using concrete sleepers, I should be pleased if he would now give it.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The suggestion that concrete sleepers be used in the lines of the South Australian Railway system has been considered during recent years by departmental officers. It is recognized that the availability of naturally durable hardwood sleepers may well decrease in future to an extent that the use of some alternative will become necessary. There is a considerable volume of information in documentary form available on the subject of concrete sleepers. Further, departmental officers have inspected installations and have discussed matters related to their performance with user systems both in Australia and abroad. Discussions have also taken place between departmental officers and firms desirous of entering into contracts for the manufacture of concrete sleepers for use on these railways. Representatives of the firms

concerned have been invited to submit proposals but, as yet, nothing substantial has emerged from the discussions. So far as can be discovered by departmental officers, the combined cost of concrete sleepers manufactured in this State, together with the special fastenings required, is likely to be more than double the cost of hardwood sleepers and conventional dog-spike fastenings. Further, while hardwood sleepers may be renewed in the track at random, once a decision to adopt concrete sleepers has been made, it is necessary to renew existing sleepers systematically, even when most are still serviceable. In consequence, conversion from hardwood to concrete is very much more costly than a comparison of unit costs might suggest.

Possibly the most serious drawback inherent in the use of concrete sleepers is that, unless highly complex and correspondingly expensive fastenings are employed to secure the rails, the dimensions of rails that can be used with them are fixed for the life of the sleeper. It is accepted that, in main lines, concrete sleepers will outlast the rails initially laid on them and that re-laying with new rails will be required at intervals. The contours and dimensions of rails have been varied, from time to time, during the past 60 years to take advantage of experience gained, and it is tolerably certain that this process will continue, with advantage, provided that artificial restraints, as, for example, sleeper fastenings, do not prevent it. The average life of hardwood sleepers in the tracks of the S.A.R. exceeds 20 years, and this is comparable with the average interval between changes in rail dimensions that have occurred. Such changes present no problems when hardwood sleepers are involved. It is agreed that the use of concrete sleepers will usually confer some advantage in stability of the track. However, regardless of the type of sleeper used, rail tracks must receive attention periodically. Because of the greatly increased weight comprised in track laid on concrete sleepers, maintenance must necessarily involve mechanical plant to a considerable extent. This condition imposes other problems. It is beyond doubt that, while naturally durable hardwood sleepers continue to be available at prices comparable with those at present paid, it will be economically advantageous to employ them generally on these railways. Nevertheless, departmental officers concerned will continue to study technical and economic aspects of this matter in view of probable long-term needs.

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the spacing of sleepers on railway tracks in this State?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The spacing of sleepers in railway track is determined by various circumstances, including the dimensions of the sleepers themselves, the weight of rail employed, and the condition of the supporting formation. In British railway practice a standard wood sleeper 10in. wide was adopted many years ago and in consequence of experience in its use a spacing of 30in. was adopted. The practice in this State has followed the British railways pattern in respect of track, and so has practice in Victoria. In New South Wales and on the Commonwealth railways, hardwood sleepers 9in. wide are in general use. The spacing adopted is less than 30in. In the United States of America sleepers are generally less than 9in. wide. The spacing is correspondingly reduced. Treated pine sleepers have been used on the South Australian Railways in small numbers for some years past in consequence of successful tests initiated in 1936. The most recent delivery took place in February of this year. The Woods and Forests Department supplies such sleepers to Railways Department specifications as and when it suits the parties, at an agreed price. Treated pine sleepers are not at present competitive in price with naturally durable hardwood when incidental costs of fastenings are taken into account.

WHEAT

Mr. EDWARDS: The following report appears in yesterday's *Advertiser* under the heading "Defiant over Wheat Price":

The State president of the Victorian Farmers' Union (Mr. A. D. Wood) said tonight he intended to sell any over-quota wheat he produced this season. He said this in defiance of the Australian Wheat Board's agreement with the Australian Wheat Farmers' Federation over \$1.71 a bushel being the price for the home consumption.

Mr. Wood has been a wheatgrower in Victoria for 20 years or longer, but he said that he would sell the over-quota product, if he had any, on the open market for stock feed or drought purposes at a reasonable price below the \$1.71 level. However, this would be only if the Australian Wheat Board would not accept it. I see no reason why he should defy the board's regulations and sell his wheat outside—

The SPEAKER: I think the honourable member is starting to debate the question.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am sorry, Sir, but I am trying to get a point across.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot debate the question: he must ask it.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Wood said that he would sell on the open market, because he considered that the orderly marketing scheme had broken down. He did, however, strongly recommend that farmers should not attempt to grow wheat indiscriminately in order to take advantage of the proposition that he intended to carry out. Will the Minister of Lands give this information to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him to take action to nip this type of thing in the bud before it gets out of hand?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understand from the newspaper report that the farmer lives in Victoria and, in these circumstances, I cannot really see how the South Australian Minister has much control over his actions. I noticed from what the honourable member said (before you, Mr. Speaker, corrected him) that he did not sympathize with this man, and it would probably be correct to say that the Minister would not, either. Generally, I think wheatgrowers strongly support the present wheat marketing legislation, although some difficulties are apparent, legal and otherwise. This Victorian wheat farmer has emphasized one of the problems. I will refer the question to the Minister of Agriculture and, if he can, he will certainly give me a considered reply, but as this man lives outside South Australia the Minister is not likely to have much direct influence on the matter.

SCHOOL MILK

Mr. BROOMHILL: In this morning's *Advertiser* Mrs. J. F. Coy, State Nutrition Officer with the Department of Health Service in Tasmania, is reported as having said that children attending high schools needed a daily issue of milk even more than younger children, and that if the Commonwealth Government made milk available in high schools the children would not eat so much rubbish, and serious problems of overweight and dental decay would be lessened. Will the Minister of Education consider this statement with the object of asking the Commonwealth Government whether milk can be supplied to children attending high schools?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have not seen the press article but, as I am interested in this matter, I will obtain a report on the possibility of implementing such a scheme and also on whether I may be able to take up this matter with the Commonwealth Government.

BURRA COURTHOUSE

Mr. ALLEN: The current Loan Estimates provide for the construction of a new police station at Burra. Last year I asked the Attorney-General questions concerning acoustics in the Burra courthouse. When replying, the Attorney-General said that, because court cases were held only once a fortnight, he considered that little work could be done on the courthouse. I pointed out that, although court cases may have to be heard only once a fortnight, it was necessary that the justices of the peace sitting on the bench should be able to hear all the evidence submitted. Can the Minister of Works say whether the current Loan Estimates provide for a courthouse in the new police station at Burra and, if they do not, will the Minister consider improving the acoustics of the existing courthouse when the new police station is being built?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will seek the information the honourable member requires.

COONALYPN MAIN

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works details of the date of commencing construction of a lateral main from the Keith to Tailem Bend main that will link Coomandook and Coonalpyn?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I thank the honourable member for telling me that he intended to ask this question, and I inform him that the main referred to runs along the main interstate highway from Coomandook passing through Yumali and Ki Ki and ending at Coonalpyn, and is about 21 miles long. On the present construction programme it is expected that the laying of this main will be commenced at Coomandook in about August, 1970, and the laying is to be completed to Coonalpyn by June, 1971.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Mr. BURDON: For a considerable time I have carried out private inquiries as to how the interests of a deaf and blind child, and its parents who live in my district, can best be served. My investigations have extended to a home for these unfortunate children at North Rocks, Sydney. Talks have been held between the South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, the previous Minister of Education, and the present Minister, and although these discussions have covered a wide field I now consider, following a recent talk I had with the Minister (and knowing her interest in the matter) and also other people,

that it would be in the interests of the public if a certain matter was released for public information. Can the Minister of Education comment on the present situation and, if possible, outline some contemplated proposals that may help such children and their parents?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As the honourable member said (and I think it is well known to him and other members), I have had a long interest in the education of handicapped children. I am well versed in the problems of such deaf and blind children. Of course, as members will realize, it is a great tragedy that children are handicapped in this way. I was a member of the Advisory Council on the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children until I became a Minister. Some years ago, realizing that there were some of these unfortunate children in our midst, that committee recommended something be done to deal with this problem. Fortunately, few children suffer with this affliction, but a special deaf and blind unit has been established at the Gilles Street school. Because this unit requires specialist teaching, the Government sent Miss Payne to America, she having previously been an experienced teacher of deaf children, and she visited the Perkins Institute to study the training and teaching of deaf and blind children.

Indeed, Miss Payne has performed a sterling service not only in the past to deaf children, but more recently to deaf and blind children. I think there are about five of these at Gilles Street. Practically a one-teacher to one-child ratio is required, and insufficient teachers of deaf and blind children in South Australia are available, but the people helping Miss Payne are rendering a great service not only to the children and parents but to the community generally. Of course, the real problem exists in regard to those afflicted children who live in the country.

Mr. Burdon: There is the question of accommodation.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes. When a child is suffering from a single handicap, one can often find a person who is prepared to board the child and arrange for the child to attend a day centre, but when it comes to a deaf and blind child the difficulties are manifold. We know of this child in the South-East, and there could be one or two others throughout South Australia suffering from a similar handicap. As the number of these children throughout Australia is not great, it seems that, rather than each State handling this matter individually, some kind

of a national school for deaf and blind children is the answer. There is a school at North Rocks (New South Wales) which caters for a number of deaf and blind children, but this is run essentially for children living in that State. I believe that, unless a definite contribution were made to this unit by the other States, children from those States could not be accommodated.

About three weeks ago I received the members of the advisory panel for deaf and hard-of-hearing children and asked them whether they would undertake a survey of the number of deaf and blind children in South Australia and report to me, so that I could then consult my fellow Ministers in other States to see whether we could not approach the Commonwealth Government on a nation-wide basis in order to set up some kind of school to help meet the needs of these unfortunate children. I am at present awaiting the results of that survey and the report by members of the advisory panel. As soon as I have that information, I will notify the honourable member, and we will then take any further action that is considered to be in the best interests of the children concerned.

PORT PIRIE OIL BERTH

Mr. McKEE: A report appearing in the *Port Pirie Recorder* of August 15 refers to the oil berth safety precautions existing at Port Pirie and states:

Fire safety precautions at the oil berth on the waterfront were questioned at this week's meeting of the corporation. The councillor concerned said he had never seen equipment near the oil berth when tankers were discharging fuel as had been described in a letter from Mr. Gilfillan, M.L.C. In his letter Mr. Gilfillan said he had asked the Minister of Marine for details of foam and detergent compounds available at Port Pirie for fighting oil fires at the waterfront or for the dispersal of oil floating on water.

Mr. Coumbe had said local oil companies had 1,140 gallons of foam available while the department had 105 gallons and the local fire brigade 75 gallons. Oil dispersal compounds available comprised 450 gallons in the department stocks, and nine gallons was held by the fire brigade. The local oil companies had 44 gallons.

As confusion seems to exist regarding the safety precautions associated with the oil tanker berth, and as the berth is located close to the main shopping centre of Port Pirie, will the Minister of Marine obtain a report with a view to bringing fire safety regulations up to standard in respect of ships discharging fuel in the harbour?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I am sorry if there is confusion in the honourable member's mind, although possibly it has arisen from the newspaper article to which he has referred. I recall that when the reply was being prepared for the honourable member the department went to considerable lengths to ascertain the information he sought. That information, which was obtained from several sources, was given in good faith and, as far as I know, the details are correct. However, I shall be happy to check them for the honourable member. As he knows, I have examined fully the matter of the safety of this berth not only on the honourable member's and the department's behalf but also on behalf of the Council of the City of Port Pirie, and this matter will be discussed with him in more detail next month. I will try to obtain the information the honourable member has requested.

HAIR LICE

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The leading letter in this morning's *Advertiser*, headed "Hair Lice 'Offence'", states that the daughter of the correspondent was a victim of hair lice with which she claims she came into contact at school. The letter suggests that children should be compelled to stay away from school while so infected. It is the last paragraph of the letter which gives me great concern, namely:

The Health Department has told a cousin of mine in another area that this is, to use its own term, rife in Adelaide. If this is so, why isn't something more done about it, because I for one am sick of attending to something which is caused by people who don't care two hoots?

Although I should be rather surprised if the Health Department was not doing all it could regarding this matter, will the Premier obtain from the Minister of Health a report on what the department is doing at present about this problem and make the information known to the House in the interests of the public generally?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Having seen the letter to which the honourable member refers, I believe that the solution to this problem lies probably in the combination of two factors, one being a greater public awareness of the need to supervise children carefully in this regard, and the second relating to supervision at the school itself in order to recognize and treat the infection as soon as it is first observed. However, I will get a report for the honourable member and ascertain the present situation regarding the metropolitan area generally.

DENTAL HOSPITAL

Mrs. BYRNE: In March last I wrote to the Minister of Health about the son of a constituent of mine who required orthodontic treatment at the Dental Hospital. I received a reply from the Minister in April, stating that, unfortunately, the waiting time for orthodontic treatment by the Dental Department was substantial. In fact, patients currently commencing orthodontic treatment were placed on the waiting list at the end of 1964. The Minister's letter continues:

The hospital has on its staff establishment a position of Senior Dentist (Orthodontics) but despite advertising both within and outside of Australia it has been unsuccessful in filling this position.

Will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary whether this position has now been filled and, if it has not, what salary is offered for it and how that salary compares with salaries offered for similar positions in other States?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will get a report on the matter.

MOSQUITOES

Mr. RYAN: Over the past years I have often raised with the Minister of Marine possible action to eradicate the mosquito nuisance as it affects the upper reaches of the Port River (I am getting in a bit early this year). I understand that last year a committee was set up to make a recommendation on the matter, the hope being that some relief might be able to be given in this area. Can the Minister say whether further progress has been made and whether it can be hoped that the mosquito nuisance in this area may be eradicated this summer?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I hope so. Only this morning a report came on to my desk of the meeting held on this matter, I think last week, at which representatives of the local boards of health of Port Adelaide, Enfield and Salisbury met with officers of the Marine and Harbors Department, the Lands Department, the Public Health Department, the Commonwealth Health Department, and the Electricity Trust. The meeting was held so that they could consider the report which has now been presented by the Public Health Department and which has been compiled over the last year. The report recommends a method of treating the mosquito infestation. However, it is careful to point out certain strict procedures that must be adopted because, if premature treatment is undertaken or the problem is handled indiscriminately, the infestation will not be overcome. I have now approved certain funds being made available

by the Government and authorized further discussions to be undertaken with the other statutory authorities concerned, including those local boards of health to which I have referred, so that a final decision can now be made on the commencement date of this eradication programme bearing in mind the correct time of the year to begin it.

HEALTH SUBSIDY

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Has the Premier obtained from the Minister of Health a reply to my recent question about nursing home charges?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The additional benefit recently provided by the Commonwealth Government for persons requiring and receiving intensive nursing care in nursing homes was designed primarily to raise the standard of care given to those who need it. A condition of the additional grant is that the patient must require and be receiving at least six hours a week of nursing care by a registered nurse. The basic grant of \$2 a day is payable where care by a registered nurse extends over two hours a week. It is therefore proper that fees charged in private nursing homes to those receiving intensive nursing care and attracting the higher Commonwealth benefit should be higher than fees charged to those receiving only the basic benefit.

It is understood that there are instances in which the whole of the additional benefit is absorbed in added fees to meet the cost of more intensive care; but there are other instances where charges to those receiving the additional \$3 a day are raised by \$1.50 a day, so that the patient receives the dual benefits of improved care and a lower net fee. It is not intended to investigate prices, as prices should be related to standards. However, because of recent Commonwealth legislation relating to nursing homes, the Government intends to increase the number of nursing home beds in Government-controlled institutions.

RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Irrigation a reply to the question I asked yesterday about the difficulties the Renmark Irrigation Trust may currently be experiencing in its work?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: On inquiring into the matter raised by the honourable member, I find that the modifications of which he has spoken cannot necessarily be classed as difficulties. Following the oversea visit last year, the trust is anxious that the practicability

of incorporating in the rehabilitation scheme certain facilities, used extensively overseas, be examined closely. For this reason it has been agreed that it would be better to defer some of the works so that any amendments to the works as planned can be made and so as to avoid unnecessary expenditure. The facilities which are now being examined and which may necessitate significant changes in design include pressurizing a portion of the system sufficiently to operate sprinkler irrigation layouts, a stock and domestic water supply direct from the irrigation head works, and methods of metering supplies to growers.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Mr. HURST: I have received a letter from a fellow national of Mrs. Helmons, a widow of 73 Wattle Avenue, Royal Park. Mrs. Helmons has a 12-year-old son still attending school. Having had two strokes, she is partly paralyzed and depends solely on a widow's pension. Her present rent is \$12 a week, with electricity charges. As she must attend hospital, she is under a financial strain. Will the Minister of Social Welfare have an officer of the Social Welfare Department call on this lady with a view to assisting her, for she is unable to call at the department?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall be only too pleased to have that done.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

Mr. BROOMHILL: As show week is approaching and as the Commonwealth election date has been announced today, members are interested in the likely sittings of the Parliament. Can the Premier say, first, when Parliament can be expected to rise for the show adjournment and, secondly, whether the House can be expected to adjourn for the Commonwealth elections?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: As I have known the date of the Commonwealth election only since seeing the afternoon newspaper, the Government has not considered whether or not Parliament will adjourn prior to that election. However, I point out to the honourable member, if he is not already aware of it, that speeches have been rather lengthy on the first measures that have been brought before the House this session, and we will be hard pressed to consider all the matters it is planned to put before the House. For that reason, we cannot lightly embark on an adjournment for the Commonwealth elections. For the show adjournment, Parliament will rise on Thursday,

September 4, resuming on Tuesday, September 16. Therefore, there will be one full week's break for the Royal Show.

PORT PIRIE MAIL SERVICE

Mr. McKEE: Business people and other members of the public are complaining about the unsatisfactory mail service between Adelaide and Port Pirie and statements in the local press have criticized the service. One person has told me that he received mail posted in Scotland more quickly than his daughter in Adelaide received mail posted in Port Pirie. I understand that it is common for mail to take three days or four days to get from Adelaide to Port Pirie, and this is an unreasonable time for mail to travel about 140 miles. A pony express service would be more satisfactory! Although mail services are the responsibility of the Postmaster-General's Department, a Commonwealth Government authority, will the Premier take this matter up with that department to try to have the service improved?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member has not given details of why the service is unsatisfactory. He has dealt with the service in a general way, and his reference to mail being received from Scotland more quickly is not valid, because I understand that mail from Scotland must be dealt with in Adelaide in a similar way to local mail. Mail from any part of the world for Port Pirie must go through Adelaide the same as mail posted in the metropolitan area. However, as the question gives me the opportunity to make certain inquiries, I will do that and bring down any report available from the Commonwealth authorities.

PUBLIC PARKS

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked yesterday about the public parks provision in the Loan Estimates and the amount held in the deposit account established for this purpose?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: At June 30, 1968, the balance in the deposit account was \$280,015. During 1968-69 a further \$300,000 was appropriated from the Loan Account, whilst actual payments towards purchase of land were \$165,466. The balance in the deposit account had increased to \$414,549 at June 30, 1969. I should like to add that in the discussions prior to the introduction of the Loan Estimates this year, consideration was given to the advisability of continuing to

set aside \$300,000 this year in addition to the amount in the deposit account. As the Government has tried to encourage the purchase of land for public parks, we have had no desire to reduce the amount. We considered that a reduction would indicate a lack of interest by the Government in the matter. However, the amount is building up and I strongly believe that, unless substantial advantage is taken of the Government's funds for this purpose during the current financial year, there will be a good case for my considering the matter later this year, certainly before next year's Loan Estimates are introduced.

SECURITY DEPOSITS

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister of Works will be aware that the Electricity Trust of South Australia has power to require payment of a security deposit under condition 12 of the trust's conditions of supply, which states:

The trust may, if it thinks fit, demand security by cash deposit, to be fixed by the trust, before commencing a supply, or at any time thereafter.

Every person applying to the trust for the supply of electricity signs an application form in which he agrees to be bound by the trust's condition of supply. I draw the Minister's attention to the fact that a constituent who arrived in Australia only on May 26 and occupied, as the first occupant, his present house on July 3 (and he has no business interests here) received from the trust a letter dated August 1 requesting him to pay \$20 as security deposit and stating, in part:

We thank you for your application for the supply of electric energy at the above address, and advise that it is our normal practice to require a deposit as security for the payment of future accounts. Our deposit account for \$20 is attached, and payment should be made by the date shown on this account. Your deposit has been assessed on the information available in this office but if previously electricity accounts in your name have been paid promptly for a minimum period of two years, will you please contact this office again so that we can give further consideration to the matter.

As I thought that only persons who had not paid their accounts promptly for a minimum period of two years were requested to pay security deposits, will the Minister say whether the trust's policy has been changed so as to require all new consumers to pay the security deposit or whether a mistake has been made in this case?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I think all members know that, for some years, the trust has required deposits from customers. If the honourable member gives me privately details

of the case referred to, I will have it investigated immediately to find out whether special circumstances apply.

FISHING HAVENS

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Treasurer a reply to a question I asked yesterday about whether the provision of \$225,000 in this year's Loan Estimates for fishing havens would come from Commonwealth aid roads grants as it had come last year?

The SPEAKER: Order! Several questions relating to the Loan Estimates have been asked and, although I have not considered this matter at great length, I am inclined to think that questions referring to the Loan Estimates are anticipating the debate on those Estimates. If they do this, they are contrary to Standing Orders. The Treasurer has indicated his willingness to reply to these questions and, as honourable members know, I am always anxious to help them get necessary information. However, at the same time I am bound by Standing Orders about anticipating debate and I think that these matters should properly be raised in the debate, not during Question Time. If the Treasurer desires to reply, he may do so.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I am pleased that you take the view that I may reply, Mr. Speaker, because this matter is one of policy and, although the actual provision is made in the Loan Estimates, this is not necessarily entirely a Loan Estimates matter. I find, on examination, that the position has changed. Whereas under the previous policy and previously under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act it was permissible to use certain road funds provided by the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of building, establishing and improving fishing havens, the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act, 1969, does not continue the old provision under which a proportion of the Commonwealth money may be used for fishing havens. Accordingly, for this year, and as can be foreseen in future years, the provision of fishing havens will be met out of State funds.

FINDON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. BROOMHILL: Recently, I asked the Minister of Education, to whose attention I drew the problems at the Findon High School, what special measures were being considered by her department to ensure a progressive fall in the number of students in Matriculation classes at that school in the next few years.

As she has indicated that she now has a reply, I should be grateful if she would give it.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The figures quoted by the honourable member are correct. In most schools class size decreases as the students progress through the school but at Findon this year circumstances forced the school to have classes with very little difference in size from first to fifth year. One factor determining this was awkward totals in the lower school which kept the class size smaller than in many other schools, and the other factor was the shortage, first, of qualified mathematics/science teachers, which is world-wide, and secondly, to a lesser degree, of English teachers. With the first secondary teachers coming from Bedford Park Teachers College in 1970 there will be a 23 per cent increase in secondary exit students from teachers colleges, and staffing difficulties will be alleviated; they will become easier again in 1971 when exit students from Salisbury Teachers College, in addition, will be available for the first time. Wider and more intensive recruiting campaigns will be adopted for the new year with the hope that more people will offer for re-employment and for employment from outside the service.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. VENNING: On August 5, in reply to my question following consultations the Premier had had with the Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport (Mr. Sinclair), the Premier replied:

Agreement has now been reached between the Commonwealth and South Australia on the terms of reference for the proposed feasibility study in connection with gauge standardization. As I understand that the Premier has further information on this study, I should be pleased if he would give it to the House.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The situation is as the honourable member has stated. I have some important detail. Eleven consultants have now been approached by the Commonwealth and given one month in which to submit proposals. Letters went on Friday. After the end of the one month the proposals will be examined and the name of one of the 11 (or if two or more consultants combine to present a proposal, then these) will be submitted to South Australia for ratification. Mr. Barling considers that six weeks from now a further move will be made. That information came to hand last week, I think, and we can expect that within the next five or six weeks the names of the consultants who will carry out this survey will be announced.

WEST BEACH RESERVE

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my question of August 6 regarding the future preservation of sandhills in and near the West Beach Recreation Reserve?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The honourable member said that he had been told by a responsible member of the community that he suspected that the West Beach Trust might intend to erect additional buildings along the front of the sand dunes in the reserve. Having taken up this matter with the West Beach Recreation Reserve Trust, I have received the following letter from the trust's Chairman:

I have to acknowledge your communication of August 11 regarding the possibility that the West Beach Recreation Reserve Trust may intend to erect additional buildings along the front of the sand dunes and reserve. This is indeed news to me, and I can assure you the trust has no such intention, nor would it permit any of its tenants to erect structures thereon. The members are aware of the special provisions relating to the trust.

AGRICULTURAL COURSES

Mr. GILES: A supplementary agricultural course has been initiated at Urrbrae, and it is a most valuable adjunct to our agricultural education system, as there is a vacuum in agricultural education. As students come to Urrbrae from many parts of South Australia, and as it would be advisable to cater for more students at the school, can the Minister of Education say whether it is planned to establish boarding facilities at the school soon so that more students may take the agricultural course?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The success of the Urrbrae type of agricultural education has been confirmed by everyone associated with agricultural pursuits: it has been an outstanding success, and I would like to see more such schools established. On the recommendation of the Director-General, this matter has been included in the terms of reference of the committee inquiring into agricultural education. As to whether boarding facilities will be provided at the school, this was the idea when the school was first planned, but it has not worked out that way. However, the honourable member's question opens up the whole question of residential facilities at schools, which is a matter for Government consideration as a whole. I will see whether I can provide the honourable member with a reply.

RIGHT OF PRIVACY BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to establish rights of privacy, to control the possession and use of aural and visual surveillance devices, to provide relief against acts of harassment, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It has been a tradition of English countries that a man's home is his castle and that he is entitled to peaceful and quiet enjoyment of it and within his own four walls to act and speak without fear of being overheard or having his acts or speech publicized. These rights were protected until today by the laws of trespass. There is a remedy in law for any householder against anyone who enters his property without authority but, with the development of new technologies, the privacy that the law previously guaranteed is no longer capable of protection by the law of trespass. Sophisticated devices make it possible for people not at the time intruding on the property to see and to hear what goes on behind closed doors on private property. Some of these devices are readily available in Australia.

As far as visual oversight of other people is concerned, miniature cameras, closed circuit television, infra-red and special equipment to allow observation in the dark, and special viewing devices which can be inserted in a wall and which are no larger than an ordinary fountain pen, either singularly or in conjunction with recording devices, make it possible to obtain a visual record of people's private actions in circumstances where proof of trespass would be difficult. Even more effective are the techniques of overhearing private conversations. It is possible to wire a person's clothing to make him a walking radio transmitter. It is possible to plant a bugging microphone and transmitter the size of which has been reduced to a matchhead. The bugging of an olive in a Martini glass at a cocktail party, which was a commonly commented on form of surveillance activity in certain parts of the world, particularly in the United States, is regarded as a rather out-dated use of modern technologies of bugging.

It is possible to combine audio bugs with tape recorders, or to run electrically-conductive metallic paint not visible to the eye. It is possible to use a Döppler radar microphone where, by putting a beam on a window-pane, an entire conversation in the room in which the window is can be picked up from vibrations

on the pane. External directional microphones can be used for picking up conversations at considerable distance and portable laser microphones are also available.

It is in consequence quite possible to obtain devices by which one business concern can get complete information as to decisions made in the boardrooms of another; by which employers could get complete information as to what was said at a meeting of trade unionists; by which officers of one political Party could obtain knowledge of the plans of their opponents; and by which no private expression of thought or private act is safe from the intrusion or inquisitiveness of others.

The Congress of the United States of America has passed an Act restricting the use or possession of aural surveillance devices, and the State of Victoria has passed the Listening Devices Act of 1969, which restricts the use of such devices but, in my view, neither goes far enough. If listening and aural surveillance devices are readily available and their possession is widespread, there is little hope of controlling their use, since from their very nature the user avoids detection. The line between what are reasonable uses of new technologies and what are instruments designed for snooping is not easy to draw, but that does not mean that the attempt should not be made.

The attempt in this Bill is based largely on the drafting of the Victorian Act and of the United States Federal Act. The Bill prohibits the use of any listening device to record what should properly be private conversations without the consent of the parties to those conversations. If a listening device is used by one of the parties to a private conversation to record the conversation without the consent of the other party, then the person who has recorded the conversation may not publish its substance or meaning except for the protection of his lawful interests. The possession of listening devices or visual surveillance devices, whose design renders them primarily useful for recording private acts or listening to private conversations without the knowledge of the persons concerned, is prohibited. An exception is made for members of the Police Force authorized to possess such devices by the Attorney-General, and police officers will be able to use listening devices and visual surveillance devices when authorized by a warrant of a judge of the Supreme Court who has been satisfied by evidence on oath that the use of the devices in the particular circumstances deposed to is likely to lead to the detection of serious crime.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: At a public hearing, or in chambers?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In chambers: a public hearing would defeat the purpose of the application. Any application may be made to a judge, just as an application for any other warrant, except a general warrant, may be made to a judicial officer in his chambers. No evidence obtained by the unlawful use of devices will be admissible in a court of law, and corporations and their officers as well as private persons will be liable for prosecution. A further provision of the Bill relates to a quite different problem. Members of Parliament frequently get complaints that their constituents are harried by others, often neighbours who have embarked upon a campaign of personal annoyance, and the people affected list a long course and series of actions, none of which, if taken separately, may be unlawful or could give rise to remedies in the courts, but if the whole course is taken together it does constitute a most unreasonable intrusion on the privacy or peace of the person affected.

Every member will know of cases of this kind that have been listed to him, but so far we have had to say that there is no real remedy in law for this. The remedy is provided by the Bill that, where a citizen could complain of a course of harassment of this kind, he could have a summons issued from the magistrates' court to the people responsible for the harassment to be bound over to be of good behaviour and keep the peace. I turn now to the specific clauses and their explanations. The interpretations which are important, are contained in clause 3. Unless the contrary intention appears, "listening device" means any electronic or mechanical instrument apparatus equipment or other device capable of being used to overhear record monitor or listen to a private conversation or words spoken to or by any person in private conversation. A "private act" means any act by a person in a place other than a public place in circumstances in which that person is not visible from a public place and can reasonably expect that his action is in private. A "private conversation" means any conversation carried on in such circumstances as may reasonably indicate that the parties to such conversation desire it to be confined to such parties, but does not include a conversation made in any circumstances in which the parties to the conversation ought reasonably to expect that the conversation may be overheard. The

definition of "public place" is the same as that which occurs in the Police Offences Act.

A "visual intrusion device" means any electronic photographic or mechanical instrument apparatus equipment or other device primarily designed, surreptitiously and without the subject's knowledge, to see record or transmit visual information concerning the private acts of any person. Clause 4 deals with the prohibition of the use of listening devices, as follows:

- (1) A person shall not—
- (a) use any listening device to overhear record monitor or listen to any conversation to which he is not a party; or
 - (b) except in the course of any legal proceedings or in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section communicate or publish the substance or meaning of any private conversation overheard recorded monitored or listened to by the use of any listening device, whether he was a party thereto or not—

without the consent express or implied of the parties to the private conversation.

Subclause (2) provides that where one of the parties to a private conversation has recorded it on a listening device, without the consent of the other party to the conversation, then he may not publish the substance or meaning of the private conversation unless that is reasonably necessary for the protection of his lawful interests. In clause 4, the use of any listening device is covered. It is not possible to prohibit the possession of listening devices as so defined. Listening devices, as defined in the Bill, cover a wide range of equipment, including equipment which would be widely available in South Australia and widely used for perfectly legitimate purposes. Clause 5 prohibits the possession of certain kinds of listening device.

Except as otherwise provided by this Bill, a person shall not manufacture, assemble, possess, have in his possession, sell or offer for sale, or print or publish any advertisement for the sale or distribution of any listening device, knowing or having reason to know that the design of such device renders it primarily useful for surreptitiously overhearing, recording, monitoring or listening to any private conversation without the knowledge of the parties to the private conversation. This mirrors almost exactly the provisions of the United States Federal Act. It is limited to listening devices primarily designed for the purpose of snooping, and that is a question of

fact that the court would have to determine upon any prosecution before it. Clause 6 similarly prohibits the possession of a visual intrusion device. The visual device is limited to a device specifically designed, again, for snooping on private acts of the subjects.

By clause 7, information obtained unlawfully through the use of listening devices or visual intrusion devices will be inadmissible in evidence in any court of law. Under clause 8, a police officer may apply to a judge, on evidence on oath that he has reasonable grounds to believe that in the circumstances he deposes to the use of a listening device or a visual intrusion device or a combination of them will lead to the detection of serious crime, for a warrant permitting him to use a listening device or a visual intrusion device or a combination of them.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: What do you mean by a "serious crime"?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A serious crime is one which is more heavily punishable under the Police Offences Act or one coming under the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. It is a phrase used in many Statutes in Australia. It obviously does not concern the detection of minor traffic offences. If the judge is satisfied on the evidence that the use of the devices sought is likely to lead to the detection of serious crime he may issue a warrant naming the police officers to use the devices and setting out the conditions under which they are to be used. The prohibition of the use of a listening device by clause 4 is not to apply to a police officer acting pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of a warrant issued under this clause.

Possession of a listening device or of a visual intrusion device is not to be an offence for a police officer authorized to possess such a device by writing signed by the Attorney-General and while the police officer is acting in the performance of his duty. A police officer is not to disclose information he has obtained pursuant to a warrant by the use of the device except in the performance of his duty. Clause 11 deals with the liability for offences of corporations and their officers, and clause 12 provides for sureties to keep the peace for harassment. Under this section, the powers of a court of summary jurisdiction pursuant to section 99 of the Justices Act, 1921-1960, to adjudge a defendant to enter into a recognizance and find sureties to keep the peace shall be exercisable on the complaint of any person that the defendant has

by a course of conduct subjected the complainant to personal harassment.

The court may find that the defendant has been guilty of personal harassment of the complainant if it is proved that the defendant has habitually acted to annoy or distress the complainant by a series of acts, whether lawful or unlawful, but which in combination constitutes an unreasonable intrusion on the privacy of the defendant or upon his peaceful and quiet enjoyment of his private property. Again, whether it is an unreasonable intrusion is a question for the court to decide on the evidence before it, but the Bill leaves the court a discretion to find that a combination of acts alleged is constituting an unreasonable intrusion and, in consequence, to bind over the defendant to keep the peace and to be of good behaviour. Clause 13 provides that proceedings in respect of offences against this measure shall be disposed of summarily.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE secured the adjournment of the debate.

DOG RACING

Adjourned debate on the motion of Mr. McAnaney:

(For wording of motion, see page 905.)

(Continued from August 13. Page 911.)

Mr. JENNINGS (Enfield): I oppose this motion, and I think I am the first person who has spoken in this debate to do so. The reasons for my opposition will, I think, manifest themselves as the debate progresses. I think all honourable members of some vintage in this House realize that mechanical coursing in South Australia has had a chequered career. It used to be the habit of those who sponsored this so-called sport to get a troglodyte Liberal (one of the backwoodsmen) to introduce such a motion or Bill, but this did not meet with much success.

Eventually, the member for Port Pirie (Mr. McKee), who is known to be a sporting type, took on the job of introducing the motion and, although he was foiled in his first attempt, he succeeded on the second attempt in getting the measure through.

Mr. Clark: He did a very good job.

Mr. JENNINGS: I think he did; he had a great advantage on that occasion, because I was not in the House. We were always told that the sport was the thing: no gambling was to be associated with this at all. However, I think blind Freddy could have seen that this was just a way in.

Mr. McKee: Does he have to be named "Freddy"?

Mr. JENNINGS: No, he could be named "Dave". When the Bill reached the Upper House, it was referred to a Select Committee. Once again its sponsors were asked whether or not they favoured coursing without betting facilities, and they said almost unanimously that they were satisfied with that. Many peculiar arguments have been used over the years in support of these proposals. I remember Mr. Jenkins, the former member for Stirling (and a much better one than we have now), moving a motion and finishing up with a great peroration about the sporting élite in Britain supporting greyhound racing there. I remember that he once said Lord Cholmondeley raced greyhounds; I do not know whether he ever beat them. We know that Cholmondeley is an old and famous name in Britain. It reminds me that, when one of his Ministers named Bottomley was in the news, Harold Wilson said, "If it is good enough for this famous family Cholmondeley to be called 'Chumley', I do not see why Bottomley should not be called 'Bumley'." At the Select Committee hearing, the Hon. L. R. Hart asked Mr. Cahalan, "Do you believe that South Australia could conduct mechanical lure coursing without betting?" and the answer was "Yes".

Mr. McKee: They have been doing it very successfully, too.

Mr. JENNINGS: I will get to that, and the member for Port Pirie may regret making that irresponsible interjection. Mr. Hart also asked a gentleman named Kustermann, "Do you really believe that mechanical lure coursing can succeed in South Australia without betting?" and the witness replied, "I do not think the clubs would make great profits, but the people running the clubs would receive the benefit of facilities which they should have had for a long time; it is a matter whether we are able to use the mechanical lure or not." Mr. Hart later asked Mr. Kustermann again, "Are you sure that there would be no pressure for betting facilities if this Act came into being?" and the witness replied, "I cannot say that; there would be no pressure from me."

Mr. Banfield asked the Chairman of the Adelaide Greyhound Racing Club (Mr. Mitchell), "Is the club satisfied with the non-provision in the Bill for betting facilities?" and the answer was "Yes". He gave an

unqualified assurance that he was prepared to accept the Bill as it was drafted, without betting facilities at all. Was he a liar?

Mr. McKee: He accepted what the Bill set out to do at the time.

Mr. JENNINGS: Yes, and a short time afterwards we are asked to approve betting facilities.

Mr. McKee: He had no choice but to accept the Bill as it was or lose the mechanical lure.

Mr. JENNINGS: If the Chairman is going to tell lies just to get his own way, I do not think this is an organization to which we should entrust greyhound racing. Mr. Hart asked Mr. Alsop (President of the National Coursing Association) "No betting is mentioned in the Bill, so are you happy with it?" and Mr. Alsop replied, "Yes". We know that in 1938 there was a Royal Commission into this matter, and there it was recommended that it would be most undesirable to permit any form of betting on dog-racing in South Australia. As that is getting back into past history, I do not want to go into it; there is no need to do that when there are so many recent examples of incidents that should encourage the House to reject this motion.

My friend from Port Pirie spoke about the sport and its great success. I suggest the sport has failed at each locality at which it has been established in South Australia. I am told that the average attendance at each meeting over two years at Bolivar is only 480. No wonder they want betting facilities: they cannot get on without them.

Mr. Broomhill: When do they have meetings?

Mr. JENNINGS: Not on Friday evenings. There is obviously no great demand for this legislation. I believe that some people (perhaps even some members of this House) have been conned into supporting this move, but surely there is no real demand for it. The only support for the motion is from people who are owners and trainers. On the one hand, they say that they cannot get on without betting facilities, and on another day they say how they are producing in South Australia good greyhounds that compare with those in other States where there are large betting syndicates.

Dog-racing was held at Campbelltown for a time, and also at Thebarton Oval. I am told that the club's net profit was \$900 in this period. In this debate we have several times been asked why, if dog-racing is being con-

ducted in other States, are the people of South Australia not entitled to what is called the same privilege? I think the obvious answer is that this form of sport (and again I describe it as a sport only because I prefer to do that rather than call it a racket) has cruelty implicit in it: not in the racing (that would be far too obvious) but in the training of the dogs. Only today (extremely timely) I received the 1968-69 Annual Report of the Royal Queensland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty, which states in part:

Greyhound coursing: many cases have been reported of cats being missed, eventually, some of these returning home limping and with their claws and teeth extracted and suffering from other injuries; also, evidence of possums being badly mutilated has been brought to our notice. However, due to the fear of reprisals, it is extremely difficult to obtain sufficient evidence of such ill treatment to bring the offenders to justice. The society welcomes co-operation from the public in relation to alleged brutality suspected or witnessed in the training and bleeding of greyhounds.

I want to refer now to some remarks made in this debate by members on both sides. My colleague the member for Frome (Mr. Casey) said that dog-racing was big business in America. I am very pleased that the honourable member knows much more about agriculture than about dog-racing, because the position is just the opposite and I want to completely disabuse the honourable member's mind. On December 6, 1966, Mr. Frank Winchell (Assistant to the President of the American Greyhound Track Operators, whose headquarters are in Florida) stated that only seven of the 50 States in the United States had jurisdiction over greyhound racing. They were Arizona, Florida, Oregon, Massachusetts, Arkansas (one track only), South Dakota (two tracks), and Colorado (four tracks). The last three States operated in only an extremely small way. Members will realize that some of the States that I have mentioned are not exactly progressive States. They are the sort of State where the Sheriff runs around with a bull-whip, herding negroes into gaol. Originally, 28 States in the United States of America had legal jurisdiction over greyhound racing, but greyhound racing has been outlawed in 21 of those States. It is obvious that tin-hare racing, instead of flourishing (as the member for Frome said it was), is declining rapidly. I shall now deal with the remarks of the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn), who thought he was very funny.

Mr. Hurst: Many people think that, too.

Mr. JENNINGS: Yes. I rarely have reason for thinking otherwise: I have never changed

my mind about that. However, if people are laughing when one is speaking, it is good to know whether they are laughing with or at one. I think that on this occasion it was fairly obvious that people were laughing at the honourable member. He read from a book from the Parliamentary Library written by Mr. Nichols, who gave a graphic description (they are the honourable member's words) of a dog-racing meeting at one of London's renowned tracks.

Mr. Clark: I would think that was in 1802.

Mr. JENNINGS: No, it could be any time: I do not know. I am not an expert on London dog-racing. Apparently, Mr. Nichols stated:

For all the organized fatuities which have ever been devised to satisfy the cravings of a leaderless democracy, dog-racing is the supreme example.

After giving this dismal picture of a dog-racing meeting where a race never takes longer than 30 seconds, Mr. Nichols states:

If I went to a play and found that each of the three acts lasted four minutes and the intervals lasted one hour (which is exactly the same proportion), I should demand my money back.

The member for Light thought he was being funny when he made that allusion to the book written by Mr. Nichols. On the contrary, it was the only sensible thing the honourable member said all evening. He went on to describe a visit he had made to a track in Melbourne, which he thought was called Sandown, and he then said it must have been Sandown because, he said, on looking at the gallery he saw some of his friends nod. I do not want to reflect on the Chair, but I always thought that it was out of order for a member, when speaking in the House, to reflect on the Chair or refer to an indication from the gallery. However, Mr. Speaker, you could not have been listening on that occasion, and I do not blame you for that.

The honourable member said that he was given the opportunity of seeing the complete organization but, as I have already pointed out, he would not have seen any evidence of diabolic cruelties merely by attending a coursing meeting. These cruelties take place at the bleeding of the greyhounds in the early hours of the morning, and I do not think that the member for Light would have been shown rabbits, possums or squirrels tied with cords to the mechanical lure and sent around the track, and the mechanical lure slowed down for the dogs to rip into these poor, defenceless animals so that they could get the blood lust which is apparently necessary for them to chase the artificial lure.

It is not idle chatter to talk about what goes on in the Eastern States. It has been shown very often, and very recently, in the courts of the Eastern States that for every case where the villain is apprehended there must be many instances of people who get away without being apprehended. Let us have a look at what happened only last year at the Chipping Norton racing track, which is one of the largest tracks in New South Wales. Here, R.S.P.C.A. officers and the Animal Welfare League inspectors, posing as trainers with two greyhounds supplied by the R.S.P.C.A., obtained admission to the training tracks at Liverpool at 6.30 a.m. on August 16, 1968, and watched for half an hour while 15 live rabbits tied to the mechanical lure were torn to pieces by greyhounds in the trials.

Mr. Elliott (an R.S.P.C.A. inspector) asked whether he could send his dog after a rabbit and was told by the attendant that it would cost him \$2.50 to do so. He paid the money. A rabbit was tied to the mechanical lure, and he was told to let his greyhound have a go at it. Mr. Elliott pushed the attendant out of the way and grabbed the rabbit. The attendant took off after Mr. Elliott and halted him until Inspector Mole of the R.S.P.C.A. pulled out a pistol and held him at bay until they escaped from the training ground with their evidence, the evidence being the rabbit. Four nitkeepers (which is a term very familiar, I think, to some of my two-up friends here), who were stationed around the track with walkie-talkies and binoculars, did not notice the inspectors arrive, posing as trainers. Three of them were charged over the incident, convicted and fined—this when, only a fortnight before, four men had been convicted and fined for causing cruelty to possums by tying them to the mechanical lure and permitting greyhounds to savage the animals while so tied.

These cases are properly authenticated: they are not figments of anyone's imagination. A week later, 30 dog-owners met at the Chipping Norton track to discuss ways and means of continuing to give their dogs the treatment, as a newspaper reported it, with live rabbits. All the owners present agreed that the use of live rabbits was necessary. The member for Onkaparinga has said that he is satisfied that there is less chance of interference with an animal's performance in this sport than there is in horse-racing.

Mr. Rodda: You think they should use a wombat, do you?

Mr. JENNINGS: I do not doubt that they would if it would serve their purpose.

Mr. Ferguson: Can't they dope dogs?

Mr. JENNINGS: Of course they can. They can also dope wombats. Sometimes it seems to me that some members of Parliament were doped years before they came here. The member for Onkaparinga should be asked why it is that, if his claim is true, the R.S.P.C.A. in all Australian States is not opposed to horse-racing but is opposed to mechanical lure coursing.

Mr. Ferguson: That was amended, though.

Mr. JENNINGS: I am not suggesting that there is not some cruelty to horses, but the people who have the job of administering the R.S.P.C.A. apparently consider that this form of cruelty is far in excess of any cruelty that occurs in horse-racing, and they should know. I do not claim to be a great authority on matters of this nature. The member for Mount Gambier reminded the member for West Torrens that there was just as much malpractice in horse-racing as in any other sport. Once again, if this is the case, why is the R.S.P.C.A. (of which I am proud to be a member) singling out as especially cruel this kind of animal racing when it is not singling out horse-racing? Surely no member will get up and say that the R.S.P.C.A. is a body that is biased against one sport and not against another? That is a completely ridiculous argument even to contemplate. The mover of this motion went to no end of trouble to explain the wonderful way that greyhound racing was conducted in the Eastern States, although he was well aware of the atrocities brought to light in the New South Wales courts. I know they were brought to his attention, and I believe that each member has now received a brochure on this subject.

Despite the fact that the member for Stirling knew, or should have been able to comprehend, what was happening in the other States he went ahead with the motion: which is admittedly his right. I hope now that he will, after studying the brochure (and I hope many other members will do so), consider whether he was wise in introducing his motion and whether, in the interests of the good name of sport in South Australia, we should have a so-called sport of this nature blotting our escutcheon.

I do not know how the Premier will vote on this matter: I realize that he will vote not as a Premier but as the member for Gouger, because this is a social matter. I hope that he will not be influenced by the fact that some revenue will be available to the Government from this sport. I think that if he

adopted that attitude he would find himself at variance with the views of the Treasurer.

It has been claimed that this is a legitimate means of raising money for the Government, but what is a legitimate means of raising money for a Government? Undoubtedly, poker machines raise a tremendous sum in New South Wales for the Government and for many other purposes. However, surely we cannot pursue this logic far, or we would be legalizing brothels to raise money for the Government. The present question started with much misconception in the minds of members who have spoken in this debate.

I hope that in my humble way I have helped to draw attention to these conceptions and that they are no longer misconceptions and that, as a consequence of what I have said and of the information that has been made available to all members, they will have a second thought about this motion and reject it out of hand. A Bill authorizing the practice that the motion is supposed to give effect to will still be needed if the motion is carried, but by that time I am certain that most members will have disabused their minds of the misconceptions that may have cluttered up their minds, so that the introduction of the Bill would be a waste of time of the House when members have so much more important work to perform.

Mr. ALLEN (Burra): I support the motion. I understand that a Bill to permit tin-hare dog-racing was introduced in this State three years ago. I have had much experience, mainly in open and Plumpton coursing, for many years. I was secretary of a local coursing club for about eight years, and during that time I observed many of the practices of the sport and the enjoyment that can be gained from it. The R.S.P.C.A. naturally opposes this measure. It is a dedicated body, and I have no doubt that it is sincere. I do not say that there are not times when cruelty results to animals in coursing, but that applies to most sports in which animals are involved.

I have been associated with animals all my life, and there is hardly a sport, or any aspect of it, where some form of cruelty is not caused to animals, but those occasions are rare. In horse-racing, a whip is used freely. In the so-called sport of racing homing pigeons, there is nothing more cruel than releasing pigeons, many miles from their loft, in the presence of goshawks. I understand that a Bill was introduced to protect goshawks, but I would not consider protecting those birds, because they are one of the most cruel birds in existence. Anyone who has witnessed a

pair of goshawks amongst a flock of pigeons realizes what damage they can do, and I cannot see that tin-hare dog-racing is any more cruel than racing homing pigeons. Arguments are raised for and against rodeos and colt-breaking; many instances have occurred of motor cars maiming animals on the road and the driver leaving them injured; and birds are injured in duck shooting and are left to die. Many differing arguments for both sides can be used.

I am not a betting man, but I do not deprive the man who wants to bet of the opportunity to do so. It is his prerogative: it is his money, and he can please himself what he does with it. I see no reason why the Totalizator Agency Board cannot operate at tin-hare dog-racing in this State.

The member for Enfield said that tin-hare dog-racing in this State had had a chequered career, but whether or not that happened is beside the point. The point is that people interested in and dedicated to the sport should be given the opportunity to bet in the same way as the man who is interested in horse-racing, and those interested in other sports involving animals, can bet. The member for Enfield said that the average attendance at Bolivar was 450 people. That is also beside the point. Even if only 50 people were at the meeting, why should they be denied the opportunity to bet on their sport when, say, 20,000 are allowed to bet on horse-racing?

Mr. Jennings: Why did they get the Bill originally under false pretences?

Mr. ALLEN: As I was not in the House at that time, I cannot answer that question. Everyone has a sporting instinct. Some of us love bowls and some love other types of sport although they may not be particularly interested in animals. I know some people who are addicted to the sport of coursing, and I cannot see why they should be deprived of an opportunity to bet on that sport when people interested in certain other sports enjoy betting privileges.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide): I oppose the motion. I cannot see that any degree of cruelty to animals exists in the sports to which the member for Burra referred, namely, racing homing pigeons and horses. However, I am led to believe cruelty occurs in connection with dog-racing. The objection concerning dog-racing arises from the revolting cruelties that take place during the training of greyhounds. I do not agree that spurs should be used on race horses; I believe spurs have been banned

(if they have not, they should be). I cannot agree that using a whip on a horse is as cruel as using a spur, although I prefer the whip not to be used. I understand that some jockeys are under threat not to use a whip excessively.

Mr. McKee: How would you feel if you had plenty of money on a horse and it was not going too well 20 yards out?

Mr. LAWN: Hitting a horse on the neck with a whip is not as cruel as the tearing to pieces of a live hare by many dogs.

Mr. McKee: I have seen a horse hit over the head with a whip.

Mr. LAWN: Yes, but two wrongs do not make a right. Jockeys are not supposed to hit a horse over the head with a whip.

Mr. McKee: A leading jockey from England hit one over the head with a whip.

Mr. LAWN: I think the honourable member may have hit some human beings over the head in his time, and he should not have done that.

Mr. Langley: The member for Port Pirie likes a bet.

Mr. LAWN: I am not opposed to the motion on the ground that I am opposed to betting. I see no harm in permitting the totalizator to operate.

Mr. Jennings: That's not all that's in it.

Mr. LAWN: No. I would oppose having licensed bookmakers operating on dog-racing, but I would not object to the T.A.B. operating, if that were all that was involved, but I am not so sure that that is all that is involved. The member for Port Pirie moved a motion in 1965, the voting was 18-all, and the motion was lost on the casting vote of the then Speaker (Hon. L. G. Riches). In 1966, the member for Port Pirie moved a motion requesting the Government to bring in the necessary amending legislation to permit tin-hare racing in South Australia in preference to the live-hare system operating at that time. I supported that measure.

Mr. McKee: Betting was included in that, too, if you recall.

Mr. LAWN: No, it was not.

Mr. McKee: The first time it was.

Mr. LAWN: I am referring to the second time. On October 12, 1966 (at page 2228 of *Hansard*), I said:

I do not wish to delay the House and I will make my position clear: I would not support anything that I thought would lead to cruelty. The Bill provides for racing without betting facilities.

Mr. McKee: That was the second time.

Mr. LAWN: This was the first Bill. My remarks continued:

Members would probably find more cruelty to animals if there were betting facilities, particularly if bookmakers were allowed to operate. If at any time betting facilities are introduced, I hope the House will limit this betting to the totalizator.

Mr. Ryan: Isn't that what this motion does?

Mr. LAWN: The member for Port Adelaide asks whether this motion requests the Government to introduce a Bill to limit betting to the totalizator. At the time, I said I would not support the proposed change in the legislation if I thought that cruelty to animals would be involved. All members have received a brochure from a respectable organization, namely, the R.S.P.C.A. The first copy of it that I saw was that of the member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Burdon) and when I perused that copy last evening I was under the impression that prosecutions in the courts for cruelty in connection with this sport were those which occurred back in the late 1950's, although I noticed that one had occurred in 1963. However, since looking at my own copy, I find that in 1957, 1958, 1963, 1965, 1966, and 1968 prosecutions have taken place in the Eastern States where live rabbits, cats, and so forth, have been used in the bleeding of greyhounds.

Mr. Clark: Not in South Australia.

Mr. LAWN: No, that is a point I wish to make: this cruelty has occurred in the States where gambling prevails. In South Australia, where at least there is no legalized gambling, there have been no prosecutions. I should like to see greyhounds trained under the supervision of the Police Department. If I were satisfied that no cruelty was involved in training greyhounds, I would not oppose this motion; but because there is a grave doubt in my mind concerning what happens during the training of greyhounds, I do not intend to support a motion that will be responsible for introducing that cruelty in South Australia or for increasing the extent of the cruelty that already takes place, if it does take place. All members have the brochure to which I have referred and there is no need for me to read out the atrocities that have occurred in other States.

Mr. Hudson: There is gambling on coursing in South Australia at present. Licensed bookmakers (not a totalizator) operate at present, and the prices are lousy, too. If your argument prevails, it should apply at present.

Mr. LAWN: I agree. According to the brochure issued by the R.S.P.C.A. where gambling exists cruelty exists, too. I understood that the reason why this State had apparently been free from the cruelty involved in bleeding dogs was that the legislation here did not provide for gambling. I understood that one could get a bet on under the lap and at some trouble at Bolivar but that there were no bookmakers operating openly.

Mr. Hudson: Yes, that is where they are using the mechanical lure. There is legalized gambling associated with coursing.

Mr. LAWN: I think we have cleared that up. Regarding the position in other countries, the brochure to which I have referred states:

America: Originally 28 States had dog-racing but it has gradually been outlawed until only seven States *viz.*, Arizona, Massachusetts, Oregon, Florida, Arkansas, South Dakota and Colorado are left, representing 7 per cent of the population of America. The latter three States are nearing closing point, and only have seven tracks left between them. Mr. Ronald P. Lambert, of the American Humane Association, stated recently that humane opposition to legalized dog-racing has been based on cruelty in training, often involving the use of live rabbits on mechanical racing machines.

Canada: Betting is not legal in Canada and consequently the sport is practically non-existent.

South Africa: Following a Royal Commission's investigations in South Africa, which lasted over 12 months, dog-racing has been banned throughout the whole of the Transvaal in the Union of South Africa.

England: A British Royal Commission recommended that totalizator betting on greyhound racing be brought to an end.

The summary in the brochure is as follows:

The whole weight of evidence supports the contention that dog-racing with the use of the mechanical lure or tin-hare racing, as it is more commonly called, has associated with it revolting cruelties in the training of greyhounds, because if they are not occasionally blooded, they will not continue to chase the mechanical lure. The authorities best able to express an opinion on this matter, namely the Royal Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals throughout Australia, which it is believed have the respect of every member of Parliament, have made a very definite stand against this so-called sport of tin-hare racing. For those reasons, I oppose the motion.

Mr. ARNOLD (Chaffey): The motion is basically involved with the Dog-Racing Control Act, which passed this House in 1967 and which clearly provides penalties to be imposed in cases involving any cruelty whatever to dumb animals. Either the provision in that Act does its job or it does not. If the Act

does not prevent cruelty to animals, it should be revised. Apart from cruelty, I can see no other issue involved in this matter. I do not condone cruelty in any way whatever. Actually, I am not interested in the sport of dog-racing or in betting on it. However, I do not deny anyone who is interested in the sport the right to participate in it.

Sections 7 and 8 of the Act appear to me to be strong enough to eliminate cruelty from the sport. If the cruelty talked about by the member for Adelaide starts to occur, the Act will have to be amended and made stronger to deal with this. I do not object to the people who want to follow this sport being able to do so, and, for that reason, I support the motion. If, at a later stage, a Bill is introduced to cover the matter, I will support that, too.

Mr. HUGHES (Walleroo): When the member for Port Pirie introduced the original Bill in 1966 to provide for tin-hare dog-racing in South Australia, he received my wholehearted support. However, I am afraid that on this occasion he is being over-optimistic if he thinks I will support the motion of the member for Stirling. When the member for Port Pirie introduced his Bill, I was assured that, if the Bill was not passed, several people interested in greyhound racing would leave South Australia and go to Victoria. Also, I was assured that that Bill was not the forerunner of another Bill, within a few years, to provide for gambling on dog-racing. I favoured the present legislation because I did not think that people who wanted to race dogs should have to move to another State to do so. I do not think that affects the House today in respect of this motion, because the success of the member for Port Pirie's Bill enabled those people who had indicated that they would move to Victoria to realize that they could have dog-racing in South Australia, so it would not be necessary for them to move to another State. I am wondering whether these very same people who brought pressure to bear on the member for Port Pirie, and maybe others—

Mr. McKee: They did not bring pressure to bear on me; I introduced the Bill in my own way.

Mr. HUGHES: I know the member for Port Pirie had some prominent dog-racing people meet him here, not within the precincts of this Chamber but in Parliament House, on more than one occasion in connection with this matter, and that led me to believe that perhaps pressure had been brought to bear on him to

introduce his measure. I heard that, if the member for Port Pirie was successful in getting his measure through this House, he would receive a little grey dog. He was unable to accept the offer of those people, because he was not in a position, I am sorry to say, to buy food to feed a dog, so as to build it up to the calibre required of a racing dog. In Wallaroo, dogs can smell a Liberal canvasser hundreds of yards away, but they wag their tails favourably at a Labor canvasser and almost invite him in.

Let us look at the serious side of this matter. As I have said, two things influenced me to vote in favour of the measure introduced by the member for Port Pirie in 1966. One was that, if approved, it would prevent a number of people in South Australia interested in dog-racing from going to Victoria. I understand that the success of the measure in this House prevented those people from leaving this State, so no argument can be advanced on that score any longer. The second assurance given me at the time by my legal adviser on my left (Mr. McKee) was that his Bill would not be the forerunner of another Bill, to be introduced later, dealing with gambling. Yet here we are—

Mr. McKee: I do not recall that.

Mr. HUGHES: These people were very clever in their representations; they knew perfectly well that the member for Port Pirie had given me these assurances and they thought, "It is no good going back to the legal adviser of the honourable member for Wallaroo in an endeavour to gain his support", so they rushed to a Government member knowing full well that they would get the support of the member for Port Pirie. However, in doing that, they are now espousing a lost cause. Had they stuck to the member for Port Pirie, my legal adviser, he might have been able to advise me that perhaps it would be in the interests of South Australia to allow this motion, too, to be approved by this House; but, because they switched, it made me suspicious of the people who had brought pressure to bear on the honourable member.

Mr. McKee: There was no pressure on me.

Mr. HUGHES: At present they are pressuring other people in this matter, and all they need now is the honourable member's support to get people on this side of the House to vote for this motion. I voted for the honourable member's Bill in 1966 only on condition that it contained no gambling clauses. It did not, and I admire the honourable member for submitting that measure to this

House then. I am sure he will seriously consider this matter—

Mr. McKee: I will, too.

Mr. HUGHES: —in an endeavour to honour the assurances he gave to honourable members on this side that the Bill was not a forerunner of a later Bill to enable gambling to be introduced into this sport. While some honourable member was advancing arguments in favour of this motion, the member for West Torrens (Mr. Broomhill) interjected and said, "What about pigeon-racing?" The same thing applies there. If we are to allow T.A.B. betting on dog-racing, there is no reason in the world why we should not provide similarly for people who race pigeons.

Mr. Allen: Have they asked for it?

Mr. HUGHES: That is beside the point. Whether or not these people have asked for it is no argument in favour of the motion because, if we are to have provisions on the Statute Book for one section of the people, they should be made to apply to all sections of the people in this particular field. When T.A.B. betting was introduced to cover horse-racing, I spoke at the time, at some length, of the repercussions that would flow from such a measure. As the honourable member for Port Pirie knows, they have eventuated. The same thing would apply here. I am certainly not in favour of extending those provisions into this matter. I will not advance arguments that I have received from people who have tried to influence me about dog-racing; I will leave it entirely to my own judgment. I shall not be influenced even by the member for Port Pirie, and I am certainly not going to be influenced by the member for Stirling; indeed, he would be the last person who would be able to influence me, and he would be the last person to whom these people should have made representations.

One or two references were made in connection with the previous Bill, and I had much to say about it. In fact, I was taken to task by the Speaker, by the Deputy Speaker and by the then member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip). I said at that time that I would accept the Bill on the condition that it did not provide for gambling, but that if that were not the case I would strongly oppose it. I now adhere to what I said then because I do not consider that there should be betting on dog-racing. I have nothing against dog-racing, just as I have nothing against horse-racing. I am fond of all dogs, be they sheep dogs or greyhounds, but I am not fond of their being

used for gambling purposes. I am still as much opposed to this measure now as I was to legislation that was introduced to allow the T.A.B. to operate on horse-racing.

I could advance many arguments this afternoon about what will eventually happen if this measure is carried. However, as I intimated earlier, I rose only because I did not want to give a silent vote, and so that I could inform the House that I still stand firm to my principles and that I am not going to allow any further legislation to influence me if it contains gambling measures; and, of course, that is exactly what is happening. I am disappointed about this matter, because previously the dog-racing people merely used the House as a lever for what is before us today. No-one here can deny that.

Mr. Virgo: Do you think that was their motive?

Mr. HUGHES: It was their motive to have the member for Port Pirie introduce legislation allowing dog-racing in South Australia, knowing full well that it was only the thin edge of the wedge that would enable them in a short time to introduce T.A.B. into their sport. I appeal to honourable members who were present in 1966-67 to reflect back and remember what was said in the House at that time. I have no hesitation in saying that, if they do that, this motion will not be carried.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS secured the adjournment of the debate.

LOAN ESTIMATES

In Committee.

(Continued from August 19. Page 1059.)

Grand total, \$101,716,000.

Mr. VIRGO (Edwardstown): I would be much happier if we could fill the seat immediately behind the Ministerial bench, because last night the member for Light (who, I am afraid, in all honesty I could never refer to as the honourable member, as he is completely dishonourable) subjected the Opposition to an extremely vicious attack. After we rose last night, I advised the member for Light that I expected him to be in the Chamber to hear my speech today. However, he is not present.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Mr. Acting Chairman, I draw your attention to the state of the House.

A quorum having been formed:

Mr. VIRGO: I am rather disappointed, and perhaps before the Government Whip leaves he might get the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn).

Mr. Broomhill: He wouldn't know where he was.

Mr. VIRGO: Well, if he does not know where he is he is not doing his job as a Whip. Frankly, I think he would know where the member for Light was. As the member for Light was prepared to make charges of the lowest kind I have heard since I have been a member, I think he ought to be present now to hear the answers to them.

Mr. McAnaney: Don't you listen to yourself?

Mr. VIRGO: The member for Stirling is perhaps doing a sterling job in trying to protect the member for Light, but I would be much happier if the member for Light were here so that he could at least hear some truth, just for a change, in place of the vilification that we were subjected to last night.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order! I ask the member for Edwinstown to address himself to the matter before the Chair.

Mr. VIRGO: I am doing so in exactly the same way as the member for Light did last night. Frankly, I thought the honourable member was out of order but you, Mr. Acting Chairman, allowed him to adopt this line, so I do not think you now have much alternative other than to allow me to continue to rebut what he said. The member for Light followed his usual gutter-sniping tactics of attempting to create the false impression that the Australian Labor Party's policy of socialization, of which I am extremely proud, is tantamount to a policy of Communism. This is the filthy smear, the McCarthy-like tactics, employed by the honourable member and, occasionally, by other odd Government members (not the majority, I am pleased to say). I am reminded of the following famous and appropriate words:

The moving finger writes, and, having writ, moves on: nor all thy piety nor wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy tears wash out a word of it.

The day that any member opposite has a fraction of the wisdom of Omar Khayyam we will get a far better contribution from him. Since the member for Light is not in the Chamber at present, I apologize to *Hansard*, because I intend to put some material in it for the honourable member to read—and I hope he reads

it—when he stops playing with little things. I think he ought to learn a little about the A.L.P. before he starts trying to drag it down.

Mr. Venning: It needs lifting up.

Mr. VIRGO: The member for Light told us much about how great the Liberal and Country League was and how fragmented the A.L.P. was on two occasions. Let us consider what the A.L.P. stands for. I want Government members to ponder these words; if they cannot absorb them now perhaps they will read in *Hansard* tomorrow the following extract from the preamble to the A.L.P. federal platform:

The Australian Labor Party is a movement having as its purpose the development of a free, independent, and enlightened Australian nation within the British Commonwealth of Nations. It had its origins in the aspirations of the Australian people for a dignified and constructive way of life.

The Party as a parliamentary force grew out of the national sentiment and the trade union movements of the 19th century. The entry of Labor into Parliament transformed the political issues in this country to questions of social, economic and industrial reform. The Australian Labor Party in the Commonwealth and States is democratic, national and constitutional. I think members opposite should ponder those words, particularly the word "constitutional".

Mr. McAnaney: How do you elect delegates?

Mr. VIRGO: If the honourable member waits, I shall tell him how they are elected in a democratic fashion, which is probably foreign to most members on the Government side.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I hope the honourable member can link his remarks with the subject before the Chair.

Mr. VIRGO: I hope to do so in exactly the same way as the member for Light did last night.

Mr. Lawn: Yes, he was in order last night.

Mr. Ryan: It is in *Hansard*.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is reflecting on the decision of the Chair last night. I point out that the member for Light did tie in his remarks last night, and I ask the honourable member to do likewise.

Mr. VIRGO: I am doing exactly that. The honourable member said:

When I discuss the Loan Estimates I do so in the context of the federal system of government. When we realize that members opposite do not believe in the federal system which they are out to destroy, we realize how hollow their criticisms are.

I am attempting to show the Committee how hollow the member's claim was. The platform of the A.L.P. shows quite clearly that the Party does believe in a federal system of Government. In fact, if the member for Light did a little proper homework he would not make the kind of stupid remark that he made last night.

Mr. McAnaney: Why did your Leader say that the federal system would break up?

Mr. VIRGO: I do not know what the honourable member is mumbling about. I think the Acting Chairman would ask me not to pay any attention to interjections, anyhow. I want to refer to my Party's objectives because this is the point that the member for Light, in his gutter-sniping address last night, dealt with at some length. The platform states:

The objective of the Party is the democratic socialization of industry, production, distribution and exchange to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in those fields, in accordance with the principles of action, methods, and progressive reforms set out in the State and Federal Platforms of the Australian Labor Party.

The following appears under the heading of "Methods" in the Party's platform:

The A.L.P. stands for complete self-government through the Federal Parliament, as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations with the Crown or its representative at all times acting solely on the advice of Commonwealth Ministers.

Does this sound like a statement of a Party that does not believe in Federal Parliament or the federal system? The member for Light launched a filthy attack last night on the A.L.P., and when anyone does that I accept it as a personal attack on me, because I am proud of what my Party has done and what it will do as soon as it is elected to office again. That will happen before very long in this State, and it will happen even sooner in the Commonwealth sphere. Like the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson), I take exception to people like the member for Light calling me a friend, and this applies to others, too. Let us look at the other side of the ledger, and let us remember that the Australian Labor Party was born, in South Australia, in 1882 and has continued as the Australian Labor Party from then until today: it will continue much longer than will any member here. However, what is the history of the Party of which the member for Light claims membership?

Mr. Ryan: I think it's crumbling up.

Mr. VIRGO: Well, in 1943 the old United Australia Party was at such a low ebb that it was virtually swept out at the polls in South Australia. It retained one South Australian member at the 1943 Commonwealth election and it did that by only a handful of votes. The Party was scraping the barrel so low that it had to change its name. No-one who was a member of that Party admits now that he was a member. That name has been completely and thoroughly discredited, as has every person who was a member of it. Earlier, the same thing happened with the old Nationalist Party. Members of that Party, too, got down to the bottom of the barrel, so they threw away that name and adopted the name United Australia Party. Then that Party got down to such a low ebb that it could not get any support, so it adopted the Liberal Party. Now members of that Party are back in the same position, and the member for Eyre can mumble as much as he likes on the West Coast: we will not have a Commonwealth Liberal Government after October 25.

Mr. Edwards: Don't be too sure.

Mr. VIRGO: That is my prediction. The Liberal Party will scuttle its machine and strangle itself just as the United Australia Party and the Nationalist Party did.

Mr. Ryan: Fairhall has already got out.

Mr. VIRGO: Yes. He is like a rat deserting the sinking ship, and more rats will join him. St. John in New South Wales got out. This great Party that the member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning) tries to boast about would not have been in office had it not been for its ally, the "Disguised Liberal Party". When we consider the results of the Commonwealth elections, we realize just why members opposite and their colleagues in other States and in the Commonwealth Parliament hang on like grim death to the preferential system of voting. When they get so off-side that the people will not support them, they say, "Well, if we can't get support ourselves, let us get support for the Democratic Labor Party and have that support transferred to us."

In fact, the D.L.P. got you into that Chair, Mr. Acting Chairman. If the Liberal and Country League, as it is called (that is the greatest misnomer of all time), did not get the support of the D.L.P. in the District of Murray you, Mr. Acting Chairman, would not be in that Chair today, as you know. Much material has been written at various times but I think the concluding remarks in a book that I have

are as relevant today as they were when the book was produced, which was, I think, about 1944.

Mr. Edwards: Who wrote it?

Mr. VIRGO: If the honourable member stops and listens, he will hear not only what is in the book but also who wrote it.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: But members are not stopping and listening. All your people are going out.

Mr. VIRGO: Well, I am delighted that the Premier has come back, and I only wish that he had brought that mug from Light back with him. Mr. Acting Chairman, the Chamber does look rather thin.

A quorum having been formed:

Mr. VIRGO: Mr. Acting Chairman, it seems that every member on the Government side, except the one who ought to be here, is willing to come back.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: Except your own members, you mean.

Mr. VIRGO: My members know the history of the Australian Labor Party. They also know the dubious history of the Liberal Party and its predecessors, the United Australia Party and the Nationalist Party, all of which have been discredited beyond redemption.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: Would you like to borrow a soap box?

Mr. VIRGO: No, I can manage from here. I also remind the Minister of Works, who seems to be concerned about the situation, that keeping the numbers in this Chamber is the Government's responsibility. As far as members on this side are concerned, if the Minister cares to ask that progress be reported, I shall be pleased to continue later.

The Hon. R. S. Hall: You don't want to work.

Mr. VIRGO: I have plenty of work to do but I think it is time the Premier and his colleagues learned a little. Until we had that attack on the A.L.P. from the member for Light last evening, I had intended to speak in this debate for about three minutes, so the Premier can put the blame for any delay where it belongs: in the lap of the member for Light. The Premier can tell the honourable member that every time he launches one of his gutter-type attacks on members on this side, he will get me on my feet.

Mr. Rodda: You'll defend your honour.

Mr. VIRGO: I will defend my honour, because I and my Party, unlike the member for Victoria, have honour to defend.

Mr. Rodda: I'm trying to be helpful.

Mr. VIRGO: I thank the honourable member and appreciate his help. I was about to read a quotation, after having got rid of the interjections, because the member for Eyre not only wants to listen to it but also wants to know who wrote it.

Mr. Edwards: Is it a quotation from the A.L.P. rules?

Mr. VIRGO: If the honourable member will be patient I will read it to him.

Mr. Edwards: I have been waiting five minutes for this.

Mr. VIRGO: The honourable member's colleagues have been trying to sidetrack me but they will not get away with that. This is the quotation:

The United Australia Party—

that is the now Liberal Party—I see that the member for Light has the courage to come back to the Chamber: congratulations to him.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I remind the honourable member that he must not address the gallery.

Mr. VIRGO: If the member for Light was in his proper place he would not be anywhere else but in the gallery. I quote:

"The United Australia Party of the Federal Parliament has been, for all practical purposes, dead for the past 18 months." . . . The same is true of the Liberal Party today. It is dead as far as statesmanship, leadership and inspiration are concerned. Liberalism represents negation. It has no policy, no principles, no programme. It offers Australia nothing but another depression, a constant pool of unemployment and the stagnation that is the material corollary of liberal capitalism. Liberalism offers Australia only one thing—a hopeless tomorrow.

Mr. Edwards: That's your interpretation.

Mr. VIRGO: I did not interpret it at all. I am surprised that the member for Eyre does not want to know who made that comment. He has heard it before, and does not want it repeated. Out of deference to you, Mr. Acting Chairman, I shall not repeat it, but will quietly whisper it to my colleagues on this side. The statement was made by the Rt. Hon. Robert Gordon Menzies in the *Daily Mirror* on April 6, 1943. I do not want to tell members on the other side, because it may embarrass them.

Mr. Edwards: The greatest statesman Australia has ever known.

Mr. VIRGO: He made a terrific statement then, and it is one of the few occasions on which he really spoke the truth when he said, "Liberalism offers Australia one thing only—a hopeless tomorrow"—and that is what we are getting in this State.

Mr. Edwards: Someone else wrote it and put his name to it.

Mr. VIRGO: This may have happened.

Mr. Clark: That happens here at times, too.

Mr. VIRGO: Let us be fair. The progressive policy of the A.L.P. compares more than favourably with the policy of the Liberal Party. I have been fortunate enough to obtain a Liberal Party Constitution, although it is a bit out of date: it is dated 1966. I do not think it would have changed much, because there is not much in it to change.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: It is still priceless.

Mr. VIRGO: No price is shown on it at all. I do not know whether it is given away.

Mr. Clark: That's the only way they can get rid of it.

Mr. VIRGO: The Liberal Party has such a tremendous policy that it takes up the inside of the front cover and the back of the back cover, and that is all the policy it has. It is a Party that knows nought of where it is going and, when the member for Light last evening spoke about a fragmented Labor Party, he may have been looking into the mirror and seen it for himself. When he vilified the A.L.P., with his completely unfounded and untrue allegations concerning Socialism and Communism, he got lower than a snake.

Mr. Edwards: How do you do it?

Mr. VIRGO: Ask the member for Light. I heard someone suggest that he could walk under a snake's belly with his top hat on.

Mr. McAnaney: And probably look down on you.

Mr. VIRGO: He could well have been doing that. I do not quarrel with that, but I suggest that, if the member for Light had the courage of his convictions, he would stay in the House and listen to what was being said. Obviously, he has not: he is one of the hit-and-run drivers.

Mr. Giles: What about one of your members last evening?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! Order! The honourable member for Edwardstown.

Mr. VIRGO: When the member for Light referred to the 1948 elections last evening I tried to correct him and tell him that it was not 1948, but this is not of great moment.

Actually, the Labor Party was defeated (I do not think it was swept out of office) in 1949. That was one of Australia's darkest days.

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

Mr. VIRGO: The Minister of Works can snort, but he would not be administering today one of South Australia's greatest assets, the Leigh Creek coalfield, had it not been for the Chifley Government. What did the Menzies Government do with the Leigh Creek coalfield? It was only when Playford conferred with Ben Chifley that finance was made available to develop that coalfield.

Mr. Clark: Tom always freely admitted this.

Mr. VIRGO: That is correct. I am prepared to say (and I do not think the Minister of Works would be prepared to refute it) that the Menzies Government, or U.A.P. Government as it was then, abdicated in Australia's darkest hour and left Australia in the lurch. In fact, Menzies had come back from Europe praising Hitler five minutes before we declared war on Germany.

Mr. Edwards: In 1949! You are getting a bit mixed up aren't you?

Mr. VIRGO: The member for Eyre is not following me.

Mr. Edwards: That's what you said.

Mr. VIRGO: Perhaps if the honourable member cared to ponder and to use the material between his ears a bit he would understand the position. The Commonwealth Labor Government from 1941 to 1949 saved Australia, and not one of us would be sitting here today had it not been for the actions of that Government. The Menzies Government and all the so-called Liberals had sold Australia down the drain, and members opposite know it.

Mr. Edwards: That's different from what you said a while ago: you said 1949.

Mr. VIRGO: I said the Chifley Government was defeated in 1949. It was in 1943 when Menzies and the U.A.P. was so discredited that they were thrown out of office. When the elections were held the A.L.P. won every Commonwealth seat in this State, except Barker, and we lost that by only a handful of votes.

Mr. Rodda: Didn't Eddy Ward draw the Brisbane line?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. VIRGO: I have been trying to keep as close as I could to the Loan Estimates, Mr. Acting Chairman.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member asked for reasonable time to rebut the arguments advanced by the member for Light and the Chair deferred to that request,

but I now ask the honourable member to refer to the matter before the Chair, which is the Loan Estimates.

Mr. VIRGO: Thank you, Mr. Acting Chairman. I am sure that you would be most upset if I were to attempt to deal further with the matter raised by the member for Victoria. I refer now to the statements that have been made regarding education not only by the member for Light but also by other members. I thought the member for Light said that the schools in his district were first-class, and I was amazed to hear that. He is reported in *Hansard* as saying the following:

I should say the schools in the Light District are in excellent condition. I am proud of them and their staffs. No-one can say there is a deficiency in the educational opportunities being offered to the children in my district.

Interjecting, the member for West Torrens (Mr. Broomhill) asked, "What do the teachers have to say?" and the member for Light replied, "The teachers are very happy about it." There must be mighty different teachers in Light from those in the Edwardstown District, because I am getting letter after letter from teachers in my district complaining of the lack of assistance forthcoming in education. For anyone to stand up in this Chamber and to make a claim of that nature does nothing more than prove the stupidity of the person making the claim. Of course there is a crisis in education, and not one member, if he is honest with himself, will deny it.

Members opposite who take an interest in questions will possibly remember that I have frequently directed the attention of the Minister of Education to the urgent need to do something regarding the Ascot Park Primary School, which consists of two brick classrooms and about 20 timber classrooms, but the Minister is never able to do anything about it. Yet we hear the member for Light saying there is no crisis in education. How stupid can one get!

Adjacent to the Forbes Primary School land that was the last vacant area of land available in the whole surrounding district was available, but would the Minister buy it? Oh, no! The attitude was, "We cannot buy that; let the kids play on top of each other. If there is no room for the kids to play, that does not matter." Yet we hear the member for Light saying there is no crisis in education. Just how silly can one get? I was amazed at the hypocrisy of the member for Light.

Mr. McAnaney: The poor old member for Light.

Mr. VIRGO: When I am finished with him, I may deal with you.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Edwardstown will address the Chair.

Mr. VIRGO: I was rather amazed by the hypocrisy of the member for Light, when he said:

The member for Whyalla (Mr. Loveday) came into my district to address a group a few weeks ago and did a first-class job.

—referring to a group of teachers—

He was honest and straightforward, as he always is, and did not engage in politics.

He gave the member for Whyalla quite a wrap-up. How hypocritical! Only last week we saw the member for Light in his true colours when he and his colleagues denied in this Chamber a pair to the member for Whyalla, who is overseas. This was the greatest example of hypocrisy one could find in anyone. Members opposite had congratulated the member for Whyalla and had wished him well: "Have a good trip, represent us well; but we won't pair you while you are away." They waited until the honourable member had left Australian shores before saying the latter. Judas Iscariot has nothing on them! Members opposite have no honour, and they really get down into the gutter.

I refer now to the South Australian Railways. I listened last evening, I thought fairly intently, to the comments of the member for Light, and I read his speech today. Perhaps I should apologize to him because my learning is apparently not as good as his, and perhaps I should ask him to put his remarks into simple language so that I may understand them because, frankly, I did not know what he was talking about other than in one or two instances. He said, "I wish the member for Edwardstown to note this, because I blame the railways union for most of this loss," referring to the loss made by the South Australian Railways. I could not understand the logic behind that statement; indeed, it is stupid to make claims of this nature. How can the member for Light blame the Australian Railways Union for the loss? Is he saying that railway employees, who are members of the A.R.U., are not doing a fair day's work, or is he saying that their claims for just compensation for the work they perform should not be made?

Surely, a member cannot make a wild allegation that is defamatory concerning every member of the A.R.U. and just get away with it, merely sitting in his place looking like a woolly goat and as though nothing had happened. I take these charges to be serious. Apparently, the member for Light, in an attempt to smear and vilify people, is prepared to attack decent workers of this State under the privilege of the cowards' castle. He has probably never done a decent day's work in his life. I should like to put him on the handle end of a beater. The member for Victoria, who is trying to interject, would not even know what a beater was. I should like to put the member for Light on the end of one and see what he would be like at the end of the day. I have a bad back now, but that would be nothing to what his back would be like.

Mr. Rodda: What about coming down with me during show week? I have 500 wethers to crutch.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Edwardstown.

Mr. VIRGO: I do not know what the crutching of wethers on the honourable member's property has to do with this debate. Unlike the member for Victoria, I am one of those people who believe, and find in practice, that representing electors is a full-time job. I do not have time to do these other jobs, and to make a few dollars on the side by continuing to run a business or farm, or anything of that nature.

Mr. McAnaney: What about your going to Sydney a fortnight ago?

Mr. VIRGO: While I was at the conference of the Federal Executive of the Australian Labor Party I was representing my electors.

Mr. McAnaney: Some of them.

Mr. VIRGO: I point out that 53 per cent of the population of South Australia voted Labor at the last State election, so when I make an excursion to represent this 53 per cent for a fortnight in the year I think the remaining 47 per cent would gracefully accept that situation. Since I came into the House, unlike some members opposite I have not had an opportunity to take even one week's holiday.

Mr. Rodda: You haven't got that on your own.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: You aren't an orphan.

Mr. VIRGO: I am pleased to hear that I am not an orphan. Let us hear no more of this vilification of members of the Australian Railways Union. These are good, decent, honest citizens of the State.

Mr. McAnaney: Hear, hear!

Mr. VIRGO: I did not hear members opposite raise their voices last evening when the member for Light was smearing these workers.

Mr. McAnaney: What about the time when you tackled the Chamber of Manufactures?

Mr. VIRGO: Although there is a line in the Loan Estimates dealing with railways (and that is the line to which I am referring), there is no line relating to the Chamber of Manufactures. I wish members opposite would not try to distract me with their interjections.

Mr. Clark: Most members of the A.R.U. were not even born when the debt on the railways occurred.

Mr. VIRGO: That is the whole point. I want to refer to a statement the Railways Commissioner made in his 1967-68 report. When dealing with the loss of the South Australian Railways, he said:

In the United Kingdom the advisability of permitting the railways to define a viable service and to accept the socially necessary ones as a community obligation has been recognized.

He then went on and spelt it right out.

Mr. McAnaney: What did he spell out?

Mr. VIRGO: It is hopeless to try to deal with interjections from idiots. I have already given the statement of the Railways Commissioner that in the United Kingdom the Government accepts non-paying lines as a community obligation.

Mr. Evans: Does this mean it is right?

Mr. VIRGO: I know the attitude of the member for Onkaparinga: he opposes everything. I suppose he and the member for Stirling will have a battle, when seats are redistributed, to decide which of them remains in Parliament. It is all right to stand here and talk a lot of nonsense against socialistic enterprises. The South Australian Railways is the greatest socialistic entity in the State, with assets of about \$160,000,000. I should have thought members opposite would have a better appreciation of the value of the South Australian Railways system to the State after the inspection carried out at Islington a little over a week ago. Instead, we find members opposite following the line that has been promoted over a period of many years by successive Liberal and Country League Governments and by unsuccessful Ministers in

charge of railways in those Governments to try to close down the railway system. Line by line the services are being closed down. There is no better example of this than the Morgan line. I wonder whether the member for Light has ever taken the trouble to read the evidence given before the Public Works Committee in relation to the closure of that line. The member for Adelaide referred to this in this place only a few weeks ago. If the member for Light has not read this he should do so.

Mr. Lawn: He isn't interested.

Mr. VIRGO: The Chairman of the Morgan council said about the member for Light, "He is completely uninterested; we never see him; he does nothing for the district." That is a fair commendation from one subdivision of the district the honourable member alleges he effectively represents! The closure of the lines has not started and finished there. The service in the Stirling District is finished, as are services in the Angas and Wallaroo Districts.

Mr. Langley: The member for Wallaroo is interested.

Mr. VIRGO: Yes, he is the only one of those members who has asked a question about line closures. All the other members have been completely silent, which shows that they agree to the closure of the lines.

Mr. Venning: Rubbish!

Mr. VIRGO: Let the honourable member point to the questions members on his side have asked: let him show me the protests they have made about the closure of these lines. He cannot do that, because no protests have been made by those members. Only one member has raised the matter of line closure in his district, and that is the member for Wallaroo. The members for Angas, Stirling and Light have sat in their places like stuffed dummies.

Mr. McAnaney: Not one in a thousand of my electors protested about this.

Mr. VIRGO: I would not have thought that any member would come out with the tripe about what his electors want him to do after the farce we had 18 months ago when one member said, "I will go and consult my electors to find out whether they want me to support the A.L.P or the L.C.L."

Mr. McAnaney: I am in touch with my electors all the time, so they do not have to consult me.

Mr. VIRGO: If the honourable member is in touch with them all the time, he should assume the title "Superman". He is no more in touch with his electors than is any member on this side, and we have only limited contact with our electors. Usually, the only electors with whom we are in contact are those who telephone us, write to us, or visit us. Of course, we have contact, too, with Party members. If the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney) were honest, he would know that what I am saying is correct.

Mr. McAnaney: I have many electors on my mailing list.

Mr. VIRGO: That has nothing to do with it. The honourable member is not justified in saying he has contact with his electors simply because they are on a mailing list.

Mr. McAnaney: You only go to A.L.P. meetings; but I go everywhere.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. VIRGO: I know where I would like the honourable member to go but, unfortunately, this is not the place to tell him. I suggest that the member for Light, who has now at long last resumed his seat, should have a careful look at page 140 of last year's Auditor-General's Report. He will find there a complete answer to the smear tactics he adopted last night in relation to employees of the South Australian Railways Department, particularly those who are members of the Australian Railways Union. He and other members know that one of the causes of the serious deterioration that has occurred in the track is that the Railways Department has not paid permanent way employees a decent salary. The only answer the member for Light gives to this sort of question is that the A.R.U. has caused the deficit.

I should like the honourable member to try to exist for a week in some of the hovels that railway workers are required to live in, and I should like to see him live in some of the isolated locations—and there are plenty of these on the West Coast, as the member for Eyre (Mr. Edwards) knows. I do not think even the member for Eyre would be too delighted to live in some of the railway cottages in far-flung places on the West Coast, where he would see nothing but the cat, the dog, mum and the kids and two mallee trees. The same thing applies to the line to Cockburn, yet many of these workers are required to live in houses that can be described only as sub-standard. I am equally concerned about the

amount provided on the Loan Estimates for railways, particularly when we consider the following statement of the Treasurer:

A special provision of \$600,000 is made in the Railways Loan Estimates this year as a first contribution toward a special programme of betterment of permanent way adopted in accordance with the recommendations of an expert committee which inquired into derailments.

This committee's report is one of the most damning reports I have ever read, yet the Minister of Roads and Transport made a press statement that over the next six years \$8,500,000 would be spent. In view of this figure, the sum of \$600,000 does not represent a very good start. In fact, if the Government were to remain in office (we know that it will not) for six years, it would contribute, on this basis, \$3,600,000, yet it has said that \$8,500,000 is needed! Does it treat the safety of the travelling public as flippantly as it treats other things, because that is what it is doing!

I hope Government members will read the report of the derailment committee, because that committee, which was composed of experts appointed by the Government, clearly said that the track was in a dangerous condition—not just substandard. However, we are still running trains over this track and still carrying members of the public on it, and all the Government does is to provide a mere \$600,000, when \$8,500,000 is needed. What sort of financing is this? It is typical of the financing of a Government bereft of any ideas. It is typical of the thinking of the member for Light, who vilified the A.L.P., members of the A.R.U., and the community at large. This came from a man who ought to be a responsible citizen. I reject completely the smears of the honourable member. I believe he got into the gutter, and he ought to stay there.

Mr. VENNING (Rocky River): I congratulate our Treasurer on the way he has prepared the Loan Estimates. I do not intend to smear anyone or to take anyone unnecessarily to task. The previous speaker spent most of his time doing this, but he would have contributed more to this debate had he stuck more rigidly to the Loan Estimates. I congratulate Treasurers, irrespective of whether they belong to the L.C.L. or the A.L.P., on their work. Of course, I consider that, because of the difference between the policies of the Liberal and Country League and the Australian Labor Party, an L.C.L. Treasurer has a much easier task than has an A.L.P. Treasurer.

Mr. Langley: Why?

Members interjecting:

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. VENNING: I congratulate our Treasurer on the manner in which he has endeavoured to set out the Loan Estimates. Last evening the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes), in speaking about the financial position, said that the Treasurer had salted away a certain amount of money. We have heard this from other Opposition speakers right throughout the debate. I congratulate the Treasurer on the way he has financed the situation, because he is putting this money aside for a rainy day.

I was particularly surprised at the criticism by the member for Wallaroo of the Treasurer, because the member for Wallaroo and I hope that the Government will be able to do something about providing a deep sea port, and it is a good idea to have money put away so that preliminary investigations can be undertaken to give this State a deep sea port. Certain preliminary work must be done in connection with this sort of thing and, if we have not the money salted away, what hope have we?

The member for Hindmarsh (Hon. C. D. Hutchens), the former Minister of Marine, had quite a deal to say about my Government in connection with the deep sea port proposals. Our Minister has said that the Government will carry out a thorough investigation into the situation regarding Wallaroo and other places in the State. It is also said that, the seismic survey having been completed, the information will be analysed and, in due course, we will be told what the situation is about a deep sea port. I was surprised at what the member for Hindmarsh said last evening in this regard, because he was the Minister of Marine when this inquiry and report into deep sea ports in this State was called for and, when the report was compiled, it was not tabled in the House but was acted upon to the degree that we saw certain things happening in this State.

Mr. Rodda: The member for Wallaroo didn't get the report from his own Minister.

Mr. VENNING: That is true. I know for sure that, if the member for Wallaroo had been sufficiently interested in the situation, he would have asked his Minister for this report and the Minister would have given it. I consider that today, instead of being in the position that we are in, we would have been three years ahead regarding this additional deep sea port in this State.

Mr. Rodda: They tried to put some blame on you.

Mr. VENNING: If it had not been for my assistance, the report would not have been obtained at that stage. Through my duties as a zone director in bulk handling, I dug it up and we have found some unsatisfactory features.

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

Mr. VENNING: Before the—

Mr. NANKIVELL: Mr. Chairman, I draw your attention to the state of the Committee.

A quorum having been formed:

Mr. VENNING: Before the adjournment I had said that if the member for Wallaroo had taken sufficient interest in the report that was called for in 1965 and completed in 1966 with details of the committee of inquiry as to the additional bulk terminal facilities that were required for South Australia, we would have been three years ahead of today's position concerning a "super" terminal in the central part of the State.

Mr. Hughes: Now I am getting the blame for it.

Mr. VENNING: Last evening, when the member for Hindmarsh spoke about the report he said that his sympathy was with the present Minister, because it was necessary to investigate thoroughly before committing the Government to a deep sea port, whereas in the report of 1965-66 the recommendation was for three "super" terminals—Port Adelaide (Eastern), Ardrossan (Central) and Port Lincoln (Western), although no evidence had been taken at Ardrossan and Port Adelaide. I am pleased that the Minister thought it necessary to make a thorough investigation into the situation before committing this Government. An amount of \$1,253,000 is provided in the Loan Estimates for work at Thevenard in order to allow larger vessels to berth there.

I remember when the then Minister of Works (Hon. C. D. Hutchens) visited Eyre Peninsula as guest of the co-operative, and we inspected the works at Thevenard. That evening we attended a meeting of about 400 growers at Ceduna: it was a hot night and it was a picture to see the 400 growers wearing white shirts at that lively meeting. It was at this meeting that the Minister made an announcement concerning Thevenard, and now \$1,253,000 is to be spent at that port. I remember that occasion with much pleasure. The member for Hindmarsh lunched with us that day: it was at the time when the leader-

ship of his Party was to be decided, and that was an interesting topic of conversation.

I cannot help thinking how different the member for Hindmarsh was when he was among men of substance. He was different from the way in which we find him in his present environment. Growers in that part of the State and I are particularly pleased to know that the operation at Thevenard will proceed and that ships with a capacity of 15,000 to 18,000 tons will be accommodated. This will considerably help growers in that part of the State.

Last Monday evening, in company with several Parliamentary colleagues from both this Chamber and the Legislative Council, I attended a meeting in Jamestown of the North-Eastern Teachers Association. About 40 members of the association were present at that meeting, and it was interesting indeed to hear these dedicated people putting to us their views of the situation concerning education in our country areas. They were concerned not only with their work as teachers but also with the facilities provided for them in country areas. Having attended that meeting, I do not consider that there is any crisis in education, although there are some urgent needs in connection with teaching in these areas. I believe that the teachers, generally speaking, are well satisfied with the wages they are receiving, but I believe it is necessary for them to receive additional help in undertaking some of the menial tasks that are fairly common to schools.

Also, it is necessary that teachers be enticed into country areas by providing satisfactory houses for them. Generally speaking, the population in most country areas is declining to the degree that it is not necessary to build new high schools and new homes willy-nilly and, as a consequence, we find that teachers in the main have to live in older houses without the facilities that we find in most modern houses today. I believe that we must do everything possible to give to our country teachers the facilities in their homes that people expect to have in the metropolitan area. As I say, it was a most enlightening meeting, and it was attended by dedicated teachers from our northern areas whose main interest was to see that they were able to discharge their duties to students without having to worry about other matters. I feel sure that we can, as a Government, do much to alleviate the present situation.

Mr. Rodda: Did you find them reasonable and understanding?

Mr. VENNING: Yes. There were two Legislative Council members at the meeting, representing the Northern District, as well as the member for Frome (Mr. Casey), and we had a most interesting discussion with the teachers from the northern part of the State. I am pleased to see again this year a provision made for school buses, involving a sum of \$330,000. Over a period, many smaller schools throughout the State have been closed down, and children have been picked up by school bus drivers at vantage points and taken to a more central school, at which they are able to receive much better education, mix with more children, participate in more sport, etc., and enjoy the benefits that are more apparent in the larger schools. It is particularly pleasing to see this provision again on the Estimates in order to continue the present bus services and, indeed, to provide additional services for people living in the country.

Regarding education, as I observe the situation, I believe members opposite are endeavouring to stir up trouble. The situation is not nearly as bad as they make out, as one would realize when one looks at it. I consider they are playing politics with it and stirring up strife amongst the staff. It is not unusual for Opposition members to do this sort of thing. Only last week and the week before in this place they started playing politics regarding wheat. When I pointed out to them the harm they were doing the industry they refrained from such activity. The same applies to education today: they are stirring up a lot of strife. I believe that the Minister and the department are doing everything possible to assist. We have a growing community and an increased enrolment throughout the schools. With the increased amount of money being spent building schools, in wages, and so on, everything possible is being done.

Whilst I am talking about education I want to refer to the Gladstone High School. I noticed that last year that high school was brought further forward in the programme. However, I am a little disappointed to see that no progress has been made in 12 months. The Gladstone people have been looking for a new school since about 1935, but we hope that, in the meantime, money will be spent on the existing set-up to provide the facilities enjoyed in other schools.

When I was talking about harbour facilities just now I said that the Minister was having a look at the situation, and he will examine the

report that follows the seismic survey. It was particularly interesting that a few months ago, prior to the Premier's going overseas, the Premier conferred with the Minister of Marine and they decided to aid the situation in this State regarding the provision of a deep sea port and getting it into operation. They agreed that additional finance should be put into the Port Giles situation, and this project has been brought forward quite a few months. It will be in operation towards the end of May. The amount of \$1,037,000 is provided for further work on the provision of bulk loading facilities at Port Giles. The estimated cost is \$2,264,000, and \$1,150,000 had been spent to the end of June last. Of this sum, \$730,000 was spent last year on the jetty structure and the fabrication of a conveyor structure. Additional funds have been allocated this year and, as previously announced, the provisions will enable the new port to operate as from next May instead of October or November, as previously planned. On behalf of the industry, I express appreciation to the Minister and Premier in bringing this project forward to enable the grain from this State to be moved out considerably earlier than had been planned.

It is unnecessary for me to remind the Committee of the problems we have had in connection with shipping. As a result of our geographical position we are at a disadvantage compared with Western Australia and the other States. This provision will enable us to have a deep sea port with 38ft. of water that will make it possible for vessels of 40,000 tons to top up. Of course, in the long term, we must have an additional deep sea terminal centrally situated and also one on Eyre Peninsula.

I am particularly pleased that the Electricity Trust is extending its activities throughout the State, and I am pleased at the provision made in the Loan Estimates for the northern parts of the State. Industry in these areas is at a disadvantage because it has insufficient power in some places. People in these areas have the single wire earth return, which is an excellent set-up for rural people. I often wonder why this system was not implemented earlier, because it has proved most satisfactory. However, it is not quite sufficient for industry using motors of a certain size, so I hope some of the money provided will enable the trust to give the additional power required by country industries. South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited has large pieces of equipment and it has invariably had to use its own

power units for a time. In many cases it has had to revert to petrol motors, but this practice is undesirable.

Mr. McKee: Who should get the credit for better electricity supplies?

Mr. VENNING: Sir Thomas Playford was responsible for the decision to extend electricity services to many parts of the State; he was the greatest Premier this State has ever known and probably the best Labor Premier ever known, too.

The sum of \$40,000 has been provided for a water supply for Orroroo, where the supply had been under the supervision of the local district council. It served the purpose for many years and it is a credit to Orroroo's progress committee that it did such a good job with a limited amount of water. The grassed oval at Orroroo compares with anything in the State and it was brought to its present state with a very restricted water supply. A local bore is alongside the oval and also the bore that supplies the town.

From July 1, the Orroroo water supply was taken over by the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and it is pleasing to see that \$40,000 has been provided to replace much of the existing service and to give a new bore and a new trunk main. This provision will considerably assist the people in the northern part of the State. Everything possible must be done to assist these people because they do not have all the amenities enjoyed by those in the metropolitan area. Therefore, anything that can be done to make conditions more pleasant and provide amenities to people in this area is good. Also, I see that the same amount of money is being made available to the Wilmington area to replace many of their trunk lines and to give them adequate water pressure. Last week we debated the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study plan and may I say that I, as a country member, looked carefully into the M.A.T.S. situation.

Mr. Hughes: Why didn't you get up last week and say so?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Wallaroo is out of order.

Mr. VENNING: I was very pleased to have the assurance that roads in country areas would not be affected detrimentally as a result of the M.A.T.S. proposals. The amount of money allocated to areas is not necessarily the key to the whole situation: it is the amount of work done in those areas. It is easy to waste money and I think that, although there is a shortage of engineers in

our departments, much more work could be done if we had sufficient field engineers. It is a matter of properly organizing what staff we have. I know there is a shortage of engineers in the Highways Department. Generally speaking, workmen are willing to do an honest day's work, but I think that the supervision is sometimes wanting.

As I have said, I was pleased to have the assurance that country roads would not suffer because of the implementation of the M.A.T.S. plan. I was also pleased to learn that a court would be established to handle the question of the acquisition of properties and the payment of compensation. Unfortunately, in these cases the customer has never been right and I am sure that the court will give the people fair compensation for properties acquired. I was also pleased at the statement by the Minister of Roads and Transport (Hon. C. M. Hill) which was referred to in the Legislative Council last week in a question asked by one of the members for Northern Division (Hon. Richard Geddes). The Minister's statement was as follows:

The Metropolitan Transportation Committee will make annual reports of its work and progress and these will be tabled in the same manner as other departments and agencies table reports in Parliament. In this manner Parliament can peruse and be informed of the co-ordinated planning of the various transportation agencies as they proceed and implement stage by stage the co-ordinated transportation plan for metropolitan Adelaide in the future.

To my way of thinking, this is very pleasing, because Parliament will be able to see what progress is being made with the study. I do not wish to say any more at this stage, except that I again compliment the Treasurer on the able manner in which he has set out the Loan Estimates for the State, and we hope he will be successful in carrying out what he plans to do under these Estimates. I support the first line.

Mrs. BYRNE (Barossa): In presenting these Loan Estimates, the Treasurer said:

Funds are also being provided for the fluoridation equipment at various reservoirs to provide for the eventual fluoridation of the metropolitan water supply.

I wish to add to the remarks of the member for Hindmarsh (Hon. C. D. Hutchens) in this matter, and I would like to read from an article in the *Readers Digest* of April of this year headed "Prevention: New Look in Dentistry". This states:

Fluoride is still a vital key—but in a far more effective form . . . And today there is enormous evidence to prove that this is a safe, effective and practical method of decay

prevention. But it is by no means a total solution even for people who drink fluoridated water. This is where topical fluoride applications come into the picture. In the mid-1940s researchers discovered that a sodium-fluoride solution painted on to the teeth several times a year by a dentist would reduce tooth decay anywhere from 25 to 40 per cent. To extend these benefits, several universities began work on new compounds. At Indiana, Muhler and his associates tested several thousand fluoride compounds before focusing on stannous (tin) fluoride. Today, both sodium and stannous fluoride, as well as the recently introduced sodium monofluorophosphate, are proven decay preventatives. With any of these, the fluoride ion actually combines with healthy tooth enamel to form a super-hard, acid-resistant surface.

Later, it goes on to say:

Both fluoride groups showed caries reduction, but the triple-fluoride sailors came out best.

This was a result of a test. It goes on:

After 12 months they had up to 73 per cent fewer cavities than those in the control group.

I commend this article to the Minister of Works, because I am sure that if the Government goes ahead and adds fluoride to the water supply it will one day regret this action. As is shown by this article, there are other ways and means to achieve the same result.

On examining the details at the back of the Loan Estimates, I read with interest that the Modbury West Primary and Infants School was to be commenced at an estimated cost of \$245,000. Also, the list under the heading "Major works for which planning and design is proposed during 1969-70" includes the primary and infants school at Tea Tree Gully and also the technical high school to be erected at Ridgehaven. I have repeatedly advocated, by the means available to me in this Parliament, the replacement of the existing Tea Tree Gully Primary School and the need for a new technical high school in the area, because at present we have only one high school serving the outer metropolitan section and also, of course, we have Kildare College, which is a private school for girls. At present, the children have to attend the Gilles Plains High School, Birdwood High School, or the two technical high schools (one for boys and one for girls) at Strathmont. Others, of course, attend private schools.

A search at the Archives revealed that the original building at the Tea Tree Gully Primary School was completed on April 25, 1870, at a total cost of £224 (\$448). This building should be preserved, but it is time that this school, which is nearly 100 years old, was replaced, although most of the buildings are

temporary buildings. In the last week I have received a letter from the entire staff of the Tea Tree Gully Primary School, who are members of the S.A. Institute of Teachers, and so that the Minister will be aware of its contents, I will quote it. It reads:

We, the staff of Tea Tree Gully Primary School, wish to draw attention to the following particular deficiencies of Tea Tree Gully Primary School:

- (1) That classes overall are large—infants classes average 42 children.
- (2) At the end of the term there will be one teacher resigning which will make an urgent need for two extra teachers to cope with the situation of an additional class without a teacher, in addition to, at present, the existence of a composite infants grade of 40 children.
- (3) The lack of relieving staff puts an added strain on teachers whose extra work in taking additional children affects both their health and teaching efficiency with an adverse effect on the children's education.
- (4) Inadequate heating is provided in some classrooms. One heater has been damaged and unusable for 12 months.
- (5) The toilet facilities for staff and primary students (at present also infant classes, while the new block is under construction) are sub-standard.
- (6) The lunch shelter sheds provide sufficient space for about 200 of over 550 students in the school.
- (7) There is a lack of playground space for younger children.
- (8) There is a lack of equipment to cope with modern approaches to teaching due to lack of subsidy money to purchase such aids.

These problems reduce the ability of the staff to provide the standard and quality of education to which the children of this area are entitled.

That letter was received from the staff of an old school in the area that is to be replaced, but I have also received from the staff of a fairly recently erected primary school in the area a letter which states:

The staff of this school considers it to be the duty of the Education Department of South Australia to provide, as basic necessities, to all new and existing primary schools, the following: (a) library and reference books; (b) duplicating equipment and materials; (c) new mathematical materials; (d) new physical education equipment; (e) audio and visual equipment; and (f) any new equipment or materials necessary for the implementation of new courses.

Because of the present interest in education I decided to assess the position with relation to the newly-developing section of the Barossa District, and the following details show the dates on which the various schools commenced to be used:

Banksia Park Primary School—timber section, February 4, 1964, solid construction, August 9, 1965; Banksia Park Infants School, on February 7, 1967; Dernancourt Primary School, on February 8, 1966; Dernancourt Infants School, on February 6, 1968; Modbury South Primary School, on February 6, 1967; Modbury Primary School—new buildings, on February 5, 1963; Modbury Infants School on June 26, 1967; Surrey Downs Primary School, on October 28, 1968; and Modbury High School (the only high school) on February 8, 1965.

The following details show the cost of the new buildings, plus the cost of the land. At Banksia Park Primary and Infants School, new buildings cost \$362,500, and land \$24,300. At Dernancourt Primary and Infants School, the construction cost \$314,500, and land \$45,100. The Modbury South Primary School cost \$263,000, and the land cost \$45,900. For the Modbury Primary and Infants School, the primary section cost \$204,000 and the Infants section \$124,000, while the land cost \$17,000. The Surrey Downs Primary School cost \$205,000, and the land cost \$19,000; the Modbury High School cost \$688,000, and the land \$46,500.

This leaves two old primary schools in the urban section of the city of Tea Tree Gully, namely, the schools at Paracombe and Houghton. Naturally, it is not uncommon for parents of the children attending the older schools to consider that their children are at a disadvantage, not in regard to education but in regard to comfort, compared with the children attending newer schools. At Hope Valley, one of the older schools is still in existence, and this is an area that now consists mainly of newly-erected houses.

This school is to be replaced, but I am disappointed that provision for it is not made in the Loan Estimates this year, because the need is urgent. Indeed, I would not have been surprised if I had received a letter from the staff of this school complaining of the conditions; I will be surprised if I do not receive one soon. I have obtained a list of sites held by the Education Department and future sites in the area for primary and secondary school purposes. I ask leave to have this list incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

TEA TREE GULLY AREA

Sites Held

Holden Hill (Valiant Road) Primary School	Part allotments 9 and 13, section 507, hundred of Yatala. Bounded by Bentley Drive North, Riley Street East, Mercedes Drive South	9 acres 1 rood 17 perches
East Dernancourt Primary School	Part section 515, hundred of Yatala, Lyons Road to north	8 acres 3 roods 36 perches
Highbury Primary School	Part sections 822 and 819, hundred of Yatala, Payne Street to west	11 acres 0 roods 0 perches
Modbury West Primary School	Part section 840, hundred of Yatala, corner Kelly and Wright Roads	9 acres 3 roods 35 perches
Ridgehaven Primary School	Part section 1578, hundred of Yatala, Lokans Road to north	5 acres 3 roods 12 perches
Modbury North Primary School	Part section 1583, hundred of Yatala, off Milne Road, private road to school site	10 acres 0 roods 0 perches
Modbury Heights High School	Part section 1586, hundred of Yatala, Kelly Road to west	20 acres 0 roods 0 perches
Yatala Vale Primary School	Part section 5463, hundred of Yatala, Hamilton Road to west	10 acres 0 roods 35 perches

Future Sites

Holden Hill Primary School	Part section 826, hundred of Yatala	11 acres 2 roods 0 perches
Vista Primary School	Part section 846, hundred of Yatala	6 acres 2 roods 0 perches
Pedare Primary School	Part sections 1598 and 1599, hundred of Yatala	10 acres 0 roods 0 perches
Redwood Primary School	Part section 1589, hundred of Yatala	10 acres 0 roods 0 perches
Surrey Downs Technical College	Section 2129, hundred of Yatala	30 acres 0 roods 0 perches
Surrey Downs West Secondary	Section 2150, hundred of Yatala	30 acres 0 roods 0 perches

Mrs. BYRNE: Most people are aware of the subsidy system which is a feature of education in this State and under which provision is made for urgently-needed amenities in schools. The question is sometimes asked whether this system might cause hardship in newly-developed areas. When the Labor Government attained office in 1965, it was noted that those State schools which were first to apply for a subsidy and which were generally better equipped were getting the best cut of the cake. Consequently, a fair distribution scheme was introduced. The subsidy for a school was decided on the enrolments, according to any special project being undertaken, and special consideration was given to new schools experiencing additional needs. When a school's allocation was determined, the school committee or council could spend up to the limit of the allocation instead of submitting applications for additional subsidies throughout the year.

Expenditure could take place only in relation to the approved items. If the school did not desire to take up its full allocation, the unused balance was distributed among other schools that might wish to use more than their original allocation. In addition to revenue funds being supplied for subsidies, the previous Government provided Loan funds for such items as assembly halls, swimming pools, change-rooms and canteens, and this provision was made on a liberalized basis. I recently asked the Minister of Education whether the present Government was adhering to this policy (I was sure that it was), and the Minister said that no change had been made by the present Government regarding the policy on school subsidies. The Minister said:

In April of each year schools submit form AD31 (an "application for allocation of subsidies") for the ensuing financial year. An allocation is then made to all schools having regard to funds available, school enrolments, previous allocation and special needs, for example, new schools. Schools may spend up to the limit of their allocations without submitting further applications for subsidy. At the end of February each year, schools are requested to inform the department of any allocated funds which they cannot use, and this money is distributed to schools requiring additional subsidy. In addition, Loan money is made available for the subsidizing of assembly halls, swimming pools, change-rooms and canteens.

Therefore, it does not appear that new schools are at a disadvantage under the present subsidy system, but the Education Department would do well to examine this question from

time to time to make sure that new schools compare favourably with older schools. I will refer now to an article that appeared on page 23 of this morning's *Advertiser* under the heading "Tuckshop Sabotage", as follows:

Diet and nutrition were among subjects on which women gave papers at the Anzaas congress yesterday. Mrs. J. F. Coy, State Nutrition Officer with the Department of Health Service in Tasmania, attacked school tuck shops for "sabotaging" dental health schemes and contributing to unhealthy obesity among children. She said the problem of overweight schoolchildren was so serious in Australia that in one high school alone, 30 girls in a class of 50 were found to need corrective medical treatment. "It is quite ridiculous for mothers and schools to raise money for sports equipment by running tuck shops which sell chocolates and other sweets that make a high profit but ruin the health and teeth of the children. I am not against tuck shops but I am definitely against what they sell," she said.

Mr. McAnaney: How will fluoride affect this?

Mrs. BYRNE: I believe that, if people had the correct diet and cleaned their teeth after each meal, it would not be necessary to add fluoride to the water. I do not think it is necessary to add that, however, as the honourable member knows my views. Only the Minister of Education can say whether what is in the article I have quoted is correct. I do not know whether an examination has been made of all the tuckshops in South Australia and what they sell; I guess that this has not been done.

As the article states, all tuckshops would not sell sweets and chocolates. However, in the case of those who do sell them, I believe that the present subsidy system is responsible, for it is only natural that, to raise money for needed amenities and facilities at schools, canteens will sell what is popular rather than what is best for a child's healthy diet.

In addition to the schools to which I have referred, there are 16 country primary schools in my district. Many of these schools are about 70 or 80 years old. The Kersbrook school celebrated its centenary about two years ago. In my district there are few new schools in the country. One such school is at Sandy Creek. There is one high school, at Birdwood.

I received a letter today from a constituent who made some interesting suggestions about school crossings; if the Minister considers there is merit in them I hope some action will be taken on them. The letter is as follows:

I have taken an interest in school crossings and have come to the conclusion that those used in South Australia leave much to be

desired. I expect you are already aware of the death of an 8-year-old boy at such a crossing on South Road on July 22.

The existing 15 m.p.h. limit at these crossings is of course essential, but is not observed in many cases. The main problem is on the main roads where traffic is dense and fast moving. Some crossings are in a rather unfortunate location (e.g., on the Main North Road near Harewood Avenue, where a crest in the road obscures it from the view of northbound traffic).

The cost of eliminating accident risk would, I imagine, be quite astronomical, but the risk could be greatly reduced at minimum cost by improving the warning signs, at least on main roads, as follows:

Place signs where clearly visible for at least five seconds by approaching traffic on the left side of the road, on the median strip (where it exists), and on each lane of the roadway.

Display the word "School" centrally on signs and in large letters to avoid confusion with other types of crossing. Better still might be the adoption of the international triangular "Caution Children Crossing" sign which contains no writing at all, the picture leaving no doubt as to the message.

Modify the flashing lights to display the figure "15" and increase their mounting height to the same height as the red light in normal traffic lights.

As a first step, it is suggested that research be done at a few selected crossings with these and other improvements to obtain definite evidence of effectiveness and determine the optimum arrangement of warning signs.

About 9 per cent of the children of eligible age attend the four kindergartens available in the Tea Tree Gully district. Of these kindergartens, only the Kathleen Mellor Kindergarten is affiliated to the Kindergarten Union. In this State 13 per cent of children of eligible age attend kindergartens. There is a tendency to use church buildings for kindergarten purposes in my district because the committees have to raise the finance for buildings.

In the Kindergarten Union's report the pre-school adviser states that in 1958 there were 102 kindergartens and in 1968 there were 125, an increase of 23 in 10 years. In other words, the money received from the State Government is sufficient to subsidize only two kindergartens a year, or occasionally three. More kindergartens should be subsidized so that more attention can be focused on pre-school education.

There is a growing awareness that the formative years of early childhood are of crucial importance, so the contribution of the kindergarten to the educational development of the child is receiving, as it should, more attention. This is further evidenced by the Commonwealth Government's announcement of un-

matched grants to kindergarten teachers colleges. I do not have to be convinced by anyone of the value of a child's attending kindergarten because my own daughter did so and it was to her advantage, especially when she began her primary education. I know that other parents have felt likewise. However, an inquiry into education is being held, and perhaps when a report is submitted a new policy in relation to kindergartens will be defined. Doubtless, the time for a reappraisal of pre-school education has arrived.

It must be obvious to all members (even to members opposite, who probably would be reluctant to admit it) that the amount being spent on education at present is insufficient. I keep in touch with the schools in my district, trying to visit each one at least once a year: I visit some more often than that. At practically every school I visit officers of the school committees, welfare clubs and mothers' clubs point out to me the needs of the school, and I am sure that other members have had a similar experience. Some requests would involve minor expenditure but other matters, such as the replacement of a school building, would require major expenditure. I support the first line.

Mr. EDWARDS (Eyre): I compliment the Treasurer on the way he has set out the Loan Estimates. He has done a first-class job, with the sum available to him, in this difficult task of allotting money for each project to be carried out during the year. Practically every section has allocated to it more money than was allocated last year.

Mr. Langley: He has more money.

Mr. EDWARDS: The Treasurer has little more, considering all the jobs that the money has to be spread over. We must give credit where it is due, and the Treasurer has done exceptionally well in many areas, some of which I shall mention. One of the first that affects my district relates to the Railways Department. Progress has been slow over the years, but now the railway line is being improved.

Mr. McKee: That's because of the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. EDWARDS: If the honourable member wants to argue, I remind him that his Government did not do much in its three years of office.

Mr. McKee: Your Government was in for 30 years before that. Tell us about that.

Mr. EDWARDS: There may not have been much done for a few years before, but nothing was done during Labor's term. The section from Ceduna to Kevin, where the salt works and gypsum works are located, is being improved, and \$20,000 has been set aside to finish that project during the year.

Mr. McKee: How many will be employed there; will it be a big industry?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. EDWARDS: I note with some pleasure that the Treasurer has set aside \$1,253,000 to commence the dredging and deepening of the Thevenard harbour. This is something that has been needed for many years, and at last we have reached the stage where (I think) a contract has been let. A fishing haven is to be provided at Thevenard for landing and receiving the fish from the men who make their living out of fishing. This project, too, has been needed for a long time, and I am pleased to see that \$20,000 is set aside for it this year to assist fishermen of the area.

The sum of \$97,000 has been set aside for the building of hopper waggons so that wheat can be emptied more quickly at the terminal port. These waggons are of great benefit in this work, for they can be emptied quickly and the trucks can be sent back to be reloaded while the older type of truck is still being unloaded.

I am pleased to see that a considerable sum has been set aside for the Polda-Kimba-Lock main. Last year, \$207,000 was spent on this main, even though only \$175,000 had been allotted to it. I thank the Minister of Works for providing this extra money for this important project. He, like many other members on this side, realize the benefit of this water main, and he is doing his best to see that this work is completed as quickly as possible. I hope that the Commonwealth Government will come to light with a grant for this project so that it can be pushed through much more quickly.

Also, \$30,000 has been set aside for another small trunk main in the Pygery district to help farmers on the northern side of the main. This, too, is a very helpful project for Eyre Peninsula. For the Tod trunk main enlargement, which is still going on and which is gradually getting towards the top end, another \$750,000 is set aside. It is the setting aside of money for important projects such as this that assists in getting things for Eyre Peninsula. I am a little disappointed about one thing. Last year a sum of money was set aside for

a new police station at Ceduna, but the last I heard from the Minister of Works was that as the quote for the station had now exceeded \$200,000 it would have to be referred to the Public Works Committee for approval.

Mr. McKee: Then it will be on next year's Loan Estimates.

Mr. EDWARDS: I wish the member for Port Pirie would have a sleep for a while and make his speech later. Provision has been made to build a new police station at Elliston. However, I am disappointed that nothing has been provided to erect the Electricity Trust substation at Cleve. If this important project is not commenced soon it will not be ready by the time the main is completed, and this substation will be necessary to assist in pumping water from the Polda Basin to Kimba, and to fill tanks *en route*. An area school, for which planning and design is intended this year, will be erected at Streaky Bay, and I had hoped that provision would be made for schools at Karcultaby and Butler, but these schools are not included in the works for which planning and design is proposed this year. I hope they will be included next year.

In spite of what Opposition members have said about housing projects, the Housing Trust is doing a good job. At Ceduna 20 houses are to be commenced this year; 10 at Cleve; five at Cowell; four at Cummins; two at Elliston; seven at Kimba; six at Lock; two at Minnipa; 34 at Port Lincoln, a large increase in the number; and three at Wudinna. This total is only a fraction of the number of houses being built on Eyre Peninsula, because many are being built privately. Opposition members do not realize how much private building is being done.

Mr. Rodda: They don't appreciate what a significant part Eyre Peninsula is of South Australia.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Eyre is perfectly capable of making his own speech.

Mr. EDWARDS: I speak highly of Eyre Peninsula and commend the people who are building houses by using loans from different banks. The Port Lincoln area is progressing rapidly; in fact, most areas on Eyre Peninsula are expanding. Not only are houses being built in the towns but also many are being built on farms, so that the owners living in the present houses are able to engage another share-farmer.

Mr. Corcoran: And soon, they won't be able to get rid of their wheat.

Mr. EDWARDS: We do not depend on wheat alone: we can make a living out of several other commodities. I do not wish to take up any more time at this stage, as I will have something further to say later in the debate. I support the first line.

Mr. BURDON (Mount Gambier): I am rather disappointed that the member for Eyre has resumed his seat, because we were rather glad to have the knowledge that he was imparting to members. In supporting the first line, I must say that I do not have the enthusiasm that members on the other side apparently have for these Estimates. We on this side, in common with the members of the public, have little enthusiasm for them. I refer Government members to the period 1965-68 and to the contrast between the speeches now being made by Government members and those made by them in 1965 when in Opposition. Sir Thomas Playford, as Leader of the Opposition, after being Premier of this State for about 27 years—

Mr. McAnaney: What are you going to say about him?

Mr. BURDON: I am saying nothing against him, so the member for Stirling need not get excited. I did not stand up tonight to criticize Sir Thomas Playford but merely to draw an analogy between what took place in 1965 and what is taking place this year in relation to the speeches being made in this Chamber. Members opposite went to great lengths in August in each of the years 1965, 1966, and 1967 to tear down the State when speaking to the Loan Estimates introduced by Labor Treasurers in that period. However, I remind Government members that, several million dollars having been overspent in the 1964-65 financial year, the Government then in office made no provision to cope with that situation. I suppose it realized that the people of South Australia would catch up with it in March, 1965, and, in fact, the people did catch up with it. Although the Labor Government is now out of office, it was never voted out of office.

Mr. McKee: The Government was elected by one man.

Mr. BURDON: That is right, and I may enlarge on that matter at some other time. I defy anyone on the Government side to disprove what I am saying.

Mr. Venning: You lost the election.

Mr. Langley: How?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Mount Gambier.

Mr. BURDON: I well recall the former member for Rocky River (Mr. Heaslip), whose theme song concerned the provision of a wheat silo at Appila, castigating members of the Opposition on every possible occasion. This seems to be the attitude of the present member for Rocky River also, although I am rather surprised that he has not cottoned on to the Appila situation, which was so dear to the heart of his predecessor.

Mr. McAnaney: The Labor Government wouldn't give it to him.

Mr. BURDON: That is correct, but has this Government gone ahead with it? It has not, and the project is not even on the drawing board. When things are different they are not quite the same. This session the present member for Rocky River has tried often to belittle the member for Wallaroo over the matter of a deep sea port at Wallaroo and also in relation to the wheat surplus problem, which is a problem throughout the Commonwealth at present. Several problems face the wheat farmer, and it would be just as well if the member for Rocky River faced up to them. I think the time has arrived when he should get out and do something about them.

Mr. Venning: Talk about something you know.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There are too many interjections.

Mr. BURDON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, the member for Rocky River likes to hand it out, as he does from time to time, but he does not like to take his medicine in return. I have engaged in a little crossfire with the honourable member. However, apart from his politics he is not a bad guy. I disagree with the politics he has espoused in this place during the past few weeks, and his Party will get a severe jolt in the next few months. I have been rather amazed at some of the speeches made by the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn).

Mr. McAnaney: Give him a go.

Mr. BURDON: I will give him a go, but it is about time he gave Opposition members a go. During the debate this afternoon several invitations were issued to the member for Light to come into the Chamber, but for some unknown reason he has not done so. If the member for Stirling has an explanation, I should like to hear it. The member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) made several valiant attempts to get the member for Light into the Chamber, but he failed to entice him in.

One of the things that amazes me (and I hope you will excuse me, Mr. Chairman, for it is not often that I speak in this way), is that when the member for Light speaks in this Chamber he seems to have a peculiar habit of lecturing members on this side about the policies of the Labor Party. We are not altogether concerned about this, but it seems to have got into the system of the member for Light. Socialism seems to be one of his pet subjects. I would go as far as to say that the honourable member is so far to the right that he qualifies as one of the old-time Fascists. He is so prone to condemn Opposition members that his attitude is just as dangerous (or more dangerous) to South Australia than anything that has ever before emanated from either side of this Chamber. It is rather peculiar: he condemns socialistic measures yet he takes advantage of them every time he uses a light switch, a tap or public transport.

Having listened to some of the speeches of Government members, I am reminded of a remark I heard in this Chamber three or four years ago (I think it was made by the member for Gawler, Mr. Clark, but I am not sure) that there are good speeches, bad speeches and frightful speeches; at some time or other we fall into the last two categories, and sometimes we hope that we fall into the first category. I am not in any way trying this evening to fall into any particular category, but the speeches of some Government members praising the Loan Estimates certainly do not fall into the first or second categories. The Leader of the Opposition said that the Government was salting away \$12,000,000 of Loan Fund money. This money, on which South Australia must pay 6 per cent interest, has come from Commonwealth sources. It is a huge sum to salt away at a time when South Australia needs money for public works.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: Where is it salted away?

Mr. BURDON: It is just salted away doing nothing. There was quite a hue and cry from Liberal and Country League members when in Opposition, when the Labor Government found itself up for repayment of interest debts. If the present Government is not using up Loan Fund money, yet is paying 6 per cent interest on it, I do not think it is doing a service to the State. That information is contained in the Treasurer's statement. We all realize the need for more school buildings in South Australia and we know how real are the education problems in the State. The Commonwealth Government

should assist to overcome these problems by providing more money. However, I doubt whether the Commonwealth Government will do that if the State does not fully utilize Loan funds already given to it. If the Treasurer goes to Canberra next year with Loan moneys unspent we are not likely to be considered favourably by the Commonwealth Treasurer.

There may well be a change in the Commonwealth Treasury in the next couple of months and I do not think our having surplus Loan funds will encourage any Commonwealth Treasurer to give large amounts to South Australia. When members of the present Government were in Opposition from 1965 until 1968, they tried to attack the Labor Government on every possible occasion, whether about revenue or about Loan funds. However, the present Government is making the grave mistake of not utilizing, for the benefit of the people of South Australia, all the money available to it. On the Wednesday before a by-election in the District of Mount Gambier in 1962 a member of the Government of the day promised that a new courthouse and public buildings would be built in Mount Gambier.

Mr. Clark: Have you got them yet?

Mr. BURDON: No. We got as far as getting them on the drawing board. Plans were prepared during the term of office of the Labor Government and money was spent on preliminary work but, since the change of Government, the whole project has been abandoned.

Mr. Jennings: What about the atomic power station at Lake Leake?

Mr. BURDON: That was one of Sir Thomas Playford's election gimmicks and the project was to be built in the District of Victoria. It was like some of the deep sea ports that were promised for the South-East coast at election time. I am concerned greatly because my representations over the years have not borne fruit. No money is provided in these Loan Estimates for the courthouse or public buildings in Mount Gambier.

I understand that \$200,000 is being provided for the Engineering and Water Supply Department at Mount Gambier to assist in the provision of new equipment at the pumping station and for additional water mains. The Government has announced plans to go ahead with a new regional headquarters office at the Mount Gambier State Sawmill. Of course, this was initiated by the Labor Government when it was in office, and it is something that has been desired by the Woods and Forests Department for many years. However, apart

from this and the other things that I mentioned, the Loan Estimates do not include anything for my district.

Unfortunately, we have had some great claims made by the present Government regarding certain works that have been completed in the country. In fact, of course, these were merely completed under the regime of the present Government. In the last few months a primary school has been completed in Mount Gambier at a cost of \$330,000, and at the commencement of the third term this year about 970 students will be entering a new high school in that city. This school, which cost about \$1,500,000, is one of the most modern high schools in South Australia. However, as I have previously indicated, what concerns me is that, while it has been built for 1,000 students, somewhere along the line there has been a serious under-estimation of what the total enrolment at this school will be, because I understand that an estimation made recently indicates that from the commencement of the next school year it may be necessary to accommodate some students in prefabricated buildings that now exist on the grounds of the old school.

This raises a point about the future provision of schools in the Mount Gambier District. I like to give credit where credit is due, and I can say that the Minister of Education has indicated to me that the Education Department is having a look at the situation. Also, the department has already acquired further land for a contemplated additional secondary school. Whether this will be a technical college or a high school, only the next year or two will tell.

Apart from the items I have mentioned, I cannot discover anything further except the announcement that the Housing Trust is continuing to construct houses in Mount Gambier. This is something that was started two years ago, and I believe that it is most desirable from the city's point of view because there is a continuing steady growth in all the industries in Mount Gambier and in the Lower South-East generally based on radiata pine.

Whilst the forestry industry at the moment is tending to enjoy better conditions than it has enjoyed for several years, it is still not out of the wood. Unfortunately, at present there does not appear to be any significant increase in the use of radiata pine in this State, and it seems that most of our increased sales are occurring in the Eastern States.

We appreciate that the Eastern States are taking this timber. The radiata pine industry is vital to the South-East, and I am pleased that the Government is continuing to make provision to keep this industry expanding in the way it has in the past.

It is estimated that in June, 1970, there will be about 185,000 acres of pines in South Australia. Although these are the largest man-made forests in Australia, they are small compared with those in New Zealand. Whilst that country is developing rapidly, I believe that if we maintain the standard and quality for which we have become renowned the future of the industry will be sound, and we will be able to compete against the increased competition from New Zealand forests, particularly under the free trade agreement that will operate between Australia and New Zealand in 1972. I support the first line, but with less enthusiasm than has been displayed by Government members.

First line—State Bank, \$3,140,000—passed.

Highways and Local Government, \$3,850,000.

Mr. HUDSON: The Treasurer informed me this afternoon that at June 30, 1968, the balance in the deposit account for further expenditure on public parks was \$280,015. The sum provided for this line in 1968-69 was \$300,000, so that, at the beginning of 1968-69, \$580,015 was available. During the last financial year payments were only \$165,466, so that at the beginning of this year the balance was \$414,519. A further \$300,000 is provided this year, and this would permit a total expenditure of about \$714,000 during the current financial year. I am not suggesting that this is likely to take place under current arrangements. The Public Parks Acts allows the Government to make a \$1 for \$1 subsidy to councils to purchase park areas, and that subsidy is based on the Land Board valuation. In many cases the Government contribution is less than 50 per cent, because the council has to pay more than the Land Board valuation to acquire the necessary areas. As the sum in the deposit account has risen substantially in the last two years, the current arrangements are not a satisfactory way of ensuring that the full sum is spent each year. I suggest that the Treasurer seriously consider recommending amendments to the Public Parks Act. The money at present made available to councils is used largely to purchase small pockets of land in existing council districts, and often these areas represent fairly expensive purchases, particularly in the metropolitan area, because they are in built-up areas. Sometimes it involves the purchase of land on which

buildings already exist, the council concerned intending to demolish those buildings.

There is a great need for direct purchase by the Government of significant areas of land on the fringes of the metropolitan area, but the district councils in these areas are not able to make the kind of large-scale purchase that needs to be made. This matter is particularly important, because these areas will soon be residential areas in the newer suburbs of Adelaide, and the Government can, by making direct purchases, ensure that at least in these areas there will be adequate provision of public parks and of recreation areas, so that we will not have a repetition of the situation that exists in so many of our suburbs today where there is insufficient recreation space.

I think it would be a tragedy for the Treasurer next year to say, "We have not been able to spend under this line anywhere near the \$300,000, because we are not getting the applications from local government and, therefore, for the 1970-71 financial year we intend to reduce the sum provided." The existing arrangements under the Public Parks Act are not sufficient to enable the full sum to be spent; they permit the purchase of only fairly small areas for park purposes, and they do not permit the establishment of significant park areas. I believe the Government could be making direct purchases of land and using the money provided under this line to provide a service for future generations, particularly those who will be living on the fringes of the metropolitan area.

The purchase made by the Government could still be relatively cheap. Further, in some of these areas the purchases could be of a magnitude to ensure recreation not only for local residents but also for people coming from other parts of the metropolitan area and from country areas. I ask the Treasurer seriously to consider amending the whole arrangements that apply regarding the use of funds provided under this line.

Mr. BROOMHILL: I support the member for Glenelg, and I think the Loan Estimates confirm the opinion he expressed. The sum of \$300,000 is provided this year and, with \$165,000 spent under this line last year, it is clear that councils are not able to take full advantage of the provisions of the Public Parks Act. To my knowledge, councils in all areas badly need to take advantage of the existing provision but can do so only by increasing rates or by reducing roadworks and other projects in order to make the necessary

finance available for this purpose. I share the fear of the member for Glenelg that, if this situation continues again this year, there will be a temptation for the Government to say in future years that this sum of \$300,000 has been made available, has not been used by the councils, and therefore should be reduced. I do not agree that that is the proper attitude, because we are badly short of parks and reserves in all areas and councils should be encouraged to take advantage of this money.

If this trend continues, it is up to the Government to see how the \$300,000 a year can adequately be spent on providing reserves and parks. Perhaps the Government can purchase land for this purpose or increase the present subsidy, which is now \$1 for \$1 on Land Board valuation, to \$2 or \$3 to \$1. It is imperative that the Government make sure that councils use this money for the good purpose for which it is intended. Councils with newly-developed areas badly need assistance to purchase parks. Because of their financial difficulties, they cannot take advantage of this provision. Will the Treasurer seriously consider the position and see that the money is used properly?

Mr. GILES: An area known as Black Hill at Athelstone, which has been a wildflower sanctuary, does not belong to the Government. As many people visit the area, it would be a worthy addition to similar areas already existing in the Adelaide foothills. Will the Government consider buying this area and using it as a public park?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer): The purchase of the land referred to by the member for Gumeracha would be more appropriately purchased under the line "National Reserves", and when we reach that line I may have a word to say about the matter. The Public Parks Act was specifically designed to assist councils within their areas, more particularly regarding the needs of the metropolitan area. I agree that a need exists for additional open spaces; whether they be large or small, they are appreciated. I fly over the western and south-western suburbs of the city on an average of twice a week, and I often look at the general layout in those areas. Although in certain parts these districts appear well served, there are pockets of fairly solid housing with little interruption in the south-western suburbs and, in the western suburbs, in the electoral districts of Hindmarsh and Port Adelaide and some

parts of West Torrens. Whilst the market gardens in the West Torrens District are not available to the public, they are valuable for fresh air purposes.

The suggestion that the Government should apply this increasing provision to a more generous approach to councils is easy to make; if one has unlimited funds, one can always overcome many problems. The Act is not unfair in providing for a reasonable apportionment of the cost of purchasing open spaces in the metropolitan area between the taxpayers as a whole and the council concerned. If the taxpayers as a whole are required, as they are, to meet half the cost, surely it is not unreasonable to expect the people who will benefit to meet the other half. Admittedly, as the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) says, it is based on the Land Board's valuation, and it is not always possible for the council concerned to afford its half of that valuation. There may be justification for some alteration on this score, provided that the price of the subject land is not artificially inflated because some basis other than the Land Board's valuation has been adopted.

The suggestion that land on the fringe of the metropolitan area be purchased has merit, because such land is not as costly now as it may be 10 or 15 years later. However, under the relevant legislation developers are now required, because of the foresight of Parliament (and the previous Government must take some credit for this), to set aside certain areas of each development plan.

Mr. Hudson: That gives rise to very little.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The developers do not think it is insignificant—it is 12½ per cent or a minimum acreage.

Mr. Hudson: Or \$100 an allotment.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: Yes, but there is power to aggregate. Provision exists for creating a reasonable area, so it is not quite as impossible for open spaces to be provided as it may appear at first glance. I am not saying that the Government will not look at this matter: I am concerned that the money is being aggregated and not spent. The Minister concerned has made some fairly strenuous efforts to encourage councils to take advantage of this legislation, and we have yet to see how much fruit his efforts will bear. Consequently, I do not despair that the amount will remain at the present level; it will probably increase. However, the honourable member's remarks are noted. We acknowledge the need and desire of local government to pur-

chase. Councils have financial problems but the Government also has them, and we must consider the requirements of both parties.

Mr. VIRGO: I agree with the comments made by the member for Glenelg and the member for West Torrens. I am concerned about the position regarding the south-western suburbs drainage scheme. Despite the expenditure of about \$5,500,000, some areas, particularly in the Plympton district, are flooded every time heavy rain falls. Comparatively newly-established parts of the area have been drained satisfactorily, but older areas still become flooded. The position is not as bad as it was, but it will not be completely rectified until the drain from Wheaton Road to Marion Road and then to the Sturt River is completed. Although the allocation for the scheme this year is \$600,000 more than last year's payments, it seems that the bulk of this money is for what is incorrectly described as realigning, deepening, widening and concrete-lining of sections of the Sturt River. The Sturt River is not being re-aligned: it is being filled in and a new course is being constructed.

I am also concerned that, although \$2,200,000 is set aside for improvements to the Sturt River and the Patawalonga Basin, only \$400,000 is provided for the construction of drains. I know that not a lot can be done on the drains until the river work is completed. However, I am concerned about this matter. Also, I should be extremely grateful if the Treasurer could find out (presumably from his colleague in the Legislative Council) for just what drains this \$400,000 is allocated.

Another \$750,000 is set aside under the line "Other urban drainage", and some of this could possibly find its way into Marion. I do not know, for again there is no indication about this. Last year, six or seven councils shared the sums made available, and one can assume that possibly the same thing will apply this year. I should be pleased if the Treasurer would consider the points I have raised. Also, if he could ascertain at some stage the work that is envisaged with these two sums I should be grateful.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The programme for work on the south-western suburbs drainage scheme is as determined by the construction authority. So far as I am aware, we have not curtailed funds that the authority can use during the year, and I think it has had all the funds it can use. Last year it was allocated \$2,000,000, of which it spent only \$1,618,256. This year, we have set aside

\$2,600,000, and that would seem to me to be as big a programme, in terms of money at any rate, as it could possibly handle. Regarding the matter of other urban drainage, when presenting the Loan Estimates I said:

Work was carried out last year on approved schemes in the Adelaide, Enfield, Hindmarsh, Marion, Payneham, Prospect, Salisbury, St. Peters and Woodville council areas. The sum of \$750,000 is provided in 1969-70 to continue work on many of these schemes already approved and to commence new schemes in the metropolitan area and in country towns as approved during the year.

I will, however, endeavour to get for the honourable member some more precise detail of what streets the drains run under, and so on.

Mr. LANGLEY: No mention has been made of drainage for the Unley District. Has the Treasurer received some correspondence from the Unley City Council concerning the North Unley creek? Also, a drain is being constructed through the Millswood and Clarence Park areas, and I assume that the Government is subsidizing the council on a \$1 for \$1 basis for this work. Can the Treasurer ascertain whether any applications have been made and also what is happening with this new drain being constructed through the Millswood area?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will find out for the honourable member.

Mr. BROOMHILL: Regarding the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, I should like the Treasurer to take up several matters with the Minister of Local Government. The first matter concerns the Sturt River between the Morphettville Racecourse and the Patawalonga. I have been told that the department intends to fence the river but only along some sections: it should be fenced along its complete length. A wire fence about 4ft. high is being constructed, but the mesh is too wide, and small children will be able to climb over it. It is not safe enough at present, and there may be a tragedy.

Will the Treasurer ascertain whether the department intends to fence the complete length of the river and whether the small fence being erected at present is satisfactory? Also, will the Minister get details of the department's programme for replacing old bridges that have been removed to allow the present construction work to proceed? The proposal that the Glenelg council is to be responsible for the cost of dredging the Patawalonga Basin in order to keep it clean does not seem to be entirely reasonable. Will the Minister consider the request from the council

that the authorities assume the responsibility for dredging work that is needed as a result of the silting caused by floodwaters?

Mr. HUDSON: I believe the Treasurer has an opportunity that is rarely presented to Government to show some vision with respect to providing park areas in the newly developing areas of metropolitan Adelaide. It is an opportunity that will not be available in the future, and if it is taken now these new areas will not be developed in the way in which many of our suburbs have developed through the 1920's and in the period after the Second World War, that is, without adequate provision for parks. I hope the Treasurer will take the necessary steps to ensure that the sum provided this year and the sum in the deposit account held at the beginning of this year are fully spent, either through granting greater subsidies to local government or through amending the Act, so that direct purchases can be made by the Government.

Line passed.

Lands, Irrigation and Drainage, \$1,570,000.

Mr. CORCORAN: I notice that during the last financial year, although \$150,000 was allocated for the purchase of land throughout the State for national parks, only \$109,939 was spent. I am pleased to see that \$150,000 has been provided again for this purpose. I know it is difficult at times to spend the money that is available, because suitable areas are not always offering and, even if suitable areas are available, the negotiation for their purchase is sometimes difficult.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: It is protracted.

Mr. CORCORAN: Yes, and this naturally causes a delay. I should like to know whether any steps have been taken by the Government to purchase an area which I think is called Deep Creek and which is highly suitable for a national park. During my term as Minister of Lands I know that interest was shown in this area but difficulties were experienced with the person who owns the land. In fact, compulsory acquisition may eventually be necessary. This power exists under the National Parks Act, although the Minister and the Government would not want to exercise it unnecessarily.

As the member for Glenelg has said, there is a need to purchase more land for public parks. There is also a need to step up the purchase of land for national parks. Although moves have been made in this direction over the past few years, when compared with other countries South Australia still lags in this regard.

with only a small proportion of its land mass being set aside for national parks. We should aim to reserve at least 5 per cent of the land mass for this purpose. Many people say that, the more parks there are, the more parks there are to look after, and the more expensive it becomes, but surely we owe it to the people who will inhabit the State in the future to take these steps now.

The South-East is lacking in this regard. The closest national park to Mount Gambier is over the Victorian border, yet suitable areas which are not very large and which are controlled by the Woods and Forests Department (and the Minister knows about this) should be set aside as national parks. I know the Minister has assured me that nothing will be done to disturb this area, but attitudes can change. The protection afforded under the Act is the only sure way we have of keeping these areas undisturbed so that they will be available for people in the South-East for many years to come. The whole State is lacking in national parks. We must reserve for this purpose good land, medium land and land that is not so good. Primary producers often say they are not against national parks, believing they are necessary. However, they favour them so long as they do not interfere with their properties. Of course, national parks are a problem to primary producers living close to them, with the threat of vermin, bush fires and so on.

I believe more money should be provided in the Budget to the national park commissioners to allow them to control these parks properly. No doubt a great sum is required for vermin-proof fences around the existing reserves in the State. Although the present policy is to deal with this matter in order of priority, I believe more effort should be made in this direction. I know the Minister does his best to get the sort of money required, and therefore I appeal to other members of Cabinet to support him in this regard. I am disappointed that the \$150,000 set aside last year was not all spent. I hope that the \$150,000 provided this year will be spent and that the Government will consider making more money available in the Budget to be spent on national parks in this State.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Regarding the lines "South-Eastern Drainage" and "National Reserves", I commend the Government for the action taken in respect of Youngusband Peninsula. This is an area of sandhills that does not at present appear attractive to people

travelling along the Coorong, but those people interested in the ecology of sandhills regard it as a very important area to protect for posterity. It has a strip of magnificent beach 90 miles long. At present it is inaccessible except to people with four-wheel drive vehicles or sand buggies, but I hope it will now be developed as a national park. I presume that access will be given to it and that people will be able to take advantage of this as an additional area for surfing and other aquatic recreations.

I have spoken previously about the question of the Coorong, and I want to refer to it again in respect of South-Eastern drainage. Last year I drew attention to the fact that at present we have dramatically disturbed the natural drainage of the South-East by our artificial drainage scheme under the South-Eastern Drainage Board. For the purpose of development we have diverted water into the sea and thereby destroyed what was a natural area of brackish water in the southern end of the Coorong, where there was a certain amount of plant growth, considerable bird life and a substantial fish population. This area has been progressively destroyed and there is no longer much water vegetation, except in localized spots. The bird life is restricted to certain areas associated with local springs. The fish have ceased to breed at the mouth of Salt Creek. The bream that normally go down there to breed become completely pickled and unable to swim out again, because the fresh water has forced the salt water further south, and the salinity has built up to such an extent that it is almost as briny as the Dead Sea. This problem could be overcome by restoring to the area the fresh water now diverted to the sea.

Mr. Corcoran: How?

Mr. NANKIVELL: I have asked the South-Eastern Drainage Board to investigate the possibility of diverting Blackford drain from Maria Creek from Kingston into the southern end of the Coorong, in which case this water would recharge the southern end of the Coorong and restore the situation that previously existed. I have also asked the board to consider the construction of Baker Range drain north of Lucindale, where it at present terminates as a structural drain, in order to ensure that the water collected from Baker Range drain and the Bool Lagoon—water that is now diverted through Drain M to the sea at Beachport—could be diverted back along this normal watercourse but in a drain, so that it would not flood areas of developed country.

If this water was contained in a drain and continued into Alf Flat and continued into the sea again at Salt Creek, this would supplement the drainage water that would flow into the southern end from the western drainage division. Collectively, this would largely restore the balance that previously existed in the Coorong before drainage was undertaken. If this is to be a national park of consequence and a tourist area, as I suggest it could be, it must be made more attractive, and I have suggested the first step in doing that. Many people will be pleased if they can divert some of this water. Maria Creek is a smelly creek.

There is an area of about 30,000 acres of country in the hundred of Messent. It is an excellent reserve and impinges on the northern end of Alf Flat but it cannot be developed properly as a wild life reserve without water. If water was returned to Alf Flat, as was done before Drain M was constructed and the Baker Range water was diverted into the sea, this could be an attractive camping area and an area for the maintenance of natural flora and fauna, particularly fauna. The area is north of the property known as Currawong, which is owned by Mr. Rob Hawkes, a keen naturalist who is anxious to have something done because he considers that the area has a future, provided water can be assured in Alf Flat, which is a substantial area of fresh water when full, some of the water being quite deep.

Other areas along the Baker Range water-course south of Alf Flat have been the subject of correspondence between the Keith Chamber of Commerce and the Lands Department. An area of country in the property owned by City Meat contains an extensive stretch of water deep enough for aquatic sports. It was considered that the area should be reserved as a national park or for use by local people. One problem about this area is that it is privately owned, and I do not think any negotiations have taken place in the last year or so.

The tragedy is that water has not been reaching this area in the last two or three years and, without water, the area loses its significance for people interested in boating, water ski-ing, and the like. South-Eastern drainage involves consideration of a long-range policy of drainage, with the possibility of restoring the natural balance in the Coorong so that the area will attract people interested in wild life, nature, and all other forms of recreation.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Lands): I agree with much of what the two previous speakers said, and I appreciate that in general their comments were meant not to be critical but to be helpful. The member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) might have given the impression that I am battling away against an unsympathetic Cabinet regarding national parks.

Mr. Corcoran: No, I know that other Ministers have their commitments, too.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In fact, my colleagues have been broad-minded enough to appreciate the need for national parks, and with their help I have been able to secure a good deal of land for this purpose. The fact that of the \$150,000 allotted for this purpose only about \$110,000 has been taken up in purchases and actually spent is not of any real significance, because negotiations take a great deal of time and we might very well find that a large purchase becomes available either just to one side or the other of the financial year. In fact, I have under consideration two particular transactions that could have a big impact on the available money in the future, and on which side of the financial year the money for these purchases would actually fall remains to be seen. As everyone will realize, much time elapses before the money is actually paid.

In addition to that, I see that as far as possible we do not have to buy land. Instead, we try to reserve land which is already under the control of the Government or which comes under the control of the Government as a result of some miscellaneous lease reverting to the Crown. I agree with the member for Millicent that we need more national parks, and presently I will set out what we have done about this. However, the honourable member made one comment with which I cannot agree, for using the area factor as a percentage of the State's total area can be entirely misleading. The 1968 report regarding national parks and reserves in Australia shows that of the six States South Australia comes second in the percentage of total area under national parks and reserves, this being 1.2 per cent. The first State is Tasmania, with 4.2 per cent; New South Wales is third with 1.1 per cent; Victoria is fourth with .9 per cent; and Queensland is fifth with .6 per cent.

Thus, South Australia shows up very well. A little over 3,000,000 acres of our area is under national parks and reserves. Of this, 1,700,000 acres is in the Simpson Desert, and

as this is arid the area of national parks which it is feasible for one to visit is thereby reduced. The same thing applies to other States, which also have this type of area. For instance, according to the report 3.5 per cent of the Northern Territory is national park or reserve. A huge area of arid land is within the borders of the Northern Territory. I use these figures to show that using area as a factor can be misleading. South Australia does not show up badly when it is realized that, unlike other States, it has no natural mountain ranges to use as national parks because nothing else can be done with them. The State is relatively flat, but where rain falls the land can be developed. Because of the energy and initiative of our agricultural population, the State has been developed far more towards the limit of its potential than has any other State. Only recently have national parks become significant in Australia political thinking. When I first became a member I spoke about them, and I have had some political embarrassment over them. At that time I considered that no other politician in Australia was saying much about national parks. Today most politicians are aware of and acknowledge the need for conservation. Our national parks, some huge and some small, are called that because they are controlled by the National Parks Commission. A 7-acre block next to the Glossop High School is a national park, but the high school can use it for educational purposes. The national parks I will now mention have been secured or declared during the last 15 or 18 months: Scott, Currency Creek, of 516 acres; Mambray Creek, of 8,253 acres, has been added to in its approaches; Ridley National Park, of 1,022 acres, has wombats in it; Glossop, an area of seven acres; Coorong National Park, of 7,800 acres (we have now secured under one form of tenure or another, but all under Government control, virtually all the Youngusband Peninsula and from about Magrath Flat on the west side of the Princes Highway to a point about 26 miles south of Salt Creek: another five miles goes down between the old and the new road); Buck's Lake (Carpenters Rocks), of 340 acres; Beachport, of 1,541 acres; and Parndana, of 766 acres (much more country on Kangaroo Island is held by the Government awaiting a formal dedication: this land, which will never be developed, will be a tremendous acquisition to the tourist development of the island). The Yumbarra National Park is north of Ceduna and, consisting of over 250,000 acres in the county of Way, outside the dog fence, it is one of the few national parks in which

there are dingoes. The Wittelbee National Park comprises 300 acres south-east of Ceduna and is more of the playground type, because it has attractive beaches. Then there is the Caratoola National Park, consisting of 135 acres, which is north of Streaky Bay.

The Warrenben National Park, comprising 2,500 acres, is on Yorke Peninsula and constitutes part of a much larger venture that will come to fruition in the future. Only this week negotiations were completed to purchase an area of 7,000-odd acres in the hundred of Pooginook adjoining the north-of-the-river road between Morgan and Barmera and stretching north of the river into mallee country. There is an area of 2,160 acres at Swan Reach in which wombats live; and mallee fowl is to be found in a 1,650-acre area at Bowhill. An important addition recently was 4,800 acres of land at Telowie Gorge on the western side of the Flinders Ranges.

It can be seen that the Government has been fairly active in this respect; I hope to be able to continue this trend regarding several areas where national parks are required, and I shall be examining possible purchases as the opportunity offers. Reference was made to Deep Creek on the Fleurieu Peninsula. A difficult situation exists here, because of the cost of the land. The position was first examined probably nearly 10 years ago during the term of the Playford Government; it was discussed during the term of the Labor Government; and it has again been considered by the present Government. However, no-one has been ready to take any positive step here, because of the tremendous price being asked for the land. We would like to see more national parks provided in the Lower South-East and, as I have said, we have made some recent additional areas available. The Woods and Forests Department has, as forest reserve, some attractive areas, some of which will undoubtedly not be developed in any other way, and I am still discussing the future use of these reserves with the department.

However, the Lower South-East is not a promising area for national parks because it is a highly-developed area. Indeed, if the area in Western Victoria had been developed to the same extent, there would not be the argument that is taking place at present concerning that land. However, I am keen to see more land purchased in the Lower South-East. Clearly, we would spend more money concerning the management of national parks if necessary finance were available. We would like to appoint more rangers and to have them

wear a uniform in order to give them more authority, and we would like to locate them across the State in such a way that the national parks would be protected more adequately. We would also like to install more fencing, to provide fire precautions and control weeds and vermin.

We try to be a good neighbour and are ready to talk with adjoining farmers who approach us regarding fencing and the control of vermin and weeds. Indeed, I have seen some splendid examples of co-operation from farmers whose properties adjoin a national park. The first thing at all times is to keep in mind that where parks are needed we should be ready to accept the opportunities that come our way. If we are not doing all we would like to do in management it comes back primarily to finance, and, if it was possible, I would like more finance.

The honourable member has made comments previously about South-East drainage and its effects on the Upper South-East, and it is beyond me to comment technically on it. As this is strictly a hydrological problem, I think it will be dealt with in the inquiries we have in mind. Whether it will be answered positively, I do not know; I hope it will be. From what I have said, the Committee can see that the State has done a fairly creditable job in respect to national parks and intends to continue in this way.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I refer to the proposed expenditure at Cadell. The rehabilitation of the drainage and pumping station at Cadell goes back to the time of the former Minister (Mr. Corcoran) and I am grateful for the work he did for the area. Although I forget how much of the work was done in his time, I know the survey work was done and the initial capital investment made while he was Minister. When I addressed the Committee about this last year, I invited the Minister of Lands, who had not been Minister for long then, to visit Cadell to see the rehabilitation work there for himself. Last evening I had a little to say about the history of the work being done at Cadell. I believe that, when one considers the economic contribution the Cadell settlement has made to the economy of South Australia, it is fit and proper to spend public money there. I do not think any member would expect a settlement such as Cadell or any other Murray River settlement to be able to maintain its own capital works.

If we look at the sociological reasons behind Murray River settlement, we can see that the

expenditure of money to maintain and develop the capital works is a contribution to the economy of the whole community. It then becomes an expense to be borne by the economy, because these areas make a far greater contribution to the State's wellbeing than one would expect having regard to the relatively small numbers of people who live in the Murray settlements. As the Minister has not supplied much information about the precise work to be done at Cadell, I should be pleased if he would supply me with information about it. Although I realize the Minister is a busy man, I again invite him to visit the Cadell settlement and see for himself the work being undertaken there.

Mrs. BYRNE: I listened with interest to the Minister of Lands as he listed the national parks purchased by the department in the last 15 to 18 months for the conservation of fauna and flora. However, I am sure the Minister, like other members, has become aware of the publicity given to the slaughter of kangaroos for pet food, which is a national rather than a State matter. It has been stated that, if this slaughter continues at its present rate, some species of kangaroo will become extinct. Has the Government carefully considered this matter, and has it conferred with the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Agriculture, who is in charge of fauna conservation, recently attended a conference in Canberra with Ministers from other States concerned with this matter and with the Commonwealth Minister for National Development (Mr. Fraser). They discussed the general question of Australian fauna, but I am not sure how far they went into the question of the slaughter of kangaroos. It should be remembered that one cannot readily generalize on this subject. Undoubtedly some species of marsupial are in danger of extinction. It is to be hoped that they will never be shot out, although they are in danger from irresponsible and ignorant shooters.

One of the purposes of purchasing and acquiring national parks in the last few years has been to preserve the habitat of various kinds of rare fauna, and marsupials have not been overlooked. On the other hand, the red kangaroo and the grey kangaroo are by no means rare; they are undoubtedly a considerable pest, particularly in sheep country. Recently, in the late afternoon I flew over part of western New South Wales and saw infestations of kangaroos on sheep properties. These infestations have been built up because the dog

fence protects kangaroos from dingoes. If one goes farther north one goes beyond the dog fence and then one does not see many emus, and one does not see many kangaroos or other kinds of marsupial. Where kangaroos are protected by this fence and where pastoralists provide plentiful water for their sheep, kangaroos breed prolifically.

The pastoralist has to do something about them, and in these circumstances the shooting of kangaroos, particularly by professional shooters, is desirable. The professional is less likely to be indiscriminate in shooting rare fauna and most likely to be humane in the way he kills the animals. I do not know of any areas where kangaroos, in general, have become extinct. I am referring to the common types of kangaroo. I do not think there is any worry about the survival of the major species and we will see what the conference brings forward about the other species. All we can say is that, where feasible, national parks will be established to try to preserve them.

Mr. ARNOLD: As the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) has pointed out, when reserves have a common boundary with farms, farmers have a problem about fencing and watering points, and crops are often destroyed. These difficulties will continue until more is done to provide permanent watering points for natural wild life on reserves to encourage wild life to remain on the reserves. If necessary, crops should be sown on reserves. This involves management and we must reach this stage if our wild life reserves are to function successfully. I should like to see more done about this. Rather than concentrate on having further large areas, we should develop the ones that we have and try to contain the wild life on them.

In the 1968-69 Loan programme, \$51,000 was provided for reconstruction and replacement of channels in Lands Department irrigation areas with pipe main. It is pleasing to note that this year \$204,000 has been provided. This provision is in keeping with the statement in His Excellency's Speech that a long-term programme would be embarked on by the Government to convert open channels and earthen channels to pipe main. However, this conversion should not be a long-term programme: it should be carried out as quickly as possible. Officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department and of the Lands Department have studied new irrigation techniques overseas and they know the

advantages, including water savings, resulting from the use of these techniques.

The new system being installed by the Renmark Irrigation Trust will enable many of these modern methods, especially the concept of drip irrigation, to be carried out in that area. This cannot be done unless we have a completely sealed system; in other words, virtually water available at all times. Although this allocation is a four-fold increase on last year, I believe that if we are to keep up with modern trends and compete on the world's markets (we have to do this with most things that are produced under irrigation) we will have to implement a modern distribution system as quickly as possible.

The pumping stations themselves are excellent and are a credit to the department. The pumping station at Berri, which I went over only a week or two ago, is well worth seeing at any time, as it is maintained in beautiful condition.

Mr. GILES: I congratulate the Minister of Lands on the areas that have been purchased in the last few years for national parks. I think that these are most desirable and needed in this State. In the Adelaide Hills we have quite a few national parks and the people from Adelaide appreciate going to them. They appreciate, too, the development that has taken place in them. We have Morialta, Cleland Park, Waterfall Gully, Belair National Park, Para Wirra National Park, and so on. Excellent development has taken place in Cleland Park, where the natural flora and fauna is a delight to see, and this is appreciated by many people.

However, these parks present us with several problems. The first problem concerns the natural growth that is allowed to go on unchecked, except when fires occur. The ground fuel, because of its nature, presents a serious fire hazard in the summer months. Many people have advocated that these areas should be burnt out at regular intervals to reduce this serious fire hazard. The trouble is that when we do this we land ourselves with another headache, for immediately an area is burnt out African daisy comes up thick and fast and is very difficult to control.

Much of the area in the national parks is inaccessible; in fact, one can hardly walk in parts of these parks. It does not seem to worry the African daisy whether it grows in a rock or on beautiful, rich black loam, for it grows just as vigorously in either place and it presents us with this problem of controlling it. The fact that the seeds from the African

daisy are airborne causes some problems to the owners of good, arable land to the south of the national parks. Also, just recently I saw African daisy coming up in a strawberry patch at Montacute and it looked just like a lawn. The owner told me that he never allowed any African daisy to flower on his property but that the seeds blew in from outside. I do not know how we are going to control this weed in these inaccessible areas in our parks, and this is a problem for the Minister of Lands to ponder over.

I do not know whether spraying of African daisy is as successful as it could be, but I have noticed that African daisy is growing on quite a stretch of country in the Belair National Park that could be controlled. National parks in the Adelaide Hills present to landholders on the southern side a big problem in controlling weeds, because the properties are reinfested with airborne seeds from the parks. It is difficult for councils to ask the landholders to control African daisy when there is a large source of infestation nearby in the parks.

Mrs. BYRNE: National parks are necessary for the conservation of fauna and flora and for handing down to posterity, but only a few parks are well known. Those near the city are patronized by the public, but there would be hundreds throughout the State about which people have little knowledge of the fauna and flora associated with them. I am sure that many people would not be aware of these details, particularly about national parks near some country towns. Can the Minister say whether all of these national parks and reserves are open to the public and what publicity is given to them by the Tourist Bureau? Does the bureau publish a booklet and, if it does not, can this be considered?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Generally, national parks are open to the public free of charge. In other States, particularly New South Wales, national parks have been graded and entry is prohibited in categories of wilderness parks where the parks have remained in their natural state. This has not been done in South Australia nor has it been necessary, although it may have to be considered in the future. Some national parks are inaccessible to the public because of their location, but the parks in the Adelaide Hills are visited by many people. Various actions are taken to make details of these parks available to tourists and to others. However we can probably do more in this regard. We try to supply as much information to tourists as possible. In addition

to having official national parks, there are pleasure resorts directly under the control of the Tourist Bureau. I intend to discuss with the commission additional ways of producing up-to-date information, as the position is constantly changing.

Mr. CORCORAN: The Apex Club in Kingston has developed a park through which the Maria Creek runs. The creek takes a winding course to the sea from the road junction near the service station in that area. With the build-up of seaweed at the outlet there is at times an unhealthy smell. The water coming from the inland area cannot always flow out to sea because of this build-up and the creek has sometimes flooded some low-lying areas near the township. In fact, I think it has been so bad at times that it has flowed along a small drain in front of the Apex park and has flowed into some of the streets in Kingston. This has created not only a problem of smell but, because the water lies stagnant for some time, it evidently becomes a breeding ground for insects. Will the Minister of Lands take up with the South-Eastern Drainage Board, which I believe controls this creek, the possibility of diverting it and taking it straight out to sea in order to solve these problems?

The reduction in the sum provided for the Renmark Irrigation Trust was apparently because of a revision that had taken place concerning the pumping plant and rising mains. This may have come about as the result of the recent overseas trip of trust members and also of officers of the Irrigation Branch. However, will the Minister of Irrigation say what work is contemplated here? Will less money be spent overall, or is work being held up until a decision is made in regard to the type of pumps to be installed, etc.?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will inquire about the situation concerning the creek at Kingston. I understand that there is no delay in the work being carried out at Renmark. The matter relating to the pump is being reconsidered. The delegation that went overseas last year included Mr. Story from the Engineering and Water Supply Department; Mr. Gilchrist, the Chief Administrative Officer of the Lands Settlement Division; an engineer from the Renmark Irrigation Trust; the Chairman of the trust; and I think one other member. They made a comprehensive trip of many countries, particularly California and Israel, and reported that they had a most profitable trip, gaining much information. I do not have the actual details of their decisions, but I will

visit there within a few days and probably have firsthand information for honourable members.

Mr. HUGHES: I urge the department to make a great effort to beautify our highways. Although some work is done, I believe there is room for improvement. On the Paskeville side of Kulpara the avenue of pines is showing up very well, and I am also pleased with the progress of trees on the Adelaide side of Kulpara. This will certainly improve that part of the roadway considerably. I believe the Railways Department is considering planting between 200 and 300 trees on railway property at Bute. I know that many landholders, at their own expense, are making an effort to beautify the country by planting trees. I also know that the Agriculture Department makes available officers to address students on school arbor days in an effort to encourage tree planting. Although it is not always possible for trees to be planted along highways, will the Minister—

The CHAIRMAN: We have dealt with the line regarding highways.

Mr. HUGHES: I am dealing with the woods and forests alongside the highways.

The CHAIRMAN: The Woods and Forests Department is the next line.

Mr. HUGHES: I am sorry; I will reserve my remarks until then.

Mr. EVANS: I support what the member for Gumeracha said about the weed problem, particularly in relation to African daisy. One way of guaranteeing 100 per cent germination of this weed is fire. If one destroys all the plant growth after a fire one destroys all the weeds in that area. If cultivation is carried out, germination occurs for the next seven years, even if the plants do not flower. This is a problem to neighbouring property owners. Some people take the attitude that landholders should eradicate weeds on their properties first and then ask Government departments to clean their properties. I believe Government departments have the responsibility to set the example first so that local councils can use the powers they have to compel landholders to clear weeds on their properties.

I believe the Minister is aware of a property in the Stirling area bounded by Milan Terrace, Ethel Street and the main Melbourne railway line which belongs to a Mr. Tweedie and which is now on the market. An area of 40 acres in the middle of the Stirling township area is in its natural state. It is too steep to be developed for building blocks, and it could be used as a national park. I believe that

the Government should consider acquiring this land before it is acquired by private enterprise for some other purpose. This area has been a fire hazard but, now that the Railways Department is building a road between the property and railway line, the fire risk has been eliminated.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: African daisy is by far the worst weed that infests natural scrub, because it will grow readily there. Furthermore, it is one of the most difficult weeds to eradicate because it cannot be slashed easily without damaging some other crop, except on level ground. It grows on rocky hills, and spraying is about the only method known in many areas for dealing with it. The department has done much to control African daisy, and I hope it will do even more in the future. The Government should not dodge its obligation to eradicate weeds, but the private landholder should not dodge his obligation, either. I know the land near Stirling referred to by the member for Onkaparinga, and I assure him that the whole matter is at present under consideration.

Mr. HUGHES: Mr. Chairman, you ruled that I was out of order, but I believe I was not out of order, because I was referring to land under the control of the Lands Department. I think you may have misunderstood me, as I referred to the Woods and Forests Department. Will the Minister of Lands discuss with the Minister of Agriculture the possibility of using such land, when it is held in reserve, for planting additional trees?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will discuss the appropriate cases, although in many areas we would not want to introduce any kind of exotic plant. I will consider the matter.

Line passed.

Woods and Forests, \$2,450,000.

Mr. CORCORAN: A further \$83,000 has been provided for log-debarking and chipping equipment, I believe at the Mount Burr sawmill. The chipper and barker is working quite successfully, and more than \$250,000 has been spent on its installation so far. Can the Minister of Lands say whether any contract has been entered into for the sale of chips that could be produced at the Mount Burr sawmill?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will get the information.

Mr. GILES: The Woods and Forests Department has secured a large block of land in the Lenswood and Forest Range area which is extremely steep and could not be cultivated. The quality of the soil is exceptionally high and it is capable of growing good pine trees. Rainfall is about 38in., which is much more than the minimum required to grow radiata pine. People in the area appreciate the fact that it is being cleared of scrub and planted to pines.

An area at Cudlee Creek known as Fox's Place contains much St. John wort, which is difficult to control, and it is considered that the growing of pine trees would stop the growth of this weed and of African daisy. As

the department owns about one-third of the Gumeracha council area, the council is embarrassed regarding the amount of rates collected. The Minister has received deputations from the council about this matter, and I am sure that he will be sympathetic.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

BRANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.54 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, August 21, at 2 p.m.