

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, September 23, 1969.

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

PETITION: ABORTION LEGISLATION

Mr. HUGHES presented a petition signed by 56 electors stating that they viewed with concern any efforts to extend the grounds on which abortion was at present legally allowed. The petitioners prayed that the House of Assembly would not pass any Bill to alter the existing law relating to abortion in such a way that the grounds were extended beyond those which already applied.

Received and read.

QUESTIONS**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It has been announced that December 26 will be declared a public holiday in place of December 28, which is a Sunday. Normally, the Proclamation Day holiday would have been held on Monday following Proclamation Day this year but, apparently, it has been decided that December 26 will be declared a holiday in its place. The effect of this decision is to deprive many Commonwealth public servants, who at present are entitled to a holiday on December 26, of a public holiday. I do not know whether this aspect was brought to the attention of Cabinet before it made its decision. Will the Premier reconsider making December 26 a holiday and, instead, consider proclaiming December 29 a public holiday in place of December 28, which this year falls on a Sunday?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Government will not alter its decision of making December 26 a holiday. The Leader seems to be lagging somewhat, because the Government announced its intention regarding Proclamation Day some weeks ago, after taking part in lengthy consultations with the people involved. The Minister of Labour and Industry had important discussions both with the trade union movement and with employers' representatives in order to ascertain whether or not an application could be made (I think to the Arbitration Court) concerning those people who were affected by the dual holiday under Commonwealth awards. The Minister was successful in his negotiations and able to obtain from the employers' representatives what I think I could say was an undertaking that they would not oppose an application to the Arbitration Court that the Monday

be declared a holiday for those affected by Commonwealth awards. Also, I understand that some Commonwealth public servants are involved in relation to a holiday which would have been coming to them. The matter was taken up in the Commonwealth Parliament by Senator Cameron, who asked a question about action that might be taken to restore the holiday in question to Commonwealth public servants. I think he is awaiting a reply. There has been no attempt by the State Government to remove the holiday from those affected by Commonwealth awards and, as I said earlier, there will be no opposition according to the undertaking negotiated by the Minister of Labour and Industry and given by the Employers' Federation. This action was taken after much representation had occurred over this year and previous years concerning the holiday referred to. The Government's intention was to make available, to those people not employed on Saturday morning, a continuous four-day holiday period, and this has been greatly appreciated by those people who have benefited accordingly.

RECEIPTS TAX

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Can the Treasurer say whether the High Court judgment in the receipts tax case concerning Western Australia has yet come to hand? If it has, will he say whether he has studied it and can he tell the House its implications and whether he intends to attend the conference called by the Premier of Victoria on this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member has caught me unawares, in that I do not have with me the interpretations of the High Court judgment. However, suffice it to say that it goes considerably further in its effect on the State Governments than was earlier thought to be the case. When the judgment was first announced I and my Treasury officers considered that it did not seem to have any great effect; it seemed to be limited rather to the money received for exported goods. However, within a few hours of my having commented to that effect, more detail of the judgment was available, and it became apparent during the day on which this transpired that the judgment affected us much more than we had thought.

This caused the Premier, at a meeting in the country that evening, to make some remarks which were interpreted in this House as meaning a lack of communication between the Premier and me, because of the variation in

the comments I made earlier in the day and those made by the Premier in the evening. That is incorrect and without substance, because things moved quickly in that period. However, it now seems that payment of money where goods are involved (not the transfer of money but the payment of money for goods which is of an *ad valorem* character, and which does occur whether it be within or without this State) is ruled in the judgment to be an excise. As the honourable member will be well aware, the State Government has no power to impose an excise and therefore, to that extent, the tax appears to be invalid. Last week the Under Treasurers of the various States met and discussed this matter and, as a result, there will be a meeting of Premiers and Treasurers in Melbourne on Sunday next (I think that is a firm date). Together with Treasury officers and legal advisers, the Premier will represent the State at that discussion. That is as far as I can take the matter at present and that appears to be the effect, as shortly as I can summarize it, of the High Court judgment.

CARPENTER ROCKS ELECTRICITY

Mr. CORCORAN: On visiting Carpenter Rocks over the weekend, I was informed of low electrical voltage in the area, this being of particular concern to H. Stanke and Sons Proprietary Limited, which operates a fish processing factory and relies on several electric motors to freeze its product. In addition, some inconvenience is caused to residents of Carpenter Rocks, because of the ineffectiveness of various electrical household appliances. I understand an approach has already been made to the Electricity Trust but no information is yet to hand on what steps will be taken to rectify the situation. Therefore, will the Minister of Works find out what steps will be taken by the trust to solve the problem in this area?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I know this area well and have had consultations with H. Stanke and Sons Proprietary Limited on other matters, mainly regarding marine matters. I will take up the matter and see whether the situation can be rectified.

WHEAT STORAGE

Mr. EDWARDS: Towards the end of last week the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry announced approval for \$10,000,000 of Australian Wheat Board finance to be made available to build storage in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia for 60,000,000

bushels. The Minister said that this storage was being made available to assist in curtailing black marketing in above-quota wheat, and that the wheat would be accommodated in silo storages by the end of June. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture what storage quota in this emergency plan is being made available in South Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will refer the question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. CASEY: An article in this morning's *Advertiser* reports that there is to be more room to store wheat in this State, that country grain-storing capacity will be increased by over 3,500,000 bushels, and that South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, as part of its accelerated building programme, is to cater for the coming harvest. At first, I understood the statement to mean the coming harvest, but later the report states that the Minister of Agriculture said yesterday that the co-operative planned to have the extensions ready to receive grain from the 1970-71 harvest. As this important matter should be understood by farmers, otherwise they will not know what to expect, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture when these extensions will be ready to accept the wheat; whether the extra storage will be ready for the coming harvest or, as the Minister of Agriculture stated, in 1970-71; and whether the money to be used for extending the silo-building programme is part of the \$10,000,000 recently announced as a grant by the Commonwealth Government for New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia?

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

JAMAICA AVENUE

Mr. BROOMHILL: Many people living in Jamaica Avenue, Fulham Gardens, have approached me on being informed that, as a result of a new bus service to be provided to the area, some of their property will have to be acquired for the new bus route. Their main objection to the use of Jamaica Avenue for the bus route is that it seems extremely costly to acquire land to widen the road and to reconstruct the carriageway completely to make it strong enough for the heavier bus traffic. The residents point out that, although the plan is to use Jamaica Avenue, within one street of this area a new subdivision is being planned through which a new roadway will have to be constructed. They also point out that it would be a pity if this route were used as the new bus route. They conclude by stating:

Summing up, it seems ludicrous to pull up a well established roadway and nature strips to allow a bus to enter Tapley Hill Road at a dangerous corner, when there are alternative and much less costly routes available.

If I give to the Minister of Works (who is representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, in the temporary absence of the Attorney-General) the correspondence, including the signed petition, will the Minister ask his colleague whether the suggestion is practicable and whether the plan can be changed accordingly?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I will take this matter up with my colleague and shall be pleased if the honourable member gives me the relevant correspondence.

MAITLAND COURTHOUSE

Mr. FERGUSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of September 4 about whether the new courthouse and police buildings at Maitland would be built on the site of the present buildings or resited elsewhere?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The new Maitland police station and courthouse are to be erected on the present site. The existing buildings are to be demolished and the Police Department is negotiating for suitable alternative accommodation for the period of the new building operations.

SEACLIFF INFANTS SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of last week about the letting of a contract for work at the Seacliff Infants School?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Private offers were sought for the completion of the siteworks contract at the Seacliff Infants School. I have now approved the acceptance of the tender of J. S. Thomson and Company, which has specified a period of six weeks for completion.

SALINITY

Mr. ARNOLD: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question about salinity in Eckert Creek?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Under the present flow condition there is a differential of approximately 1ft. at the pipe at the entrance to Eckert Creek, and a larger pipe would give more flow down the creek in times of high river but would not materially affect the flow in normal rivers. Arrangements will be made to have a larger pipe installed when river conditions permit.

WALLAROO HOSPITAL

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked some days ago about the duties of the acting Medical Superintendent of the Wallaroo Hospital?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I have the following report:

1. Following the resignation of Dr. G. J. Smibert, of Wallaroo, as part-time Medical Superintendent of the Wallaroo Hospital, considerable difficulty was experienced in replacing him, because no-one so far has taken over his practice. Finally, Dr. W. I. Seith, of Kadina, agreed to act as Medical Superintendent in order to keep the Wallaroo Hospital functioning, and at the same time the salary for the position was reviewed in the light of the increased number of inpatients, and increased from the previous figure of \$1,500 per annum to \$2,000 per annum. (It is proposed also to review the salaries of the part-time Medical Superintendents of the other country Government hospitals.)

2. On July 14, 1969, letters were sent to Dr. Seith and Dr. Materne (also of Kadina), asking whether they would be interested in the position of Acting Medical Superintendent of the Wallaroo Hospital, and those letters contained the following information regarding the main duties of the position:

- (a) Be responsible to the Director-General of Medical Services for the general control of the hospital and in all matters relating to the treatment of patients, and shall ensure that the appropriate directions of the honorary medical officers are carried out.
- (b) Treat all indigent and pensioner patients free of charge.
- (c) Provide free outpatient treatment for the hospital staff. (The normal charge is made for inpatient treatment, with the exception of resident nursing staff, who are entitled to free medical and hospital treatment.)
- (d) Have power to suspend any officer or employee under his control in case of misconduct, and shall report such suspension immediately to the Director-General of Medical Services.

3. As indicated above, Dr. Smibert was unable to sell his practice in Wallaroo and at present no doctor is resident in Wallaroo. Although the Hospitals Department has no power to direct a doctor to practise at Wallaroo, the department has done all in its power to draw attention to the situation, including displaying notices regarding the vacancy at both Royal Adelaide and the Queen Elizabeth Hospitals. The Town Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Wallaroo has also forwarded, for information, a copy of a letter dated September 9, 1969, which the corporation has sent to the Agent-General, seeking his assistance in an endeavour to secure an English doctor.

4. As Acting Medical Superintendent of the Wallaroo Hospital, Dr. Seith treats pensioner inpatients at the Wallaroo Hospital free of charge and receives no payments from the Commonwealth Department of Health. However, he has no desire virtually to set up a medical practice in Wallaroo by using the out-patients department of the hospital to consult other pensioners, who, of course, are quite free to consult any of the doctors in Kadina, who then receive payment from the Commonwealth Department of Health for each consultation. It is understood that, if a pensioner living in Wallaroo is ill at home, then Dr. Seith makes a home visit for which again he is paid by the Commonwealth Department of Health. Mr. Hughes has asked "whether, while Wallaroo is without the services of a resident doctor, pensioners can have the services of a taxi to go between Wallaroo and a Kadina doctor's surgery, with provision that the doctor whom they choose to visit may determine their eligibility for a refund of fares?" In view of the information set out above, it is considered that this request could not be agreed to, as the Wallaroo Hospital is not involved but rather these are ordinary consultations by pensioners with the private medical practitioners of their choice in Kadina and, furthermore, it would be quite unreasonable to expect the Government to refund taxi fares on the basis of decisions made by various medical practitioners in private practice.

5. It is true that there are many occasions when doctors can be saved a certain amount of work if a competent social worker is available. However, it is difficult to obtain qualified social workers in country areas and, furthermore, such staff need to work in close collaboration with medical staff and, therefore, even if a social worker were available in Wallaroo it would be difficult to utilize her services until a doctor takes up residence in the town and is available to take over full responsibility for the medical superintendency of the hospital in place of the present Acting Medical Superintendent.

MANNUM HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of September 18 regarding the tree-planting programme at the Mannum High School?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The plan indicating the siting and the type of trees to be planted at the school has been recently completed. It is now being forwarded to the Housing Trust to arrange for the supply and planting of the trees as soon as possible.

RAILWAY HOUSES

Mr. RYAN: I have often referred to the unoccupied houses owned by the South Australian Railways in my district and apparently the Corporation of the City of Enfield is also concerned with this same problem. A letter from the Enfield council to the Railways Commissioner states:

The council has recently investigated the extent to which dwellinghouses owned by you remain unoccupied in various parts of the municipality, and it has been revealed that, in 1965-66, 19 dwellings were not rated by virtue of the fact that they were untenanted, and in 1968-69, 47 houses were in this category.

The council's letter to me states:

The council will be pleased if you are able to take any action in support of its request for consideration by the Commissioner of the sale of untenanted houses; particularly where there would appear to be no likelihood of the same being occupied in the reasonably near future.

As the Railways Department has many houses that have been unoccupied for many years in the Districts of Enfield and Port Adelaide, and as at this stage it seems that they will remain untenanted for a considerable time, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether arrangements can be made for these houses to be used by people who are urgently awaiting houses, or whether these houses can be sold or transferred to such organizations as the Housing Trust, to be administered by them?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will discuss this matter with Mr. Hill.

SECONDHAND CARS

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: On August 12, when asking a question about the sale of a secondhand car that failed most miserably soon after it was purchased, I gave the Premier, at his request, particulars concerning the matter. Since asking the question, I have learned that the Prices Branch has done much work on the matter, and my constituent and I appreciate the assistance that has been given. Has the Premier a reply to my question?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Investigation by the Prices Commissioner shows that the cash price of the Ford station sedan purchased on March 5, 1968, was \$1,700. With insurance and terms charges added, and after \$300 had been allowed as deposit, a total of \$2,154 was repayable by instalments over a period of four years. The records of the finance company show that the purchaser experienced some difficulty in meeting his instalments of \$45 a month, and out of a total commitment of \$450 for the first 10 months he had paid \$270 only. Under his policy of insurance he had to meet the first \$70 worth of damage sustained in an accident in June, 1968; however, this would appear to have had little bearing on his general financial position at the time of repossession in January, 1969, when his account was substantially in arrears. Although the

price of \$508 ultimately obtained for the vehicle by the finance company is low; it claimed it had no other reasonable means of disposing of the car than to sell it by public auction. Even this was not done until April, 1969, after unsuccessful efforts had been made to sell it at a better price through a used-car dealer. The difference between the net auction price of \$508 and the resale price of \$1,300 placed on it by the dealer consists of auctioneer's commission, substantial costs incurred in repairs and improvements to put the vehicle in first-class condition, additional provision for an inflated "trade-in" allowance, and dealer's profit.

The balance owing after the vehicle was auctioned and the interest charges rebated was \$1,057. Bearing in mind his financial position, and the excessive hardship he would suffer in meeting this obligation in full, negotiations on his behalf have been undertaken with the finance company and the dealer from whom he bought the vehicle in the first place. These have resulted in an arrangement whereby \$200 only, payable at \$3 weekly, will be accepted in full settlement of the \$1,057 owing. I understand that the honourable member's constituent has expressed his appreciation of the arrangements made by the Commissioner.

DOCTOR SHORTAGE

Mr. GILES: Some time ago I asked the Premier a question about altering the curriculum for training doctors in order to induce them to practise in country areas. Has he a reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It should be pointed out that the purpose of the medical course nowadays is not to produce any particular type of doctor or to prepare for any particular specialty. General practitioners now have their own Royal College and, as I understand it, see themselves as specialists with their own examination structure leading to membership. The university sees its function as giving students a broad comprehensive training in basic medical matters, which allows them to choose in due course and according to their own wishes and temperament the specialty they wish to follow. On leaving university and after the preregistration year, the individual doctor decides his future and seeks out further training.

I cannot see that the shortage of general practitioners in unpopular environmental areas has anything to do with the type of training received at the Adelaide Medical School. That some areas, for example, remote country areas,

are unpopular and require incentives to motivate people to work there, has already been accepted by the Government, which has provided bonded cadetships for a small number of students. In return for financial support in the later years of the course, the future doctor agrees to work in an area that has no doctor.

While it is true that the present curriculum only allows for a fortnight in the fifth year on a voluntary basis to be spent with general practitioners, some clinical departments do use general practitioners in their teaching programmes and make every effort to draw the student's attention to the interest in this type of practice. Provision is being made in the new curriculum for increased teaching in general practice, for example, a four-week attachment at Modbury, but this cannot take place before 1973.

PASTORAL ROAD

Mr. ALLEN: The construction of a road in pastoral country east of Burra commenced at the eastern boundary of the District Council of Burra Burra, extended eastward between Glenora and Murkaby Stations, and proceeded through Woolgangi Station. The road, about 25 miles long, serves the flood country east of Burra. During the construction I visited the road twice: first, in relation to a complaint about too much vegetation being destroyed; and secondly, when it was considered that the dust nuisance was destroying much of the bush. As people have asked me why this road has been constructed, will the Attorney-General ascertain from the Minister of Roads and Transport why the road was up-graded and whether it will be further extended into the pastoral country?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will take the matter up with Mr. Hill and get a reply soon.

SOUTH-EAST WATER

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on August 28 about water resources in the South-East?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The experimental site for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization work was about 10 miles north of Mount Gambier, and it is stated in the paper that extensions of the methods used for estimating irrigation potential in this area are not justified to other sub-regions of the Gambier Plains, an area of about 7,600,000 acres, because data available are interpolations. The conclusion that there was

sufficient recharge of ground-water to irrigate 370,000 acres was based on an average irrigation requirement of 14in. after taking account of rainfall and evaporation. Although this figure is of value as a general indication of the irrigation potential of the region, it is still necessary to assess the available surface and ground-water resources, especially taking into account periods of drought and to develop schemes for utilization of the resources. The C.S.I.R.O. work indicates that less than 40 per cent of the region has surplus water available for recharge of ground-water or run-off to streams and drains. The development of an area of irrigatable land quoted could be obtained, therefore, only by movement of water by natural or artificial means from areas of surplus to areas of deficiency.

The purpose of the investigation work now being undertaken by the Engineering and Water Supply Department and Mines Department in association with other organizations is to assess the water resources of the region in sufficient detail to enable an overall plan of development to be drawn up. The field programme commenced in February, 1969, and is scheduled for completion in 1974-75. Drilling of observation bores is complete in a test area about 12 miles north of Beachport, and water levels are now under observation. The objective is to carry out a detailed study of the hydrological processes of an area about five miles wide extending 20 miles inland. With observations of rainfall evaporation and other meteorological factors and measurement of flows in streams, drains and springs, information will be sought on ground-water levels in relation to surface water and rainfall, volume and movement of ground-water and the ground-water/sea-water interface. The results from this area will be extended to other adjacent areas with similar geohydraulic characteristics. Drilling of observation bores has commenced in a second test area extending in a north-westerly direction from the Victorian border in the hundred of Nangwarry, through the hundreds of Grey and Short. The investigation of a further five test areas is intended. Flow gauging stations have been installed on the Biscuit Flat and Bray drains, and gauging requirements for Mosquito, Naracoorte and Morambro Creeks should be determined shortly.

SALISBURY NORTH SCHOOL

Mr. CLARK: The present Minister of Education is, I think, the third Minister of Education with whom over the years I have

raised the matter of the Salisbury North Primary School. This school is one of the few completely prefabricated schools (I think there are only three of them), although the infants school is of solid construction. The parents of the schoolchildren concerned, and the school committee, have been active over the years in seeking that the primary school, which is not in good repair, be replaced with a solid construction school. Will the Minister be good enough to see what the chances are like for this school in the future?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be happy to do that for the honourable member.

WHEAT QUOTAS

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to the question I recently asked about the appointment of an appeals committee in connection with wheat quotas?

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

It is true that a committee is to be appointed to hear appeals against decisions of the Wheat Delivery Quota Committee on individual quotas. However, as the review committee has not yet been constituted, I am unable to announce the names of members.

TRAIN SERVICES

Mr. VIRGO: Last Tuesday I directed to the Premier's attention the rather regrettable study that is being undertaken within the Railways Department in relation to the curtailment of train services. Unfortunately, little or no information was then available, but the Premier has now provided me with a reply that I trust will satisfactorily answer this question as well as the matter I raised in debate last Thursday.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I did not hear the last remark of the honourable member although I understood from his tone that it might be a good thing that I did not hear it. The honourable member apparently knows more about the particular document than I do, because as yet I have not sighted it. I do not know how he got it, but I have not yet sighted it. Therefore, the honourable member would know far more about it than I would.

Mr. Virgo: What about answering the question instead of abusing me!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: If the honourable member will listen to the reply he has requested, he may receive some information. In August, 1969, the South Australian Railways initiated a study into the ramifications

of cancelling suburban passenger services after the evening peak on week days and on Sundays. The study was not commenced at the behest of the Minister of Roads and Transport or Cabinet but was undertaken as a normal function of railway management. The study is not complete and both the economic and social aspects are being fully considered. It should be pointed out that a similar investigation was carried out in the last few months of 1967, but after full consideration it was decided to take no action at that time. That investigation and the current one are typical of studies made from time to time as a normal management function.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Mr. EVANS: My question relates to subscriber trunk dialling (S.T.D.) and to the facilities available in connection therewith in Government departments, as well as in this place, for people who use subscriber trunk dialling. I read a comment made by the Committee of Public Accounts of Victoria (I believe we should have a similar committee here) when it investigated this matter, as follows:

It is of great concern to your committee that with the introduction of subscriber trunk dialling there is no record of the details of calls made. It is difficult, not only in the Police Department, but also in other Government departments, to provide the close supervision necessary to prevent abuses of the direct dialling system.

I point out that, in connection with one line used in Melbourne (63-0321) where S.T.D. was available, the figure rose in 12 months (November, 1965, to November, 1966) from \$18,300 to \$21,800 instead of \$19,300, as was expected. However, regarding trunk calls made where the S.T.D. calls could have been made, the figure increased from \$17,600 to \$18,000 instead of to the expected \$18,300. In view of these facts, will the Minister of Works say in which State Government departments facilities are available for making S.T.D. calls without their passing through a suitable switchboard where a record of such calls may be kept? Also, will he say by how much the telephone accounts of those departments, where the S.T.D. facility has been available, have increased since the installation of S.T.D.?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: Although I am not sure that I can get this information for the honourable member, I will look into the matter for him. However, I point out that we have very responsible members of the State Public Service who I think would use this

facility only with discretion and to the benefit of the people of South Australia. Regarding the facilities at Parliament House, I expect that all members, who as far as I know are responsible citizens, would not abuse them. Furthermore, I would not lightly recommend taking away from members privileges that they now enjoy. I will follow up the honourable member's question to see whether I can obtain a reply for him.

ALMA ROAD

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked some time ago about the Highways Department's plans for the Alma-Tarlee road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The road between Alma and Tarlee is under the jurisdiction of the District Councils of Owen and Riverton. Priority for work on this road is relatively low.

PORT PIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. McKEE: A letter I have received from the staff of the Port Pirie High School, pointing out disadvantages existing at the school at present, states:

1. Nine out of our 21 classes have more than 40 students in each.
2. We are short of three mathematics-science teachers.
3. We need two more science laboratories in order to cope satisfactorily with the demands of our science courses.
4. Many of our buildings are substandard.

As I am well aware of the unsatisfactory conditions existing at this school, I support the statements in the letter. Will the Minister of Education consider these matters at the earliest possible opportunity?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to do so. Possibly I have already received a copy of that letter.

TAILEM BEND TO SERVICETON RAILWAY

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about work carried out this calendar year on the portion of the Melbourne-Adelaide railway line between Tailem Bend and Serviceton?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: A total length of 35 miles of track has been lined, levelled and tamped using a new electronic machine and about three and a half miles of

track has been base-plated between Keith and Cannawigara since the presentation of the report in mid-June this year.

ENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. JENNINGS: My question deals with a matter that has gone on for so long that my brief explanation may be slightly less brief than usual; on the other hand, I have waited long enough in regard to this question. During the Loan Estimates debate on October 1 last year, I raised a matter concerning the Enfield Primary School. On October 15, 1968, the Minister of Education told me that she had a reply. I asked her for it and she assured me that the matter about which I had been complaining would be taken up immediately. Then, on February 16, 1969, which was at the beginning of the new school year, I asked the Minister of Works a question about the matter, and he said he would get an up-to-date reply. On February 19, 1969, when he said he had a reply, I asked him for it. He said:

I regret the delay that has occurred in respect of this school However, steps have been taken to see that the work is put in hand immediately.

On August 5, 1969, I summarized all of the questions and matters I had raised, and the Minister of Works said:

The member's statement that nothing has been done rather surprises me, because I initiated action on the matter. I will now take the matter up as one of urgency and give the honourable member an adequate reply this week.

And he did that. On August 12, in response to a further question, at the end of his reply the Minister of Works said that measures would be taken to expedite the required work. Last Saturday, when I met the Minister at a function, I told him that nothing had been done in the last month in regard to this school. He showed astonishment at this, promising he would have a reply for me today. As I understand he now has this reply, will he give it to the House?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I listened with much interest to the preamble to the honourable member's question. I told him privately last Saturday that I would have a reply for him, and I now have it. I remind him that, in my previous reply to him, I told him that work had been executed to provide a general purpose room, staff room, sick bay and office and storeroom at the school. I said that work had also commenced on the provision of the library but that representations had been received from the school committee

for alterations to the library design. Naturally this had some effect on the position. I can now inform the honourable member that work is programmed to commence on October 14, 1969, on the alterations to the library at the Enfield Primary School. This work is expected to take four weeks to complete.

A complete examination of the roof was undertaken. As the honourable member will appreciate, when leaks were discovered in the roof over a period an attempt was made to repair them. Examination of the roof at this school reveals that it will be necessary to provide entire new roof decking. It is currently programmed that tenders will be called and a contract let for the work to be undertaken during the school summer vacation. The honourable member would appreciate that it would be impossible to do the work while the children were at the school. The foregoing is the up-to-date report I have obtained for the honourable member.

WEST LAKES SCHEME

Mr. HURST: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the West Lakes scheme and about consultations with councils involved in this scheme?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: A meeting has been arranged with the Director of Industrial Promotion, representatives of the Port Adelaide and Woodville councils (the Mayor, the Town Clerk and the City Engineer from each council) and the consulting engineers, Kinnaird, Hill, de Rohan and Young, who are involved in planning the drainage proposals for West Lakes. The purpose of this meeting is to try to resolve amicably the financial obligations relating to external drainage costs of each party concerned. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 24, after which I will inform the honourable member of the outcome.

SCHOOL CROSSINGS

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about school crossings?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The erection of school crossings and signs associated with them is entirely the responsibility of the Road Traffic Board. It is not known whether the matter raised by the honourable member has previously been discussed by the board. Therefore, the Education Department representative on the Road Safety Council will

bring these suggestions to the attention of that council, for discussion at its next meeting.

ELIZABETH GIRLS TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Mr. CLARK: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question about paving work being carried out to improve the condition of the schoolgrounds at the Elizabeth Girls Technical High School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The provision of funds for the reconstruction of the paved areas at the Elizabeth Girls Technical High School has been approved. Design documents can now be prepared for tenders to be called. It is expected that a contract will be let in time for completion of the work before the reopening of the school in February next year. In the meantime, immediate arrangements are being made to carry out temporary repairs to existing potholes.

PENSIONERS' ACCOMMODATION

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked last week about the building of self-contained accommodation for single pensioners with moneys likely to be provided by the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member asked whether part of the grant by the Commonwealth Government of \$25,000,000, of which South Australia seemed likely to receive about \$2,000,000, over five years could be used to assist private organizations to build cottage flats for pensioners. This point is dealt with by the Hon. L. H. E. Bury in his second reading explanation of the States Grants (Dwellings for Aged Pensioners) Bill, 1969. Mr. Bury states that clause 4 of the Bill empowers the Minister to approve a building project and clause 6 provides that the grant may be spent only on approved projects. An approved project may include that part of a building being erected by a State authority that contains specified single-person units reserved solely for occupation by pensioners eligible under the scheme.

The whole Bill and, indeed, discussions with Commonwealth Department of Housing officers made very clear that this proposed grant was entirely separate from the \$2 for \$1 subsidy for housing provided by charitable and other organizations under the Aged Persons Homes Act, which subsidy the Commonwealth intends

to continue. The proposed grant now being debated is to be used only for approved projects undertaken by the State authority.

STAMP DUTIES

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Treasurer a reply to the question I asked last week about what perhaps could be described as an anomaly in the Stamp Duties Act which required that duty be paid on sales tax collected for and on behalf of the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This is one of a few related matters that were considered when the Stamp Duties Act Amendment Bill was being debated. In the early days of operation of the receipts tax, submissions were made to support the argument that a firm received sales tax only as an agent of the Commonwealth Government and, accordingly, the sales tax component of the receipt ought to be exempt. I think that is the basis of the honourable member's question. The advice given me at the time was that persons paying sales tax were not acting as agents of the Commonwealth Government in recovering from purchasers the amounts which they themselves must pay at the time of the last wholesale sale. It was also then decided that any amounts so recovered as part of the sale price were not moneys to which exemption No. 18 could be applied. This exemption relates only to receipts for moneys which are received pursuant to an Act, and payment of moneys by a retailer to a wholesaler could not be properly brought within this exemption. The decision taken was consistent with similar decisions made in Victoria and New South Wales. The honourable member will see that the matter depends on whether the firm collecting the sales tax is paying a tax that the seller must pay, or one that the purchaser must pay, and I think that what I have said puts the position clearly and as my legal advisers have put it to me, namely, that the firms are not collecting this tax as agents for the Commonwealth Government: they are receiving the money because it is a tax that they themselves must pay and, therefore, they are obliged to pay receipts tax on the amounts so received.

TRANSPORT SUBSIDY

Mr. FERGUSON: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question of August 27 about whether the Government pays subsidies to bus proprietors who provide services in lieu of train services in areas where railways have been closed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Government does not pay a subsidy to any firm which provides a bus service in place of a railway service that has been closed. This includes the Yorke Peninsula Bus Lines serving Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta.

TEACHER ACCOMMODATION

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding accommodation for schoolteachers in country areas?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: In a number of places in South Australia, hostels have been established to accommodate teachers, and in recent years the department has taken action to obtain, on a rental basis, houses at Whyalla from the South Australian Housing Trust for the purpose of accommodating single women teachers. These houses have been furnished and equipped for the use of the teachers by the department. As a result of further requests for this type of accommodation, an additional two double units are being obtained at Whyalla for the use of teachers next year. In addition, houses will be provided for the purpose of accommodating single teachers next year at Loxton and Cummins and, at present, investigation is being undertaken into the possibility of providing houses at Geranium and Kingscote for this purpose. Wherever the need for accommodation for a number of teachers has been established, the department has investigated the possibility of providing houses, and in this regard has received a good deal of co-operation from the Housing Trust. The question of accommodation for single teachers is a difficult matter because of several factors, such as the changing of staff from time to time, the desire of individuals to seek their own accommodation of the flat type, and the difficulty sometimes experienced in filling the accommodation that has been provided. Whenever the attention of the department is drawn to cases involving hardship to a teacher, prompt action is taken to find some solution through the headmaster, the chairman of the school committee, or the district inspector of schools. There are few cases in which it has not been possible to overcome difficulties.

OATS

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Lands a reply from his colleague to my question of September 16 regarding oats being obtained by South Australian processors from Victoria?

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

I am informed that South Australian Oat-growers Co-operative Limited conducted two oat pools on the 1968-69 oat crop, one for Eyre Peninsula and one for the remainder of the State, but centred largely in the South-East region. Because of limitations on storage capacity and the late arrival of an oversea ship it was possible to take delivery of only 650,000 bushels of oats into this "mainland" pool, 350,000 bushels of which was required soon after harvest to fulfil a shipment contract in the late-arriving vessel. Thus, only 300,000 bushels of oats was available for local sale from this pool, and contracts were let for the sale of the whole of this quantity prior to February 21, 1969. The co-operative has not offered oats for sale from the "mainland" pool since February 21. Some buyers are still taking delivery of oats from the pool, under contract arrangements finalized prior to February 21, and it is true that the contract prices fixed for these sales in the December to February period are higher than the prices currently being paid for oats being purchased at the present time from Victorian suppliers. Substantial quantities of oats still remain in the Eyre Peninsula pool, but it is uneconomic to transport oats from Eyre Peninsula to other areas of the State in competition with oats that are available in plentiful supply from other growers.

SEMAPHORE RAILWAY

Mr. HURST: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question of September 3 about the number of passengers carried on the railway service between Glanville and Semaphore?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: About 800 passengers a day are carried on the line between Glanville and Semaphore.

NORTHFIELD REHABILITATION CENTRE

Mr. JENNINGS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked about the Northfield Women's Rehabilitation Centre during the Loan Estimates debate?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The centre is scheduled for completion at the end of October, 1969. There will be additional work such as fencing to be completed before prisoners and staff can be moved in. Under these circumstances, no date for occupation has yet been set.

RAIL EXCURSIONS

Mr. VENNING: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my question of September 4 concerning rail excursions?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Excursion rail fares were not available for the full duration of the Adelaide Royal Show. However, weekend excursion tickets are available for travel from Friday to Monday, and these were available for the two weekends on which the show was open. In addition, the show coincides with school holidays, and school-children receive the benefit of student concession fares. With regard to football finals, the normal weekend excursion fares apply.

WATERVALE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. FREEBAIRN: As I understand that a survey of prospective ratepayers has been conducted, will the Minister of Works obtain a report on the reaction of prospective ratepayers in the Watervale district to the proposed Watervale water scheme?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will do that.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mr. HUDSON: The Minister of Education will be aware that scholarships, exhibitions and bursaries previously awarded by the Education Department have now been discontinued and that regulations have been laid on the table of this House to bring this about. Can the Minister say how many scholarships, exhibitions and bursaries have been terminated as a result of the decision taken and what annual saving in money will accrue to the department as a result of this decision?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As the question involves much detail, it would be in his interests and those of the House if I obtained a considered reply.

CANADIAN WHEAT

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Premier a report from Mr. Hal Dean (Government director of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited), as a result of his investigation of the methods used for the bulk storage of wheat in Canada?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Mr. Dean reports:

I spent the two weeks August 15 to August 29, 1969, on the above assignment, when I conferred with grain handling authorities and private firms dealing in the grain trade in Winnipeg, Vancouver, San Francisco and Stockton. Also, I visited farming areas out from Winnipeg and Stockton and spoke to farmers on their farms about their storage problems. I also travelled by train through the great grain-growing areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan to gain an appreciation of the topography and conditions of these districts. My general

objective in obtaining this information on how the farming communities of Canada and California developed their bulk storage system was to be able to apply this as a director of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited when policy matters were being considered in board meetings affecting the siting and size of new silos and extensions to existing ones in South Australia. In this way the farming community as a whole would benefit from my experiences.

I have already discussed my investigations in some detail with Mr. T. M. Saint, Chairman of Directors of Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, so no time has been lost in this regard. It seems evident that bulk storage of grain on farms is inescapable in times of surplus production. At the same time there must be some overall control over the amount of grain grown. This is the scene in Canada and the United States of America. I saw some farms there where grain had been in storage for over two years, with another crop ready for reaping. It seems pretty certain that, while there is a world surplus of grain, farm storage to a degree will be an essential part of a country's bulk grain storage scene.

SOUTH-EAST FISHING

Mr. CORCORAN: When I visited Carpenter Rocks during the weekend, members of the fishing industry in this area (particularly the Stanke brothers) drew my attention to the need for more facilities at this port. As the Minister of Marine knows, not many boats are established here, but there is a danger to boats entering and leaving the bay. This journey is safe only for those people who know the area well. The fishermen pointed out to me the need for a breakwater to give added protection to their vessels: this matter was raised previously, but I promised them that I would seek a report. Can the Minister say whether the committee established to investigate the need for and establish a priority in relation to fishing havens throughout the State is still functioning and, if it is, when it last met, and whether its programme contains any reference to providing facilities at Carpenter Rocks? Also, would he consider providing a breakwater in this area?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will consider providing a breakwater at Carpenter Rocks although, as the honourable member realizes, this is a difficult area. The passage into the harbour is extremely hazardous and I understand that some of the local fishermen have placed metal sheets on the bottom of their boats to protect the boats when skirting over the rocks. The work of the Fishing Havens Advisory Committee is continuing, although the Chairman (Mr. Olsen) has been

extremely busy recently preparing legislation for the Government. The committee has made regular visits, as requested, to South Australian outports, and I will refer this matter to it. I regret that arrangements to investigate the southern coast of the honourable member's district had to be postponed because of the serious illness of Mr. Wight, Secretary of the Marine and Harbors Department, but I am informed that he has now returned to duty and will probably visit the area this week.

PRAWN FISHING

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Lands a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question about the number of vessels prawn fishing in the Spencer Gulf area?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Agriculture states that 21 authorized prawn-fishing vessels are operating in this area.

DENTAL HOSPITAL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Premier a reply from the Chief Secretary to my recent question about the position of Senior Dentist (Orthodontics) at the Dental Hospital?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Unfortunately, the position is still vacant. The salaries determined in July, 1968, by the Public Service Arbitrator were from \$7,120 a year (minimum) to \$8,170 a year (maximum) for applicants with post-graduate qualifications, and from \$6,720 a year (minimum) to \$7,520 a year (maximum) for those without post-graduate qualifications. The Acting Chairman, Public Service Board, has informed me that the only information available regarding comparable salaries in other States is that similar positions in Queensland and Tasmania receive annual salaries of \$7,822 and \$9,228 respectively. It is assumed that these rates refer to officers with post-graduate qualifications.

PINE PLANTING

Mr. EVANS: Recently, when I asked the Minister of Lands to obtain from the Minister of Forests details of the pine plantation at the Mount Bold reservoir reserve, the Minister implied that I was suggesting that the department was making an elementary mistake: this was not the case. As I understand the Minister has further details, will he give me that information?

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

The Conservator of Forests advises that the Woods and Forests Department has established a seed orchard of selected grafted radiata pine stock on the south side of the Mount Bold

reservoir area. In order to minimize the risk of cross-pollination, a buffer zone is necessary between the select trees and ordinary planting, usually about half a mile wide. The width is dependent largely on the direction of the prevailing winds at the time of pollination. At Mount Bold, therefore, it has been necessary to establish this buffer strip to the north. *Pinus pinaster* has been planted, because it does not cross-pollinate with radiata pine and it is also a useful species. The seed orchard is now in production, and within a few years will provide considerable quantities of select seed. Similar orchards are established in the South-East, and it is expected that all departmental seed requirements will be provided in the near future. As a consequence, it is expected that plantations in future will give increased yields, and of even better quality timber than at present.

HENLEY BEACH SCHOOL

Mr. BROOMHILL: Parents of children attending the Henley Beach Primary School approached me last evening and were most upset because they had been informed that a decision had been made at the school to form composite classes, with some grade 7 children being placed with grade 6 children, in order to reduce the size of the grade 7 classes. I was told that the parents had been informed that the reason for this action was to reduce the number of grade 7 students in each class to 39, which number agreed with the recommendations of the South Australian Institute of Teachers. I believe it would not be right if this action were taken in order to establish that some classes did not exceed 39, because to do this the children are being taken from some classes and placed in lower grades. Is the Minister of Education aware of this action; does she know whether it is happening in other schools; and will she investigate this matter and obtain a report?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The matter mentioned by the honourable member has not been brought to my attention, but I will find out what the position is at this school and whether this situation applies in other places.

SURVEY REGULATIONS

Mr. CORCORAN: The Minister of Marine will know that the fishing vessel survey regulations tabled late in August are now effective, because the time to disallow them has expired. After the regulations were tabled I did not receive objections from professional fishing bodies in my area, but last Friday people who own smaller vessels expressed concern to me that the regulations would affect their future livelihood.

These people believe that moves are being made to force out of the industry the owner of a small registered boat who has an endorsed licence. I explained that some provision concerning this had been made, although it may not be in the regulations, whereby time would be given to people to replace a vessel if the vessel they currently owned did not meet survey requirements. As I know that people in other ports, too, are concerned about this facet of the survey, will the Minister of Marine say whether something will be done to assist these people in the difficulty in which they will find themselves if the survey regulations are applied stringently?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: In view of the importance of this matter, I think it would be wise for me to check the position. Following that, I will inform the honourable member.

LUNG CANCER FILM

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about a lung cancer film?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The film on lung cancer referred to by the honourable member has been seen by a senior officer of the Education Department, who states that, although it is very good in parts, it also has some rather horrifying aspects. It was the opinion of this officer (an opinion shared by others) that the film was not suitable for primary schoolchildren and should not be used for the purpose suggested by the honourable member. In view of these opinions, it is not intended to show this film to primary schoolchildren.

GRANGE TRANSPORT

Mr. HURST: Over recent years I have made representations to successive Ministers of Transport and to the Tramways Trust to try to improve the transport facilities existing between Grange and the area north towards Estcourt House, in which area there are some hospitals. I have now received a complaint concerning country people who are required to come to the city to visit people at Estcourt House and who believe that better public transport should be arranged to give them an opportunity to visit hospital staff and patients. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether some service could be provided for the people concerned?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

MODBURY INTERSECTION

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on August 28 about the dangerous intersection of the North-East, Golden Grove and Montague Roads at Modbury?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague states that it is unlikely that actual roadwork can commence on the North-East Road at the Golden Grove junction before December, 1969. However, the associated adjustments and variations to water, electricity, and telephone equipment are expected to be started within a few weeks.

RENTAL HOUSING

Mr. JENNINGS: During the Loan Estimates debate I made some comments about rental housing. I appreciate that the Minister of Housing has a reply to those comments, although what I said was not meant to be a question: it was mainly an expression of opinion. However, will the Minister now give me his opinion in this matter?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The honourable member said (I think I quote him correctly, in general terms at any rate) that he thought it important that the Housing Trust encourage people (and that the Government as a matter of policy do everything possible to encourage people and enable them) to own their own houses. He suggested that this matter might be canvassed with the Housing Trust. I have discussed the honourable member's comment with the General Manager of the Housing Trust. The trust has endeavoured to encourage applicants in the metropolitan area particularly, seeking rental accommodation, to purchase on a rental-purchase basis, and this policy will continue. The trust agrees with the honourable member's comments on the desirability of this scheme. However, in certain areas of the State, particularly, for example, Whyalla and in other places where the nature of the applicant's employment requires that he have some flexibility of movement, it is necessary to provide homes for straight-out rental occupancy.

SEED IMPORTS

Mr. EVANS: It has been brought to my notice that about 1,000 tons of rye grass seed is imported into Australia each year. As most phases of primary production are suffering from over-production and low prices, I ask the Minister of Lands whether he will find out for me from the Minister of Agriculture

how much of the different varieties of seed (vegetable, lawn and pasture) is imported from overseas annually into Australia and at what cost.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will refer the question to the Minister of Agriculture.

FISHING RESEARCH

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked last week about Commonwealth allocations to the States for fishing research?

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

Earlier this month the Minister for Primary Industry introduced into the Commonwealth Parliament a Bill to provide (*inter alia*) for the establishment of a fund for research into fishery resources. This followed a recommendation made at the first meeting of the Australian Fisheries Council, held in Darwin in June of this year, that funds be provided by the Commonwealth Government in the 1969-70 financial year to match the total of amounts raised by the States in 1969-70 for fisheries research. The Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department will in due course submit its request for this State's share of research funds. An advisory committee, representative of the Commonwealth, the States and the Australian Fishing Industry Council, will be responsible for the allocation of priorities for research projects throughout the Commonwealth which are to be financed from the special research fund.

EYRE PENINSULA BUSES

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about buses operating on Eyre Peninsula?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague states that section 140 of the Road Traffic Act allows vehicles, including buses, to operate in South Australia with lengths of up to 66ft. This length would include any fixture such as the "roo bar" referred to by the honourable member.

TEA TREE GULLY INTERSECTION

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of September 4 about the dangerous intersection of Dillon, Hancock and North-East Roads at Tea Tree Gully?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: My colleague states:

Traffic at this intersection has been the subject of discussion between the local council and the Road Traffic Board. The board has

recently approved the erection of a "stop" sign on Dillon Road, subject to the following:

1. Kerbing to be provided at the intersection.
2. The entrance way into the service station on the south-eastern corner to be reviewed.
3. The Highways Department is at present redesigning the intersection and reconstruction is expected to commence early in 1972.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: MEMBER'S REMARKS

Mr. HUGHES (Walleroo): I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. HUGHES: In speaking last Thursday to the Treasurer's motion that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the Budget, I said:

The matter now being considered is nothing new: the member for Light advocated this very thing in his Address in Reply speech.

I wish to make it quite clear that I was mistaken in referring to the Address in Reply: I should have referred to the honourable member's remarks in the Loan Estimates debate.

HENLEY HIGH SCHOOL ADDITIONS

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Henley High School Additions.

Ordered that report be printed.

REAL PROPERTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

THE BUDGET

The Estimates—Grand total, \$328,261,000.

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 18, Page 1636.)

THE LEGISLATURE

Legislative Council, \$45,615.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide): When we adjourned last Thursday, I was about to refer to a letter from the President of the Law Society regarding legal assistance for poor persons. The first sentence of the last paragraph of that letter states:

With continually rising expenses, we wonder for how long the legal profession will be able to bear the steadily increasing burdens of the present scheme.

At the end of the letter, the President states:

The legal profession in South Australia is a hard-working profession and its members, when compared with the legal profession in the Eastern States and with some other professions in this State, are in receipt of a relatively low average income. It is no doubt partly for this reason that there are, proportionately to the total population, less lawyers in South Australia than in any other State except Western Australia. If the scheme were to be expanded too greatly it would break down, and the Government would be faced with the highly expensive and unsatisfactory alternative of setting up a system of State aid. But with continually rising expenses and pressures of work, the society is much concerned as to how much longer the legal profession will be able to bear the steadily increasing burden of the present scheme.

Last Thursday, I said I had an idea that the Attorney-General was considering some other method in this connection, for he had previously asked me a question about what I was suggesting. I said that a couple of my colleagues and I suggested a return to the system of the Government's providing a public solicitor as well as other assistance, to which I referred. Today the Attorney-General confirmed my supposition that he was considering something when he gave notice of two Bills, one to amend the Legal Practitioners Act and the other to amend the Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act. I will not canvass now what might be contained in those Bills: I only hope that the Government provides in them a more workable scheme than the present scheme.

Mr. GILES (Gumeracha): In supporting the first line, I congratulate the Treasurer on the sound document he has produced. The Opposition has made one or two criticisms of the Budget that I wish to answer. The Budget this year provides for expenditure of about \$328,000,000 compared with about \$295,000,000 last year. I am delighted to see that no increase in taxation is provided for and that increased expenditure is provided on all essential items. The member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) said that the Budget provided for a deficit of \$10,000,000, and that this was not a balanced Budget. However, that is perfectly untrue: as the Treasurer said, there is a deficit of \$2,240,000. At this time the deficit does not take into account any extra money the Commonwealth Government is likely to give South Australia in the next 12 months. The Treasurer said that he could not sensibly state his revenue from Commonwealth sources on a conjecture that the Commonwealth Government might in six months' time, or even later

as happened in the past year, be prevailed on to recognize the inescapable needs of the State. Far from having a deficit of \$10,000,000, if the Commonwealth Government comes to the party some time this year, we may come out with a Budget that does not have a deficit. All companies prepare a balance sheet that sets out income and expenditure. At the end of the sheet both sides (receipts and expenditure) must balance, irrespective of whether a loss or profit results.

Mr. Langley: Who told you that?

Mr. GILES: Obviously the member for Unley does not understand much about it. I can remember when the present Leader of the Opposition became Premier. In six weeks he balanced the Budget, and he was called a miracle man and everything else. However, he forgot to say there was a deficit of \$8,000,000. The Budget was balanced, irrespective of whether there was a deficit, and now we have been criticized for not balancing the Budget. Suffice it to say at this time that it seems that the balance at the end of 12 months will be \$2,240,000, apart from any supplementary assistance to be received from the Commonwealth Government during the year. Last year that Government gave the State a supplementary grant of \$3,350,000.

The increases and decreases provided in the Budget are interesting. In guiding the State's finances wisely, the Treasurer has increased expenditure in all essential areas and decreased it in areas where expenditure is not so essential to the State. A decrease of about \$8,500 is made in the cost of secretarial work in the Premier's Department, the decrease in the Chief Secretary's Department is about \$12,500, and a decrease has been made in respect of the Auditor-General's Department. Further, expenditure on the Morris Hospital is decreased because this is not now a tuberculosis centre. I trust that the work being done by the X-ray unit makes use of this hospital as such a centre unnecessary in future.

Expenditure in the Highways Department office is decreased, and this is another area in which expenditure is not essential, provided that the department can cope with the work. Another hospital in respect of which there is a decrease is the Enfield Hospital. Decreases are also made in expenditure in the office of the Minister of Works, Public Buildings Department (maintenance costs), Public Service administration, and Prices Branch administration.

All these decreases indicate wise planning and good management so that additional money can be spent where it is needed. The financial results in Consolidated Revenue Account from 1966-67 on are interesting. When the Labor Government took office in 1965, there was a credit of about \$1,300,000, but in 1966-67 there was a deficit of \$5,505,000. In 1967-68 the deficit climbed to \$8,365,000.

Mr. Freebairn: Is this the deficit on the railways?

Mr. GILES: This is the deficit for the whole State.

Mr. Corcoran: How did it happen?

Mr. GILES: Because of bad planning. In 1968-69 the deficit declined, albeit slightly, to \$7,905,000, and we were working in the right direction. Although the deficit for this year is \$10,145,000, that figure does not take into account what the Commonwealth Government will give us and, if that Government gives about the same amount as it gave last year, the deficit at the end of the year will be lower still, and that is what we want.

Members opposite have dealt with the problem of education. This problem is worrying many teachers and parents in the State and I consider that the Minister of Education, as well as her staff, and most of the teachers are concerned about this situation. I consider that one of the main problems is a lack of teachers.

Mr. McKee: What about the lack of accommodation?

Mr. GILES: Obviously, that interjection will have to be ignored now because we are nowhere near that problem yet. An expenditure of \$3,100,000 is proposed between now and 1972 on the Eastern Teachers College, and I should like to refer to a report published in the *News* of September 16 about that college and accompanied by a delightful photograph of the Premier and the Parliamentary Under Secretary looking at a scale model of the college. The report states:

The new Eastern Teachers College at Murray Park, Magill, will cost \$3,100,000 and is planned for completion by June, 1972. It will accommodate about 800 students and will replace the Wattle Park Teachers College. The Premier (Mr. Hall) today gave details of the new college during an inspection of the 32-acre site at St. Bernard Road, Magill. The Education Department bought the property, the former Murray Park estate, last year. Mr. Hall said it was hoped to have the academic buildings ready in February, 1972, and the college fully occupied by the following June.

In addition, over \$1,000,000 will be spent on Salisbury Teachers College, and expenditure will be incurred on Western Teachers College. The lack of teachers is being tackled in the most sensible way possible, namely, by providing accommodation in which to train teachers. Next year 1,550 student teachers will be admitted and 550 additional teachers will be appointed.

Another problem in education is that many teachers are doing work that they should not be doing. Although they are trained to teach children, much of their time is spent on office work, such as school banking and compiling forms. The first thing the department has done to relieve that position has been to announce the appointment of 246 ancillary staff next year. Although this number is insufficient, it is a step in the right direction and it will relieve headmasters and teachers of much secretarial work so that they can teach and give pupils additional individual education. This means that there will be clerical staff for the primary schools, and for libraries and laboratories in secondary schools. Ancillary staff will also be provided for teachers colleges, technical colleges and adult education centres. This will ease the load of teachers and enable them to spend more time teaching.

Higher allowances are being paid to students at teachers colleges to enable them to go through college without too much financial embarrassment. The boarding allowance for students from first to fourth and fifth years has been increased by \$30 and the book allowance for students in fourth and fifth years has been increased by \$6. Lack of teachers, ancillary staff and aids to schools are the problems that now exist.

Regarding school buildings, it is obvious from expenditure this year that the department and the Government realize the need for additional school buildings, and this need is being catered for. There is no crisis in education, although there is a serious need in certain spheres of education. Some schools are adequately catered for, whereas others have areas in which action must soon be taken. Some classes in certain metropolitan schools are large, some of the playing areas are small, and some of the buildings the children use are inadequate. Possibly, more science laboratories are needed, but this problem is being tackled in the right way. The teacher shortage cannot be remedied by a stroke of the pen: it will

take time, as it takes three years to train a teacher, and even longer to train science teachers, of whom there is a shortage. I believe that the Minister's wise plan will soon show results.

Most teachers are genuinely trying to help the situation, but one thing I am disgusted about is that, because there is a need in certain areas of education, both the Commonwealth Opposition and State Opposition Parties have hopped on the band wagon and are using this issue for political purposes. I believe that most of the department's teachers are concerned over the education situation and that the Opposition is doing everything it can to stir up further strife for its own political ends. A teacher said to me the other day, "It so happens that you are the political Party in power now, and it is too bad for you." That statement obviously points to this being a political issue. Most members were educated at a time when every one of us appears to admit that the need was just as serious as it is now; yet, we seem to have run South Australia fairly adequately in the last 20 or 30 years. The Commonwealth members went through the same period of education, yet they have governed Australia well.

If the education system today is so poor and inadequate, class numbers years ago were bigger than they are now. The Government is doing all it possibly can to improve the education position. It seems strange that the advertising agents who prepared the advertisements for the institute are Hansen, Rubensohn-McCann, Ericksen Proprietary Limited, of 50 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, which firm could also be the Opposition's advertising agents. The member for Edwardstown, who used certain figures relating to the gross national product, said that Australia was spending "a lousy 4.3 per cent of its G.N.P." on education. I believe that this G.N.P. figure has been bandied around too much and that it gives rise to certain inaccuracies: it cannot be taken as an accurate guide to the amount of money we are spending on education.

Some remarkable things are included in education expenses in some other countries. An article, in the supplement to the *Education News* of April, 1969, headed "Education and the Gross National Product", states:

A country's "educational expenditure" can vary quite markedly according to whether or not it includes the cost of items such as school meals, free milk and health services, the nation's cultural activities, scientific research and development, sport, leisure activities, civic education, youth activities, child welfare, public

libraries, inservice industrial training, basic nursing training, Armed Services colleges, rehabilitation and repatriation training, sponsored foreign students, radio and television, interest payments on loans used for school buildings. None of these items is included for Australia because in the national accounts, expenditure of this nature is not attributed to "education". However, one or more of them has been included in the budgetary accounts of many oversea ministries of education. The United Kingdom expenditure figure, for instance, includes the cost of school meals and milk, youth services, school health and loan charges. Canada includes the cost of debt services and pensions, Armed Services colleges, rehabilitation and repatriation training, language and citizenship classes for immigrants and educational aid for students from other countries under the Colombo Plan and similar schemes.

Canada spends 8.5 per cent of its G.N.P. on education compared with Australia's 4.3 per cent, but if all these items are included in the Canadian education system it is impossible to compare Australia's percentage with it. Then follows the following paragraph, which states what I am trying to say:

This lack of comparability is a problem for anyone who wishes to compare these statistics, but a more serious cause of concern is the interpretation which is often placed upon the figures—

That is what the member for Edwardstown did recently: he placed a wrong interpretation on these figures—

that is, by people who come to the conclusion that education in Australia is shown to be inferior to that in other countries which spend a higher percentage of gross national product or national income on education than we do.

Obviously, using a percentage does not indicate the position of education in Australia satisfactorily. The figures quoted by the member for Edwardstown are an insult to most people who work for our schools. What about welfare clubs and school committees? They do much work for their schools, raise money that is subsidized by the department, and raise money that is not subsidized to buy materials and articles. These details have not been considered by the honourable member. To use the percentage of the G.N.P. spent on education in Australia is incorrect because it does not indicate the true position. If the work done by those people were taken into account we would find that the percentage spent on education in Australia would increase markedly. The position of the percentage of the G.N.P. being spent in each State is entirely different, too. Revenue from the Water Board or the Registrar of Motor Vehicles is not included as part of the State's income in Victoria,

whereas similar revenues are included in this State. Our railways system loses over \$12,000,000, but the revenue of \$40,000,000, is included as part of the State's income, and using the figures this way is another type of misrepresentation.

I believe that there is a gap in agricultural education in Australia, particularly in South Australia. Under our present system it is not necessary for a student to study agriculture as a subject in the first three, four, or five years of his secondary education. When studying agricultural science a student studies in the "O" stream, which has pure science subjects, but he does not study agriculture. This situation does not help the young man who intends to return to work his father's property and who does not wish to study for a degree later. It is difficult for these students to obtain an adequate agricultural education at present. The number of students who are studying agriculture has increased in the classes that have been commenced, but in the fourth year there is a far higher percentage drop-out in this subject than in any other subject.

Perhaps this situation arises because agriculture does not hold a status position in the Public Examinations Board's examinations, and most students, when they have finished their secondary education, like to have a certificate. At present, agriculture is not a Matriculation subject. To equip properly those young men who wish to return to the land, it will be necessary to begin an extension course at the fifth and sixth years at some schools. This type of course has been started at Urrbrae Agricultural High School and has proved effective. The Headmaster informed me that the students are carefully hand-picked, and are given extension courses in agriculture, animal husbandry, farm management and rural economics, so that they are fully equipped for the job when they return to the farms.

Mr. Ferguson: Who supplies the equipment?

Mr. GILES: I do not know, but I should think that the machinery companies do this. Rural economics is an important subject today. Many farmers would not be able to say what their cost of production was for certain items, and the study of rural economics will be most important in the future because of the present economic situation of primary production.

Mr. McKee: What is the present economic situation of primary production?

Mr. GILES: Any aspect of primary production that does not pay has to be stopped immediately, because a farm cannot afford to carry any activity that is not paying. I wonder how well versed the member for Port Pirie is in this subject: I am sure he cannot tell me much about it, but I can tell him something about it.

Mr. McKee: I doubt that.

Mr. GILES: The state of economics in the rural industry is extremely shaky and, if we do not ensure that primary producers receive every encouragement in the future, we will find that much of our national income will be lost because farmers will not be able to continue. Today, every section of the rural industry is facing serious problems. I am sure that the inclusion of rural economics in an agriculture course is a wise move. Farm engineering is also included in the Urrbrae course, and this subject is vital to the operation of a farm. As many properties are a considerable distance from the nearest township, it is necessary that a farmer have the ability on the spot to repair a machine that breaks down instead of his having to wait perhaps a week for someone to come in to do the necessary work. Other subjects are statistics, English, social studies and, of course, science.

I believe it will be necessary to establish several schools throughout South Australia to cater for this course. Further, we should train students in the environment in which they will eventually work. The 1,200 acres on Eyre Peninsula which has been given to the Government could be established and used to train young farmers. Likewise, land on the upper Murray River could be developed to provide training for young farmers wishing to return to orangeries or vineyards. A college for this purpose could also be established at Struan in the South-East to train young men who are to return to grazing properties.

Although many schools have received Commonwealth grants to re-stock their libraries, I think other areas of education are more in need of assistance at present. Although libraries form a necessary adjunct to our education system, I think we must tackle first the areas most in need, and I do not think that spending vast sums on libraries at present is the wisest move. Bearing in mind present class sizes in certain schools, we should provide more accommodation at those schools and adequate playing areas where necessary.

With the State Library and Children's Library available for use, I think money would be far better spent in other areas, particularly when many schools already have fairly well established libraries.

The Engineering and Water Supply Department expects to spend nearly \$13,416,000 this year. The estimated cost of electricity in pumping on the three major mains to Adelaide, Whyalla and the Lower North is about \$1,280,000. We were fortunate last year that, because of the wet season, only \$722,000 had to be spent on this item. With more good fortune, we could keep that cost down again this year and, indeed, present seasonal indications are that we will not have to pump excessive quantities of water, even though we are pumping at present in the off-peak period. If a reservoir can be used for many years I believe that its initial cost can go far higher, in terms of each 1,000,000 gallons held, than appears possible at present. I think, too, that the Adelaide Hills catchment area should be further examined with a view to establishing additional reservoirs.

Only last week the reservoirs in the Adelaide Hills held about 85 per cent of their total capacity, and I am hoping that, with about 2in. of rain since then, those reservoirs will now be full. I strongly believe that all houses in the metropolitan area should have galvanised iron tanks to store water. Although I have heard how expensive it is to store 1,000 gallons of water in such tanks in the metropolitan area, I do not believe that the figure given is correct. In the case of a house of 20 squares, a 2,000-gallon tank would fill many times over 12 months.

Mr. Venning: If every householder had a rainwater tank, it is stated that this would be equivalent to two additional reservoirs.

Mr. GILES: I thank the member for Rocky River for that interjection. I think we could help our water situation no end by stipulating that all new houses have fresh-water tanks of at least 2,000 gallons capacity. I was interested to hear from the Chief Secretary that prison inmates will be rehabilitated much more effectively than they have been in the past, and I notice that the department's expenditure has been increased by 14 per cent. There will be 13 extra prison officers appointed, four probation officers, and one prisons industry officer. As the cost of keeping a prisoner is extraordinarily high, amounting to \$2,003 a year, the fewer inmates in our prisons the better it will be for the State. If prisoners

show promise of mending their ways, I see no reason why they should not go out and work as trustees in certain areas; indeed, this would help rehabilitate them after they left prison.

At present, there are many vocations to be learnt by young men, as well as older men, who can as a result come out of prison fully qualified in certain fields. I commend the Chief Secretary for his move in extending the work carried out in this regard. Just recently I had the great pleasure of visiting the McNally Training Centre. I spent two hours looking at the facilities used in teaching these young men trades to help them get back on the right track. I saw them learning wood work, metal work, welding, mechanics, gardening, dairying and so on. I was most impressed with what I saw, and I believe that, under the Minister of Social Welfare, this institution is a credit. What is being done there is the right way to rehabilitate young offenders. By this means we have a chance to get these young fellows back on the rails and, if we rehabilitate them, they can be made stable men in the community. I know of the manager of a large company in Adelaide who was once an inmate of this institution. The result shown in the inmates does credit to the officers at McNally.

The provision for the Social Welfare Department has increased by about 11 per cent to almost \$3,694,000, which includes \$3,034,000 for normal departmental services, including the running of homes and institutions. I notice that 16 additional probation and welfare officers are to be appointed in the coming year. I believe that is an important move and I congratulate the Minister on initiating it. I hope that the increase in the Police Force of 40 does not indicate that crime is increasing. However, I am afraid that figures suggest that it is, and most upsetting is the fact that one of the greatest increases in crime is in the under-20 years age group. The importance of the McNally Training Centre cannot be stressed too much.

Again I congratulate the Treasurer. To put aside a sum for the needs that will arise in the next nine or 10 months is a wise move indeed. If this pattern is followed and the Commonwealth Government provides the assistance we expect, the combined deficit will gradually decrease. I trust it will not be long before we do not have a deficit at all.

Mr. HUGHES (Wallaroo): The member for Gumeracha, who has just resumed his seat, said that education was becoming

a political issue, and that seems to be a catch cry among members opposite. A concerted effort is being made by responsible people to encourage the provision of more finance for the better education of our children. However, immediately they feel any pressure on them, Government members resort to the old catch cry that the thing is becoming a political issue. A little later I will prove to the honourable member that education is not becoming a political issue. Early in his explanation of the Budget the Treasurer stated:

For the year 1969-70 the previous year's revenue measures will continue to have their effect—

no truer words have been spoken, because the impact of the Treasurer's Budget last year will continue to affect people in the lower income bracket for many years—

and the Government takes the view that it would be unwarranted to make, at this juncture, any further major increases in taxes.

That highlights what I have said. Last year's Budget had such an effect that its repercussions will continue to be felt for some time. The Treasurer continued:

In the light of continuing increases in costs as well as expanding requirements, equally firm control of expenditures must be continued. However, even more than last year, I am forced to budget in the face of a serious lack of foreknowledge in extensive sectors of the State's expenditures and revenues.

The Treasurer must accept much of the blame for the continuing increases in costs. Had he not imposed the large increases in taxation that he imposed last year, costs would not have continued to rise as he has said they have done, and he would not have needed to make that statement. His Budget explanation continues:

The formal Budget having been constructed in this fashion, the result is a prospective deficiency of some \$2,240,000 in a Budget of about \$328,000,000.

The sum referred to by the Treasurer is the first part of the deficit, for he brought down his Budget in two parts. Actually, if the money the Treasurer has held from the Loan Estimates is considered, the deficit is much greater. Later in his explanation the Treasurer stated:

On such a basis, the combined effect of these two factors—

that is, the two parts of the Budget— could be a net increase in deficit of \$3,200,000, making about \$5,440,000 in all.

What the Treasurer does not say is that he has withheld an additional \$4,000,000 that should be tacked on to this \$5,440,000. If one

considers the sums the Treasurer has brought down in two parts in conjunction with the sum he is withholding, one can say safely that he is estimating for a deficit at the end of this year of about \$10,000,000. I do not find anything wrong with any Government's running a deficit, provided that it spends the money that it has available, but the present Government has not done that. Conveniently it has salted away large sums to try to meet the deficit that it knows it will have later in the year.

Mr. McKee: But the Treasurer admits it should be spent.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, he stated later in his explanation that it should be spent on building schools and hospitals. If it were so spent, it would return to the State, in terms of knowledge acquired by the children, far more than it would achieve by being tucked away to meet an expected deficit. Despite what any honourable member opposite says, there is a crisis in education and a crying need to provide additional school buildings and to replace some existing buildings.

However, the Treasurer is content to put money away, although he has the audacity to tell the people, in his Budget explanation, that in 1969-70 the previous year's revenue measures will continue to have an effect. He is not trying to do anything about that. The effect on the people of which he speaks could be softened if he spent money that he has, so creating more employment and services. I do not take notice of the Dorothy Dixers asked about once a fortnight regarding employment. We all want to see as many people as possible employed and any Government would be pleased to have a large number of the people employed. However, that is no reason for a Government to stack money away in anticipation of the future. Such action is unfair to the State, to the taxpayer and to the children.

Mr. McKee: The money belongs to the taxpayers, and they want it spent.

Mr. HUGHES: Exactly. I could take Government members to many schools in the State that could well do with additional expenditure on providing better buildings. Some schools, erected as temporary buildings many years ago, have become permanent structures. If the Liberal and Country League Government continues to put Loan money away to balance its Budget, the children will continue to suffer.

I do not want to deal further with the Budget as a whole, but wish to refer to some matters affecting the Wallaroo District in particular. The member for Murray (Mr. Wardle) said that part of the road funds should be allocated for providing lookouts and other tourist amenities. I have no argument against assisting councils to promote the tourist trade: over the years I have advocated the provision of additional subsidies for this purpose. However, I have never suggested that the money should be so allocated at the expense of roadworks, yet this is what the member for Murray suggests. He stated:

I should like to refer to taxation on motor vehicles. I noticed from the Auditor-General's Report that there was an excess over last year's receipts of about \$390,000 and a net profit of about \$8,000,000, which, as honourable members would know, is directed to the Highways Department for its use. I want to make again a point I made some months ago in this place: that I hope that some day (and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will agree with me) some portion of these particular funds will be provided to councils to extend tourist amenities. I know that this matter has been discussed over the years by various groups and Governments.

I guess these finances have been jealously guarded by the motoring fraternity in this State, but I believe we have reached the stage when, although councils seem to be able to use all the grants made to them by the Highways Department, the standard of roads has reached the point where the time is now appropriate for some of the funds to be transferred to councils to be used to erect conveniences and amenities for lookouts and so on to add to the many fine tourist attractions the State already has. I throw again into the discussion the figure of 2 per cent, which would represent \$330,000 and which could be used by councils for this purpose.

It seems from that statement that councils in the District of Murray are satisfied that roads in their areas are of such a standard that money can be diverted from roadworks to the provision of lookouts for tourists. That may be the thinking of the honourable member and, if the councils in his district are so satisfied, he ought to tell the Minister of Roads and Transport that no further grants should be made to those councils. Perhaps he has already approached the Minister privately on the matter, but I doubt that.

I assure the honourable member that in the Wallaroo District grain growing is the principal industry and that producers must cross several council boundaries to remove their product from the farm to the receival point. One part of my district is within the boundary of the Corporation of Wallaroo.

If this road were sealed many heavy vehicles would be diverted from travelling directly through the centre of the town and passing the Wallaroo Primary School. It would also enable these vehicles to queue up outside Wallaroo, whereas at present, during the harvest period, for days and nights on end vehicles are queued up on the side of the main road right through Wallaroo. They are a traffic hazard, and the Wallaroo corporation should not have to tolerate this situation in its community. It has made representations to the Minister of Roads and Transport to have this small portion of road sealed to enable the vehicles to by-pass Wallaroo.

Mr. Edwards: This happens at all terminals.

Mr. HUGHES: If it happens in the honourable member's district and there is an alternative route, I suggest that he raise this matter. I would appreciate any assistance he could give me in having this matter rectified. I am sure that, if there are large towns in his district, the people in that area would be pleased if heavy traffic could be diverted from the main sections of them. If the honourable member raises this matter, I hope the Minister will accede to his request. On July 18, I received from the Wallaroo corporation a letter that states:

As directed by the council the following Government grants were applied for by me primarily in respect of grain traffic.

The letter sets out several roads, one of which is the Boundary Road, East Terrace to Alford Road, 76 chains in length, 24ft. in width, the estimated total cost of reforming and sealing of which was \$25,000. Representations were made to the Minister of Roads and Transport through, I presume, the Highways Department or the Secretary of that department for a grant to have this road sealed. However, the response was as follows:

Northern Boundary Road, East Terrace to Alford Road, maintenance, \$1,000.

That was just to maintain the road, yet the council was endeavouring, in fairness to its ratepayers who did not use the road, to divert the traffic at a cost of \$25,000, thereby protecting children as well as adults in Wallaroo, because there is a traffic hazard. I have spoken to police officers, who have been very co-operative in this matter, as have been the farmers wherever they can help, but they are left with no alternative. The letter continues:

Needless to say, the council is highly dissatisfied with this result and in accordance with the wishes of the council I am addressing the Minister for a special grant to have the

Boundary Road sealed and not merely maintained as a dirt road. Your support in this further application would be greatly appreciated.

The following letter was written on the same day to the Minister of Roads and Transport:

I have been directed by the Wallaroo council to draw your attention to the fact that although I made an application for \$25,000 for reforming and sealing Boundary Road from East Terrace to Alford Road, only \$1,000 has been sanctioned for maintenance. Council is very dissatisfied with this, as an earth road is quite inadequate and leads to a large number of trucks passing through the town instead of using this route especially constructed for the grain traffic. It would appreciate an early reconsideration of this matter so that work can be started at an early date before the grain season commences. Furthermore, council considers that under the special circumstances, as local ratepayers never use this route themselves, they should not be called on for a council contribution.

I do not think the Wallaroo corporation should be called on for this contribution, because the ratepayers within its area do not use this section of road, which was laid down for heavy vehicular traffic. The road in its present state would be useless because it would be cut to pieces within a couple of days as a result of heavy vehicles travelling over it. I supported the council in its move, and I wrote the following letter to the Minister of Roads and Transport:

Recently, the Wallaroo corporation made an application for a grant of \$25,000 to re-form and seal the North Wallaroo Boundary Road from East Terrace to Alford Road but was advised that \$1,000 would be made available for maintenance. I live near this road and know that it is becoming more popular with drivers of grain vehicles because it enables them to by-pass the town of Wallaroo and by so doing to avoid a steep down grade from Bagot Street to Owen Terrace, where each vehicle is forced to stop because of a "stop" sign. From there on a long uphill drag to the Wallaroo Primary School is necessary. For your information several producers have approached me on this matter and would prefer to use this road in preference to proceeding through the middle of the town. I would respectively ask that you discuss this matter with your officers and reconsider the application of the corporation.

On September 16, as a result of my representations, I received the following letter from the Minister:

I refer to your letter of July 30, 1969, and advise that in the allocation of grants to councils for 1969-70, full consideration was given to Boundary Road, Wallaroo, and other roads mentioned, in relation to the needs of other roads throughout the State. At this stage no additional funds can be made available for this road.

The letter stated that the corporation had made representations, in its original application, for other grants and that it had placed this request third on its list of priorities. The council did this because it needed money for the three roads, but because the council placed this road third on its list the Minister and his officers considered that the council did not consider it important. This road is extremely important to primary producers in this State. Government members often advocate their support for primary producers but no assistance is available in this genuine case to assist them. The council's revenue will not enable it to seal the road but, if this were done, not only primary producers but also ratepayers of Wallaroo would be assisted, because heavy traffic would not have to proceed through the town and pass the primary school.

The Minister would not reconsider the matter, but he said that should funds become available later in the year Boundary Road would be further considered in conjunction with similar requests for funds throughout the State. No doubt many other roads could have money spent on them. I do not object if members raise matters that would assist primary producers in their districts because these producers contribute so much to the economy of the State in the face of increasing costs. Although I believe that money should be made available for tourism because of the revenue it brings into South Australia, I cannot condone the action of a Government member in advocating the use of a percentage of road funds for tourism. This money could be used to pay for sealing many roads that would assist primary producers.

I am gratified to know that subsidy payments are being made to assist tourism and, although no-one would appreciate that more than the corporation in my district, that corporation would also agree with my representations concerning these roads in its district. The sum of \$25,000 is not large when one considers the benefits that would be received by primary producers and the Wallaroo ratepayers if this road were sealed and by-passed the town. The member for Murray said that he would be parochial about hospitals in his district. I join with him in being parochial: it is the responsibility, particularly of country members, to be parochial when they are seeking improvements to be provided in their districts, and I compliment the honourable member on his representation

made on behalf of his district. No-one could be more parochial about his district than I am but, because of the people we represent, we should be parochial on their behalf. Concerning hospitals, the member for Murray said:

I come now to the provision for hospitals, and I shall be parochial to the degree that I notice that the allocation to the Mannum District Hospital for maintenance has increased by \$1,835. This is a great help in a place with a small population, where it is difficult for the hospital because it has not sufficient beds to make it an economic unit. I believe there is a point where the number of patients, on the one hand, and the amount of income, on the other, make it possible to afford certain qualified and junior staff: this point is about the 24-bed or 25-bed hospital.

Perhaps the honourable member should be aware that when the number of beds in a hospital in a small community nears 25, much trouble can be caused. Each additional bed requires trained staff, and from my 18 years' experience of hospital boards in country areas I know that problems arise when the number of beds reaches that total. Usually, with a 16-bed or 17-bed hospital in a small community, particularly if there is a base hospital nearby, no problems arise. With a 25-bed hospital in a small district, however, difficulties can be experienced in regard to obtaining trained staff. Therefore, I suggest that the honourable member examine this position if he has not already done so, rather than seek to increase hospital accommodation and create difficulties concerning trained staff. He continued:

Added to this, an increase of \$1,220 in the maintenance grant for the hospital at Taillem Bend (the Lower Murray District Hospital). This hospital, too, is to get an additional maintenance grant because it is in much the same circumstances as is the Mannum Hospital.

Although I am pleased about the subsidy payments made to small hospitals in my district, I am far from pleased, as are Moonta people, about the length of time being taken to reply to letters I have written seeking information about maintenance for country hospitals. To show how patient I have been in this matter, I refer to correspondence that has taken place between me and the Moonta Jubilee Hospital Incorporated and the Chief Secretary's Department. On March 18 last, the Secretary of the hospital wrote to me as follows:

Dear Mr. Hughes, At last night's board meeting I was instructed to write to you and ask if you could please advise as to what requirements are necessary for a hospital such as ours to become partly subsidized. Also, what would be the procedure in subsidizing, and what would the advantages be? Thanking you in anticipation . . .

Acknowledging that letter, I told the Secretary that the matter was receiving my attention. I wrote to the Chief Secretary's Department, as follows:

I have been requested by the Board of the Moonta Jubilee Hospital Incorporated to advise as to what requirements are necessary for a hospital such as Moonta to become partly subsidized by the Government, what would be the procedure in subsidizing and what would the advantages be. It would be appreciated if you would set out in detail replies to the above queries to enable me to advise the Moonta Hospital Board accordingly.

I did not receive a reply to that letter, and on June 17 last the Secretary of the Moonta Hospital wrote to me again, as follows:

Dear Mr. Hughes, At last night's board meeting I was asked if I had heard further from you regarding the letter I wrote to you on March 18, 1969. I did receive one letter where you advised that you would have to make further inquiries. Members of the board were wondering if you had been able to procure the information required by this time. Thanking you in anticipation . . .

Having replied to that letter, I then wrote the Chief Secretary on June 18, as follows:

Dear Mr. Minister, On April 10, 1969, I wrote to you seeking information on behalf of the Moonta Jubilee Hospital. The board has again made representations to me, and in view of this further approach, it would be appreciated if the information I was seeking could be made available to me.

On July 3, I received the following letter from the Chief Secretary's Department:

Dear Sir, I am directed by the honourable Chief Secretary to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 18 seeking information on behalf of the Moonta Jubilee Hospital. The initial representations are still receiving consideration, and I am to inform you that a report on this matter will be expedited.

As I initially wrote to the Chief Secretary's Department on April 10, I do not know just how the department interprets the word "expedited". Having again written to the department on June 18, I still do not understand the reason for the delay and, as yet, I have not been given the information which I have been seeking on behalf of the Moonta Hospital board. Obviously, a suitable reply is long overdue. Has the Hospitals Department something to hide in this matter? Has it created a precedent whereby it has given to one hospital and is afraid that, if it gives to another, the position will snowball? It should not be necessary for any member of this place to write to a department twice in seeking information, but that is what I have had to do here.

Mr. Freebairn: Ring the Under Secretary when you have any trouble in future!

Mr. HUGHES: All right; I will now inform the Chief Secretary that I will direct my letters in future to the Parliamentary Under Secretary, the member for Light, who has suggested that I have been sending my letters to the wrong place and that, to get a satisfactory reply for the Moonta Hospital, I am to forward a letter to the Parliamentary Under Secretary. I hope the Chief Secretary and the Hospitals Department will accept this procedure, because it is exactly what the honourable member has suggested, and it will be interesting to see now what reply I receive. If the Moonta Jubilee Hospital is not eligible for a subsidy grant, why is there secrecy about it? Surely, if it is not eligible, there should merely be a letter from the department telling me so, so that I can then tell the hospital that it is not eligible.

However, if the hospital is eligible for a subsidy, I think a letter should have been forthcoming long before now. The board is entitled to have this information, which it has sought in the proper way through the elected representative. I hope that what I have said this afternoon will be brought to the notice of the Hospitals Department and that a satisfactory reply will now be forthcoming. It is a simple administrative matter. Surely there must be a guide laid down so that it can be decided whether a hospital is entitled to assistance. I want to make it clear that I have no quarrel with the department in regard to the subsidies being made available for equipment and extensions, because both the small hospitals in my district have received considerable assistance through such subsidies. However, bad relationships are created between the department and the hospital boards when it takes so long to provide the information the boards are seeking. As members know, the Wallaroo District lends itself admirably to decentralization because of its deep sea port, which provides potential for great industrial activity.

Mr. Venning: Are they still bagging wheat at Wallaroo?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes; they are bagging wheat when it is required for finishing off a ship and when a ship requires only bagged wheat. The Minister of Roads and Transport thinks, as I do, that Wallaroo has potential for great industrial expansion. Last November he released the following press statement, headed "Wallaroo 'potential for great industrial expansion'":

The Minister of Roads and Transport, Mr. Murray Hill, said this week that Wallaroo, with its deep sea port, had the potential for great industrial expansion. "It is vital that such a district should be linked directly with Sydney and eastern seaboard," he added.

Mr. Hill was commenting on agreement by the State Government to an independent feasibility study into the need for standard gauge rail lines within the State linking with a line to the east. The study is to be conducted by consultants approved by both the Federal and State Governments.

Mr. Hill said that in view of proposals to the Commonwealth over financial assistance for building standard gauge lines there was every reason to feel confident that it would bring the State closer to agreement with the Commonwealth.

He said that the State considered the next programme of rail standardization should be an integrated plan to include a standard gauge connection from Wallaroo through Snowtown to Brinkworth, to connect with the Broken Hill standard gauge project at Gladstone. This proposal would bring substantial benefits to Wallaroo and surrounding areas.

It would also be in the best interest of the State to have a duplication of the line from Adelaide to Virginia, the standard gauge line continuing from Virginia to Port Pirie, and then two subsequent lines to the north of the main east-west trunk connection, one coming down from Quorn through Wilmington to Gladstone and the other coming from Ororoo to Peterborough.

Mr. Hill said that the Commonwealth Government did not accept these proposals at present. He said the delay in a decision was a disappointment to the Government, to all South Australians, and to commerce and industry in the State, because of the importance for our products to be shipped on a common line to the eastern seaboard to markets for our secondary production. Mr. Hill said that information from the feasibility study was expected to be available within a period of six months.

After the Minister released this statement the Wallaroo people became excited, because they thought that at last a Minister of the Crown was advocating that Wallaroo should become a hive of industry. However, they are now becoming a little sceptical about the press release, because it is 10 months since it was made and they have heard nothing more about the matter. They now think that it was only kite-flying by the Minister; if further progress had been made he would have told the people.

All members know that it is absolutely necessary for the railway line from Adelaide to Port Pirie to be standardized. The people in my district hope that the line to Wallaroo will be standardized at the same time as the Port Pirie line; if it is not, the area will be out on a limb. So, when the Minister

is advocating financial assistance for standardizing the line from Adelaide to Port Pirie, I hope he will advocate financial assistance for standardizing the line to Wallaroo, too. On September 18 the President of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce, in his presidential address to the chamber, referred to the great need for standard gauge rail links between Adelaide and Port Pirie and between Sydney and Perth; he said:

When I reported last year on this occasion, many important topics were discussed, including such items as water in South Australia, the rail link between Adelaide and Port Pirie, the M.A.T.S. plan and common time with the Eastern States, to mention just a few. It is disappointing in retrospect to find that very little progress has been made with most of these important matters.

Not only am I (and the people I represent) disappointed because further progress has not been made but apparently the President of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce is disappointed, too. He continued:

The Federal Government recently announced that approval had been given for a feasibility study to be made of the Adelaide-Port Pirie rail link with the standard gauge line now operating between Sydney and Perth.

We ask everyone involved to accept the urgency of building this line so that goods moving to and from Adelaide will not be affected by any break of gauge. A standard gauge link from Adelaide to Port Pirie would mean that manufacturers in Adelaide could load direct to Sydney, Perth and Brisbane on the standard gauge line, and direct to Melbourne on the broad gauge line.

South Australia relies to a very large extent on interstate trade, and a very high proportion of our production is exported to other parts of Australia. It is therefore of utmost importance that we achieve direct rail links with all other capital cities as soon as possible.

I entirely agree with the President that these lines should be standardized as soon as possible. If the link with Wallaroo is standardized at the same time it will become the hive of industry that the Minister visualized.

At the start of my speech I said I would deal with education. I referred to the remarks of the member for Gumeracha, who said that education was being made a political issue. If there is any truth in that statement at all (and I very much doubt it), the Government must accept the blame because, from the very time a Dorothy Dixier was asked by a Government back-bencher in connection with the Australian Labor Party conference in Adelaide, this thing has never ceased to appear in print. Therefore, the member for Gumeracha should say who is playing politics. I assure the

committee that the A.L.P. is not playing politics. The member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning) is shaking his head. He set himself up as an authority on this matter, but he did not deceive the teachers in his district by the statement he made in the House or by the statement he subsequently made in the press, as I shall bring to the notice of members. He said there was no crisis, but the teachers disagreed.

Mr. Freebairn: How long do you think the crisis has existed?

Mr. HUGHES: I am not referring to that: I am referring to what is happening at present. Members opposite have tried to ridicule teachers by saying that what has happened is concerned with the Labor Party.

Mr. McAnaney: That's not true.

Mr. HUGHES: One member on the Government side said this was so.

Mr. Freebairn: What about young Harris?

Mr. HUGHES: Never mind about him: I am referring now to young Rodda.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order! When referring to a member of this House, will the honourable member please give that member his proper title?

Mr. HUGHES: You, Sir, would not know to whom I am referring when I refer to young Rodda.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The honourable member replied to an interjection and referred to another honourable member.

Mr. HUGHES: Surely you are not going to allow members to make interjections and not allow me to protect myself.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can protect himself in the right way by referring to other members by their proper title.

Mr. HUGHES: When I refer to the member for Victoria I will refer to him as such. I suppose members opposite would say that even the *News* is making education a political issue. My experience is that newspapers in this State generally go along with the Government. However, regarding the education dilemma, the leading article in the *News* of June 30 states:

Is it any longer possible to deny there is a crisis in education, that authorities are faced with a dilemma? Weekend talks in Adelaide made it plain that nobody—least of all teachers—was happy about the job our schools are able to do. Politicians were heckled for their views on the vexed problems involved. Experts at

the conference pointed out with much forthrightness how small a sum pro rata Australia as a nation was spending on education, and how little priority it was given. Undoubtedly, some of the bitterness evident came from the unhappy debate over State aid, but the discontent goes deeper than this. Surely it is not possible that all those associated with the weekend conference were deluded; something clearly is going wrong. All our earlier sins of omission are now coming home to roost.

That appeared in a newspaper that usually gives prominence to members opposite. The member for Rocky River shook his head when I said that the blame for playing politics rested entirely with the Government. When I said that I would deal with him, the honourable member slunk back, and he has now conveniently slipped out of the Chamber. He knew I was going to refer to what he said in this place and in a speech referred to in the *Advertiser*.

Mr. McAnaney: He was bored.

Mr. HUGHES: Some people do not like to hear the truth and the honourable member is one of them.

Mr. McAnaney: I'll never hear it from you.

Mr. HUGHES: The honourable member will now hear some truths from teachers.

Mr. McAnaney: Is this factual?

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, otherwise these people would never have put their names to it. They are not afraid of the truth and the honourable member should not be afraid either. I now quote the following letter to the Editor headed "Completely erroneous view of feelings":

In the *Advertiser* of August 21, 1969, Mr. H. Venning (L.C.P.) commented on a recent meeting of the North-Eastern Teachers Association held at Jamestown on Monday, August 18, and drew the conclusion that "I don't consider there is any crisis in education. Generally speaking, teachers are well satisfied with the wages they are receiving". The executive of the North-Eastern Teachers Association wishes to point out at no stage were these opinions those of the teachers present at that meeting and that we are at a loss to see how Mr. Venning could have come to these conclusions, for they represent a completely erroneous view of the feelings expressed by the 55 teachers who attended.

Mr. Broomhill: He might have made an honest mistake, though.

Mr. Clark: He might have been acting under Divine guidance.

Mr. HUGHES: No, he made a big blue in this place when he said what the teachers have referred to. These teachers got their backs up because he misrepresented them, and

they felt it was time they did something about it. He tried to cover up his tracks by making a press statement, but the matter has come up again.

Mr. Hudson: It is a straight case of misrepresentation.

Mr. HUGHES: Of course it is. If we read the previous debate, we shall find that the honourable member attended the meeting, and these are the findings he came back with. The article continues:

We unhesitatingly affirm the fact that the teachers of this association believe that there is a crisis in education, and in support of this we gave unanimous approval at this meeting of the following: we deplore the lack of effort and initiative shown by both State and Federal Governments in meeting the urgent needs of education. We also believe that non-metropolitan school students and their teachers have particular problems which could be alleviated by a more thoughtful and dynamic approach to education from their elected representatives in Parliament at both State and Federal levels.

We urge these members to do their utmost to ensure that education for the country student is not inferior to that of the city student, and that education for all children be improved by prompt and effective measures being taken to overcome, amongst many other things, the lack of—

Then they go on to give 10 reasons. There is no need for me to go through them, but there was misrepresentation relating to 55 teachers. One may get away with it in relation to a small school of one, two or three teachers but not in relation to about 55 teachers. We were told by the member for Gumeracha that education was being made a political issue. I pointed out earlier that honourable members opposite, and not members on this side of the Chamber, were to blame.

Mr. Hudson: And the member for Victoria is one of the worst offenders.

Mr. HUGHES: Members opposite are trying to get out from underneath, but we will not let them.

Mr. Rodda: You do not need any prodding.

Mr. HUGHES: I do not need any prodding on this matter. I can give the honourable member figures on the teaching profession that will astound him. When I was speaking on this matter in the debate on the Loan Estimates, the member for Victoria kept on trying to ridicule our teachers. This has been noted: I have a letter from which it appears that the teachers are not very happy about his remarks. Members opposite know the position only too well and are trying to draw a red herring across the trail to lead some of us

away, but it is a bit too late for that. They started a war and now they do not know how to stop it.

Another two teachers wrote an article on September 17 to a paper, referring to the crisis in education, in which they said:

Surely there is crisis. In reference to A. Cleland's letter (*Advertiser*, September 4), I would like to point out that this gentleman lacks basic information concerning the present situation in education in South Australia. To say that S.A.I.T. publicity campaign is politically motivated is sheer nonsense.

I agree with that statement: it is sheer nonsense and has been denied by the S.A.I.T. The institute does not want it to be a political issue, and neither do I. My concern, and that of the teachers, is to give the children the best we can. I am not laying all the financial blame at the door of this Government: the Commonwealth Government must accept its share of the responsibility. I have mentioned this matter because it was initiated by members opposite. This will teach members opposite not to ask Dorothy Dixers of Ministers in the future. The Government has created a monster over which it has no control.

Mr. Hudson: Which Minister do you think is the biggest monster?

Mr. HUGHES: That would be difficult to say. Cabinet is supposed to be united in its deliberations, and what affects one Minister must be levelled at other Ministers. One Minister is in charge of a department and, if that department is not functioning properly, must be prepared to accept criticism. When we were in Government we were told that by the present Ministers. The letter continues:

To say that S.A.I.T. publicity campaign is politically motivated is sheer nonsense. This is just a "red herring" introduced by certain Parliamentarians—

such as the member for Light, the member for Victoria, the member for Gumeracha and the member for Rocky River—

and those like Mr. Cleland to discredit the campaign.

That is all they are trying to do—to draw a red herring across the trail in face of the campaign of the S.A.I.T., which is doing these things not politically but because it has the welfare of the children at heart. Members on both sides should be applauding what it is doing; we should not have one side supporting it and the other side trying to ridicule it. The letter continues:

The campaign is supported by 12,000 teachers whose politics vary considerably. They are united in their pursuit of a "better deal for education"; not their politics. Mr. Cleland

"cannot agree that there is a crisis in education in South Australia." He uses comparisons with other States as the basic criteria for justifying this statement. The other States are in crisis as well. Comparison proves little except to show the Australian education is in desperate need of immediate improvement.

When 96 per cent of this State's teaching profession expresses grave concern over the unfulfilled needs of South Australian education; when 6,000 teachers are willing to strike; when 1,000 teachers are needed to bring class sizes down to a desirable maximum; when more than 92 per cent of the State's students are in overcrowded classrooms; when teachers are resigning at an increasing rate; when there is a desperate shortage of teachers and when the State's teachers are willing to spend \$25,000 on a publicity campaign to parents—surely there is a crisis!

Of course there is a crisis. The writers of that letter have given the reasons for it, and they point out that, if teachers can spend \$25,000 out of their pockets, there must be room for improvement in education. Although members should applaud the stand that teachers are taking, certain members have tried to discredit them. It is wrong for elected representatives of the people to take this attitude toward those who are prepared to give their time and money so that the children of this State can become better citizens. A letter written to a newspaper on September 17, under the heading "Teachers are on the children's side", states:

If, as Andrew Cleland (*Advertiser*, September 3) suggests, the teachers' education campaign becomes a political football, it will not be the teachers' fault. We are not interested in criticism of past actions and attitudes of the Hall Government, the Dunstan Government, or, indeed, of the Playford Government. We are vitally concerned with the present; and the less time wasted in mutual recrimination and accusation the better. The education pot has been simmering for a long time; now it is boiling over. The sensitivity of politicians must not be allowed to obscure basic issues. It is not quite clear from Mr. Cleland's letter whose side he is on. The teachers are on the children's side.

Mr. Rodda: And who is on the Lord's side?

Mr. HUGHES: We are getting down to a low standard when we bring that subject into this debate. It would be better if the member for Victoria studied some things in connection with that question. The member for Onkaparinga in this debate said:

I believe that children are not getting a fair go from the parents. We tend to tell our children that they must have a good education before they can obtain a reasonable job, but we leave it at that and do not encourage them to study or offer them help with their study.

Apparently, the honourable member was speaking for himself. I have had three boys who went through school. I have done all that I

could to encourage them and to help them with their studies, and I take exception to the fact that the honourable member wrote down the parents of this State, of whom I believe almost 100 per cent would try to assist their children in whatever way they could in order to make the future better for them and to enable them to be better citizens. The honourable member also said:

Many parents were brought up in a more strict world, and so will not dictate to their children but let them have their own way. This has led to many of our problems, but I believe that the next generation will not do this, because they will have the opposite attitude, and this will be of great benefit to this country.

I disagree entirely with him, and to support my attitude I quote from the Institute of Public Affairs *Review*, from which the member for Murray quoted last week. I have great respect for the integrity and judgment of the member for Murray: I have known him for many years. If he considers there is something worth while in a journal, he will bring it before the Committee, and I congratulate him on doing so. I quote from an article headed "Is Society sick?" as follows:

There is, it is true, a great deal wrong with today's world; but not everything is wrong. Indeed, modern society may not be as "sick" as many people would have us believe. Youth, with no experience of the past, assesses the present against an ideal of what things ought to be. Age, on the other hand, measures the present by conditions of which it has had firsthand knowledge. Here is to be found the true reason for the "generation gap".

If one measures the present against the past, and not against a theoretical ideal, modern Western society appears to have many admirable features. There is, for instance, far more freedom of expression, far more freedom to say what one thinks, than there ever was. There is probably more tolerance by authority of youthful protests and idiosyncracies of behaviour than, say, 30 or 40 years ago. At no previous time has there been greater concern for the less fortunate, more interest in so-called "poverty", a firmer resolve to alleviate suffering and distress. Courts and the police are exhibiting much more concern for defendants than was customary in the past. There is much more emphasis on reform and rehabilitation of criminals and far less on punitive measures. Who can doubt, for instance, that "capital punishment", even for the most heinous of crimes, is on the way out?

An affluent society is able to turn its attention from the mere business of providing all its members with a decent standard of living to the solution of problems of which the non-affluent society was, at best, only vaguely aware, and often even blissfully unaware. Australia, along with other democ-

racies, is concerning itself with civil liberties far more than it ever did. The nation has, belatedly it is true, become conscious that there is an "Aboriginal problem", and the determination is widespread that something should be done to correct a situation which does no credit to Australians.

After reading that article I am sure that no-one could agree with what the member for Onkaparinga said. Surely what I have quoted illustrates that never before in the history of the world has mankind taken such an interest in his fellow man, and I think the member for Onkaparinga should have second thoughts about what he said in this connection.

Mr. EDWARDS (Eyre): In supporting the first line, I commend the Treasurer for doing such a good job in bringing in this balanced Budget with the money he has had available to him.

Mr. Hudson: Oh, come off it!

Mr. EDWARDS: If members opposite do not like the truth, they will have to lump it, because I am going to speak the truth.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. EDWARDS: If the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) thinks he is the only one who speaks the truth, he has another think coming. As far as I can ascertain, almost every department is to receive more than it received in last year's Budget.

Mr. Hudson: That is inflation.

Mr. EDWARDS: I could tell the honourable member quite a bit about something that is inflationary, but that is not in the Budget.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. EDWARDS: I, too, wish to say something about education. The Government and members on this side have been attacked by Opposition members, who have the gall to imply that we could not care what happens regarding the education of our children or other people's children.

Mr. Clark: No-one has said that.

Mr. EDWARDS: This is a lot of poppycock: we care much more for the children of this State than do members opposite.

Mr. Clark: Can you prove that?

Mr. EDWARDS: Much rubbish has been spoken by members opposite. The South Australian Institute of Teachers has launched a campaign to improve conditions in education

in this State. There is nothing wrong with that. We on this side also hope to improve the standards in education, and given time and more finance we can certainly do that without any problem.

Mr. McKee: Your Party has had over 30 years in which to do it.

Mr. EDWARDS: The Opposition has lined up with this campaign, trying to get every political advantage it can from it. A few weeks ago this Government was faced with a no-confidence motion by members opposite with regard to school buildings, but the Minister of Education, the Premier and the Treasurer very successfully put the case for the Government.

Mr. Clark: That is just not true; they did not know what we were talking about.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. EDWARDS: It is true: they put the case to the Opposition in such a way that they had the Leader and his baffle-gabbers sitting up and taking notice. Members of the Opposition pretty smartly tried to intimidate the Minister of Education when she was speaking; they kept raising points of order that the Minister was not speaking to the line that they were debating.

Mr. Broomhill: And what was the ruling?

Mr. EDWARDS: How snide can one get in this game of politics? The people of Eyre Peninsula have always been grateful to the teachers of this State, for they appreciate what those people are doing in teaching the children and giving them guidance that they will need for their future. These dedicated people have gone out into country districts.

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

Mr. EDWARDS: The Treasurer's statement is a worthy document, put together most precisely by a man who well and truly knows his job. We in the country look forward to living under improved conditions and to having new and better school buildings as soon as finance allows. I did not notice any great upsurge in the number of new Government buildings and schools erected or in the lowering of class sizes when the Labor Party was in office previously, yet members opposite suddenly expect our Minister of Education to change the situation overnight; but, as everyone knows, that cannot be done.

Mr. Langley: We couldn't do it overnight in our three years, either.

Mr. McKee: What about the 30 years before that?

Mr. EDWARDS: Members opposite refer to their three years in office—

Mr. McKee: I'm talking about the Playford era.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. EDWARDS: If the member for Port Pirie were to be quiet for a little while, I might get a word in.

Mr. McKee: What about when Playford—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Port Pirie will have a chance to speak later.

Mr. EDWARDS: The member for Port Pirie was not here for the whole of the 30 years prior to his Party's coming into office, and I was not, either.

Mr. McKee: I was here for some of them.

Mr. EDWARDS: During the Labor Government's term, it did not do much for education, either. Every Opposition speaker, starting from the Leader, while blaming the Hall Government for not spending sufficient on education, has quickly suggested that the Commonwealth Government should provide more finance. Perhaps the Commonwealth Government should do so; indeed, I hope it will. We, as well as Labor members, realize that we cannot overcome the situation on our own. But if we cannot obtain more money from the Commonwealth Government, how can we solve all the problems that exist? I am sure that the Treasurer has done all that is humanly possible with the finance at his disposal to improve the education position through this Budget. Labor is having a bob each way, and that is easy to do; anyone can have a bob each way, but it does not get him far.

The Labor Party is trying to blame the Commonwealth Government for the present situation, but really it is looking to the future, so that if it happens to come into office by fair means or foul it will be able to say to the South Australian Teachers Institute and parent bodies, "Don't blame us; it is that awful tight-fisted Commonwealth Government that is the trouble. We're not to blame." I wish the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) were here, because I have a few titbits for him; however, I will come back to him later. I did not intend to deal with this point at this stage, but it does not make much difference; members opposite can see only one crisis (the crisis in education) but I can set a far greater crisis: the crisis in primary industry. This crisis is just around the corner and we must prevent it from becoming too serious.

Greater efforts should be made to promote the export of wheat to our near neighbours and those a little farther afield. We should export Cornflakes, Vita Brits, Willie Weeties and other prepared foods, because these people would have no trouble in learning how to eat them. Many people in nearby countries do not know how to make wheat into flour and they do not know how to make flour into bread and other foods. However, if we exported Cornflakes, Willie Weeties, etc., they would benefit greatly. Several brands of biscuit are made from wheat, and the people could eat them, but if wheat is sent in its raw state it often goes to waste because the people do not know how to process it.

Mr. Virgo: What about "Snap, Crackle and Pop"?

Mr. EDWARDS: I do not think the honourable member knows the difference between wheat and rice, because "Snap, Crackle and Pop" is made from rice. As part of the Colombo Plan, we should teach the people in nearby countries how to process the wheat that is exported to them. In the meantime we should export prepared foods to them so that they can acquire a taste for them. It does not matter which way this is done providing these people use some of the wheat we have to spare.

I have also been told by people who know that we could boost our oat trade greatly if we segregated the oats in a way similar to the way in which we segregate hard and soft wheats, keeping the feed grade oats for use in Australia for feeding stock. I understand that countries such as Germany and Holland would willingly buy the oats we produce if the milling grade could be separated from the feed grade. These countries would pay a higher premium than is received at present. If this were done we would not need to grow as much wheat, because a greater quantity of oats could be grown.

As the member for Glenelg has returned to the Chamber, I will come back to the education question. When he spoke the member for Glenelg was soon up to his usual tactics of twisting figures and trying to make something out of what was not there. The honourable member tried to prove that the Government was swinging the lead. We all know the honourable member is keen on economics, and that makes me doubly suspicious of him. With his twisting of figures

and false reports, he gives a false impression of things. He gave figures for tertiary education and set out to prove that the sum provided was diminishing. He tried to tell us that money was being used that was not there. He said that an increase of only \$71,000 was to be made available from all the sums set out. Figures on this matter appear at page 46 of the Auditor-General's Report.

Mr. Hudson: That was for this coming financial year, but that has nothing to do with the Auditor-General's Report: those figures are in the Estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. EDWARDS: According to the honourable member, this means that the total is \$10,735,000. However, the Treasurer states in his explanation that the Government will spend \$14,497,000, which is a totally different sum from that which the member for Glenelg tried to lead us to believe would be spent on education.

Mr. Hudson: That sum was for universities.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. EDWARDS: Much has been said about Mr. Harris and the South Australian Institute of Teachers. Several members opposite have got hot under the collar about this reference. It makes me most indignant that Opposition members can be rude and insulting to members on this side and yet, when some rough stuff is handed back at them, they do not like it. But what of Mr. Harris, anyway? He is a member of the Labor Party, a Socialist, who tried to get into this Parliament at the last election. Most certainly he will try again. Members opposite are proud to be called Socialists but the way the members for Edwardstown, Wallaroo and Gawler have taken exception to the mention of Mr. Harris's name would lead one to think that membership of their Party involved a dirty word. However, I hope it is not so. When we look at the member for Frome, the ex-L.C.L. supporter, I am sure—

Mr. Clark: You might mention the Chief Secretary, too, while you are about it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If members do not cease interjecting, I shall name a member.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am sure it is a good Party to belong to; otherwise, the member for Frome would not be there. When the member for Edwardstown spoke, I was disappointed in him, because I thought at one time he would be a good debater in this Chamber, but he has

fallen considerably in my estimation. He should take stock of his own speeches before rubbishing those of members on this side, and especially the member for Onkaparinga, who made an excellent speech about the Budget, straight to the point. There was nothing filthy about it at all. The filthy part came when the member for Edwardstown started his speech and made his remarks about the member for Onkaparinga. However, the only harm that the honourable member has done is in respect of his own reputation when he spoke about members on this side of the Chamber.

Mr. Virgo: You are talking about the member for Onkaparinga?

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Edwardstown will cease interjecting.

Mr. EDWARDS: I agree with what the member for Onkaparinga said about the new teachers college to be built at Murray Park at a cost of \$3,100,000 to accommodate 800 students; also, his reference to the college being used by working two shifts a day. I see no reason why, if we have to spend this sum on one college, it cannot be used by working two shifts. Members of the Opposition asked how we would get the teachers. It would not make any difference to the teachers. If we are to spend \$3,100,000 to build another college, we must have the teachers for that college. Why cannot the same teachers be used to work a second shift? Many people work an early shift and others a late shift and no harm is done to either group. The staffing for this extra shift would be no different and we would save the taxpayers \$3,100,000 by not having to build a second school. This scheme has much merit. That \$3,100,000 would provide money for many schools throughout the State and would do more to further the interests of education. Members opposite seem to think that we just pick money off the trees and that it is easy to get. Opposition members should remember that Rome was not built in a day, and that we are doing our best with the money at present available for education. The member for Edwardstown seems to forget that the countries that he spoke about, including Canada and others, are much older than we are and before long we will be streets ahead with our education system.

Mr. Virgo: How do you know?

Mr. EDWARDS: I am looking into the future. These countries have had more than a head start on us, but by the time we are their age we will have solved many of our

education problems. In what industry or occupation can people be employed and work for only 207 days a year, as is done in the teaching profession? Teachers are well paid for the work they do, but I am sure that the provision of ancillary staff, which will undertake clerical duties in the larger schools, will be a help to teachers. Without these clerical duties, teachers will have more time to teach in the larger schools at Cleve and other towns in the Eyre District, and headmasters will also have more time to help teach. I am familiar with the schools in my area, and I know the problems that exist. I have received only one complaint from teachers at such a school about their problems, and I am sure that had the matter been explained more thoroughly to them they would not have complained.

Many of our teachers, I understand from what I have heard on the grapevine, do not agree with what the member for Glenelg said. I think they are satisfied, but there are always troublemakers in every profession. I believe that much of the trouble is caused by outside influences and does not emanate from the teaching profession. The teaching profession is a noble one, and I thank teachers for what they are doing in teaching our children throughout the State. They carry out a noble profession and work long hours whilst they are working. I trust that they will carry on in this valuable profession and not be influenced by the trouble that is being caused from outside their profession. Mr. Walker and Mr. White are two of the people concerned with education in this State, and I am proud to be associated with them and know that they are doing a great job for education. Also, they are of great assistance to the Minister of Education, who knows the work they do in this field. I hope that these people, and others like them, will continue their good job, keep up the good work, and keep going as long as possible.

All good things come to those who wait and, with a balanced Budget such as the one we have, we must be patient for this year, but I am sure that more money will be available for education next year. Mr. Chairman, I do not know where Mr. Harris fits into the institute's campaign. There is nothing wrong with his being associated with this campaign, but his political background must give him a bit more of a slant to the left. Furthermore, the member for Edwardstown proudly held up the press advertisement supporting his campaign.

My grapevine tells me that this advertising agency preparing and placing the advertisements for the institute is none other than Hansen Rubensohn-McCann Erickson, of 50 Grenfell Street, Adelaide. The other interesting fact is that that firm happens to be the advertising agent for the great Australian Labor Party.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawn: I'm glad you said the "great Australian Labor Party".

Mr. Virgo: They are the greatest.

Mr. EDWARDS: I am glad the member for Edwardstown thinks so. Of course, it may be only coincidence that these two factions are related, but I just wonder how much influence Mr. Harris would have had in this. Perhaps the member for Edwardstown got a good cut out of the campaign by way of special rates.

It was also of interest to note that at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting held in this Chamber recently when the Hon. R. R. Loveday was selected to be the delegate to represent us at the conference overseas, Mr. Harris appeared in the Speaker's gallery to have a look at the proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not think that has anything to do with the debate.

Mr. Clark: He is a citizen of South Australia, the same as the honourable member.

Mr. EDWARDS: I understand that on that occasion he was quickly told by one of the messengers that it was a private meeting and that no-one was allowed in the gallery.

The Hon. C. D. Hutchens: He was not told by a messenger: he was told by me.

Mr. EDWARDS: These observations are only small things, but they have a certain relation to politics and it does little good for members opposite to go screaming about someone who is practising the noble art of preparing himself to enter this Chamber. Good luck to him if he gets here, but if he wants to get here he will have to work hard to get within these worthy walls.

Mr. Virgo: What's worthy about them?

Mr. EDWARDS: I will now get down to some other points of interest concerning my district and also other parts of the State.

Mr. Lawn: This is a shocking speech to be made in Parliament.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: He is doing all right.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Virgo: Harris nearly knocked the Minister off last time. He will be sorry when Harris knocks him off next time.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Edwardstown must restrain himself.

Mr. Virgo: The Minister is only sour grapes. He knows Harris nearly knocked him off last time.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member for Edwardstown persists in disregarding the authority of the Chair, I will have to act in another manner.

Mr. EDWARDS: A fortnight ago, when travelling through the country towards my home, I called to see a friend who was the agent for a stock firm; and while I was talking to him a man came into the shop and asked the person who was second in command about putting his land on the market at, he thought, about \$90 an acre. However, this gentleman was told that he would not have the ghost of a chance of getting \$90 an acre and that if he was not prepared to put the land on the market at \$70 an acre he would be wasting his time and money. He was told that one of the reasons for this was the wheat quota applying to his property. Indeed, wheat quotas cause considerable fluctuations in the price of land, and if a farm does not have a good quota the owner has no hope of selling it. I refer also to new country that is being cleared on which there is a high rental.

Mr. McKee: You raised this matter 12 months ago.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Port Pirie can have his say later.

Mr. EDWARDS: I hope that the Minister will examine the position regarding rentals because, together with high prices for land and other rising costs, some men will not be able to stay on their properties. I hope that before this time next year there will be a big drop in land tax.

Mr. Burdon: You're in for a shock.

Mr. EDWARDS: The honourable member may be in for one if he does not keep quiet. I was pleased to hear on the news this morning that the Minister of Agriculture had said that extra silos were being built for this coming harvest. Although there are a few in my own district, a big silo is planned for Ceduna for the 1970-71 harvest.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is getting on to the matter of silos. Unless he links his remarks with the Budget in some way or other, I think that the construction of silos is outside the scope of the Budget.

Mr. EDWARDS: I intended to link up my remarks with primary industries, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If the honourable member can link up his remarks with something said by the Treasurer in the Budget speech or with some line in the Estimates, I will permit him to refer to the construction of silos.

Mr. EDWARDS: This comes under primary industry, does it not, Sir?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, many things do which cannot be introduced into this debate.

Mr. EDWARDS: I wished only to make a passing reference to the matter. The only other thing I wanted to point out was the amount of time lost in having to wait during harvest to deliver grain to silos. If there were a system of deliveries from certain areas on certain days, the loss of time could be reduced. Much money would be saved if they did not have to wait for a full day to unload their wheat. On the second Friday of the Royal Show I met two men who had returned from Western Australia on the day before; one was a truck driver and the other a private car owner. Both said that the road was in terrible condition and that it should be repaired. I said that I hoped something would be done soon, because the Minister of Roads and Transport would shortly be going to Eucla to inspect the road. The truck driver did not call it a highway: he said it was the "Devil's low-way". He said that one could nearly bury a truck in some of the holes.

The member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) referred to road maintenance. I do not know whether he knows much about it but, if he were connected with the land or with the trucking business, he would know much about it. It is a contentious matter in my area. Many truck drivers are on the verge of bankruptcy because of the road maintenance tax. I hope that something will soon be done about this matter, because these men have been in this business for over 30 years.

Mr. Hudson: I pointed out the bankruptcy rate shown in the Auditor-General's Report. That suggests that it is a matter of great concern.

Mr. EDWARDS: I appreciate that. If carriers could be registered for a small fee and they were allowed to carry goods (instead of casual farmers carrying goods for a few months) many carriers would not be going broke. One carrier commenced business 18 months ago at Wudinna, and at that time another carrier in the town ceased business because the new man cut prices. The new carrier lasted for 18 months: when he had to replace the tyres on his truck, his business folded up. The company from which he bought the truck was left with it, and his road maintenance charges were unpaid. If truck drivers are not registered, this problem will crop up time and again.

I admire the member for Glenelg for saying that he supports fluoridation. I take a fluoride tablet every night, and more people would do so if they realized the value of fluoride, which improves not only teeth but also bone structure. If an old person falls over and breaks a limb, doctors use fluoride to improve his bone structure.

Mr. Broomhill: Do you know that fluoride tablets are of no value whatever after a person turns 40 years of age?

Mr. EDWARDS: The honourable member is wrong if he thinks that. I started taking tablets on the advice of my dentist. Honourable members know how a dentist's drill screams. A doctor told my dentist that, if he took fluoride tablets, it would help him with the noise problem of his drill. He took them and, after six months, he did not have any trouble with the noise from the drill. These tablets do work. Farmers who drive tractors, and truck drivers, could benefit from taking fluoride tablets every day. It has been proved that men working under these conditions who take fluoride tablets are helped immensely. Apparently the tablets stop two or three bones in the ear from shrinking.

Mr. McKee: Do you think the member for Glenelg should take them?

Mr. EDWARDS: The honourable member could safely take them, as he has complained about the noise of wheels on trains. People who work in industry where there is any loud noise could benefit from taking these tablets. This is not just my opinion but the opinion of senior dentists, who have told me about this. It is said that it is not much use putting fluoride in water because most people do not drink tap water, and that people who like to drink water but do not want to drink

fluoridated water can erect a 2,000-gallon tank and have all the drinking water they want. However, if fluoride is added to the water supply, it will be consumed by animals and be used to water vegetables. Therefore, it will pass on to people through vegetables and meat. I hope that, if fluoride is not added to the water soon, people will heed my advice and take these fluoride tablets, because it will benefit them, regardless of what they think of it. It is a good thing and is in no way harmful. A concentration of 50 parts to a million will help broken bones to heal more quickly than any other method of bone-healing will. I say there is nothing wrong with fluoride, after hearing doctors and dentists speak about it. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. McKEE (Port Pirie): We have been entertained by an enlightening speech from the member for Eyre. I feel sorry only because I shall not be able to entertain honourable members as ably as he has done. I really enjoyed his speech, some parts of which had merit. When speaking of education, he referred to the member for Glenelg. He said that, if the L.C.L. was given a chance, it would do plenty for education. He said he was doubly suspicious of the member for Glenelg because he was an educated man, an economist who dabbled in figures. I do not know what sort of figures he was referring to—perhaps the member for Glenelg would explain that. I leave his remark to the imagination of members.

It will not take me long to refer to the Budget, because there is little in it. The Treasurer battled under great difficulties when presenting it. He went to great lengths to try to justify a Budget which, in my opinion and in the opinion of the people of this State, is, without any shadow of doubt, the worst Budget presented in this State for over three decades. The member for Edwardstown described it well when he said it was a "do nothing Budget".

Mr. Venning: You do not want to quote him.

Mr. McKEE: If the member for Rocky River is able to quote anything from this Budget that will do the things the present Premier promised to do prior to the last election, I shall be surprised. We have had one good season and it looks as though this coming season will be even better. Only today it was said that the yield from cereal crops would be increased by 2,000,000 bushels this season. So

we have one good season behind us and a better one coming—yet we have this Budget that has shocked the people of the State. It is a most distressing Budget. I doubt whether there has been anything like it since the middle of the depression.

Members opposite are always talking about prosperity, industrial development and everybody being employed. The working wage in this State is not sufficient for a man to be able to feed and clothe his family and pay his rent without his wife being forced to go to work. I believe in full employment and consider that everyone should be able to work, but I do not think that a mother of a young family should be forced to go to work to supplement the husband's wages.

This Budget will be a shock to the people of this State. Primary producers, people working in industry, and business people generally are all critical of it. As the member for Edwardstown has said, it is a "do nothing Budget", and this is how people have received it and how they are talking about it. A constituent of the member for Light wrote a letter to the Editor of the *Advertiser*. This man probably voted for the honourable member but he would be a sad and disillusioned man and much wiser after having done so. His letter states:

The way things are going primary producers will be producing more and more and getting less and less with a greater and greater build up of so-called surpluses. The way the country is being run today would be laughable if it was not down-right criminal.

The letter was signed by L. W. Welkie of Brinkworth.

Mr. Freebairn: That's not in my district.

Mr. Virgo: It's in the Premier's district.

Mr. McKEE: The member for Light is lucky. I have received letters from many farmers who are dissatisfied at present, and I could quote some from staunch Liberals. The Treasurer said that he was forced to budget in the face of a serious lack of foreknowledge. I agree with that statement, as would every honourable member and the people of this State. I am sorry that the Speaker is not present: he could well be blamed for this whole calamity. We have blamed the Commonwealth Government, and I know that it should take some of the blame, but I think that the member for Ridley, who is now the Speaker, is responsible for the calamity now confronting the people. He appointed the Hall Government, and it was the greatest mistake of his life. However, he

did not finish there; he has continued to support the Hall Government in every measure it has introduced that has affected the economy and shaken the confidence of the people of this State.

Mr. Virgo: Are you saying that he is a bit naive?

Mr. McKEE: We can say what we like about him, because I do not think it would worry him much. People put the blame fairly and squarely in the lap of the member for Ridley. The honourable member now claims that he must maintain the *status quo*.

Mr. Virgo: He didn't do that after the last election, did he?

Mr. McKEE: No; he went downhill: he forgot about it, and he has continued to forget. He did not maintain the *status quo* when he voted for a taxation increase and for closing railway lines. He is prepared to allow railways to be closed and to allow private enterprise to compete with the people's transport. He supported charges to mental patients, and he also supported the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study plan, which I suppose is the most unpopular matter ever dealt with in this State. I think the member for Edwardstown would agree with that statement. The member for Ridley has a string of convictions against him for supporting unpopular legislation introduced by an equally unpopular minority Government. I do not think the people of Ridley will re-elect the honourable member to this Chamber.

Mr. Edwards: That is only your opinion.

Mr. McKEE: While the member for Ridley claims to be making a bit of a come-back over the Chowilla dam, I do not think his late run on that matter will save him.

Mr. Edwards: That's only your opinion.

Mr. McKEE: The member for Eyre can have his opinion, but he is the only one who has it. Government members who have spoken in this debate have congratulated the Treasurer on presenting this Budget. Well, I suppose he is worthy of some praise, but not for what is contained in the Budget. However, I give him full marks for having the heart, pluck and courage to get up and present it; he is obviously a very brave man. I believe that when the Premier selected the member for Flinders as Treasurer he made a wise decision, because the honourable member obviously has plenty of courage. Unlike the members for Eyre, Stirling and Onkaparinga, the Treasurer had the courage to

place the blame where it belongs, with the Government's "happy family" in Canberra. When Mr. Gorton came to South Australia he said, "If you vote Liberal in South Australia you will join the happy family in Canberra and we will look after you." Although the people did not fall for it, possibly the member for Ridley did, because he appointed this Government.

The Treasurer said that he blamed the Commonwealth Government for its unfair attitude towards this State, and the Premier has said the same thing. However, the Government back-benchers then tried to take the blame off the Commonwealth Government. Well, they have confused me and they have confused the people. Who is to blame? Members opposite know that there is a crisis in education and another crisis in the wheat industry. Also, every department is crying out for money. We are told that there is not enough money for highways, and now the Government is going to close down the railways. Whom are we to blame? Is it the fault of the Hall Government? Or is it the fault of the Commonwealth Government? Who will accept the blame? The member for Eyre agrees that something is wrong and that there is a crisis in education.

Mr. Clark: He didn't even quibble about it.

Mr. McKEE: No; in fact, he is suspicious of educated people, but that has always been the case with the Liberal Government, anyhow. I will give the Treasurer this much credit: he said that he was not getting sufficient money from the Commonwealth Government. However, in the next breath he said that he would reserve about \$4,000,000 for a rainy day. Perhaps he had in mind the High Court judgment that was soon to be delivered in Western Australia, upsetting stamp duties revenue. The Treasurer said he would have preferred to spend the \$4,000,000 on schools and hospitals.

Mr. Jennings: Yes, but a fortnight before, that \$4,000,000 didn't exist.

Mr. McKEE: That is true. Of course, one can be over-cautious, and I think this applies to the situation in which this Government finds itself. Possibly the Government has heard from Canberra that it must be careful. I know that over there they do not have a great regard for the Premier. Indeed, the last message I got on the grapevine (and "grapevine" is the word often used by the member for Eyre) was that the Premier had been referred to as the prefect; not the head prefect but just an ordinary one.

Mr. Edwards: You're getting over your depth now.

Mr. McKEE: No, I am not. The \$4,000,000 belongs to the taxpayers of this State and should be spent on providing services for them. Prior to the last election, the Premier raced about the State saying the sort of things that appear in the pamphlet to which members have referred previously and which contains statements such as the one supposedly made by a 29-year-old housewife, as follows: "I don't like the Labor Government, because they didn't mention before the election the putting up of land tax, and then blaming the other Party for its mistakes." She may have been a barmaid in the Adelaide Club for all I know. I believe that, for the amount of tax paid by the Australian taxpayer, the services provided for him are possibly inferior to those provided in most other parts of the world. Of course, this is evident in every department one looks at, particularly the Education Department. At present there are appalling problems in connection with education in this State. The member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) said that the Government was economising on education. The member for Eyre (Mr. Edwards) said that, if the Liberal Government had time, it would do plenty for education. I should like to know what it has been doing for the last 32 years! The Labor Government was in power for only three years, two of which were the driest on record, so most of the money spent in those years was used for drought relief to help the primary producers. Nevertheless, South Australia made more progress in health and education during those years than it did under Liberal Governments over the last 32 years. No-one can deny this: it is on record. This is nothing new: whenever Liberal Governments have been in power anywhere they have never paid much attention to education, because capitalists do not like the people to be too educated.

Mr. Jennings: That is why they get such slobes here.

Mr. McKEE: The member for Eyre said that we should not educate sons of farmers too much because, if they are sent to a university, they may not go back to the farm.

Mr. Edwards: You will not find that in any of my speeches.

Mr. McKEE: My remarks about education are borne out by the campaign now being waged by the South Australian Institute of Teachers. The sum that teachers are spending on this campaign out of their own pockets

shows that they are really concerned and dedicated people, and it should bring home to the Government its responsibility. If it cannot finance the education programme that the teachers are advocating, it should make every effort to obtain help from the Commonwealth Government. I realize that the finance necessary to meet the needs of education is possibly beyond the States' resources because they have let the matter go so long that they cannot cope with it and must appeal to the Commonwealth Government. On the other hand, the Premier has been globe trotting; in fact, I think he has been around the world twice in the short time he has been in office. I understand he has told potential migrants all over the world about the wonderful educational opportunities that South Australia has to offer. I can only say that these people must receive a terrible shock when they arrive here.

I do not find much in the Budget to talk about. It is a gloomy and depressing Budget, and I find nothing in it that will fulfil the promises made by the Premier before the election. As I have said, he has dashed madly around the world telling fairy tales to people to get them to come here. Before the election he dashed madly around the State saying that a Liberal and Country League Government would stimulate prosperity and reduce taxation, but his Government has done the opposite. He claimed that the Labour Government had upset the basic principles of taxation and that, if a Liberal and Country League Government was elected, it would reduce taxation and repair the State's financial position, restoring confidence by showing the State's ability to get back to prosperity. What the people want to know is why he increased taxation instead of reducing it, as he had promised.

Mr. Rodda: To pay your debts.

Mr. McKEE: The honourable member has followed the proceedings of Parliament over the last few years and knows the situation. He knew the deal the State Labor Government was receiving from the Commonwealth Government, yet he always claimed that we were at fault and that the Commonwealth Government was giving us plenty. When he speaks, I shall be interested to hear whom he blames for his Government's position, for the Premier has issued a warning about the financial outlook.

Mr. Rodda: We are going straight down the middle of the road.

Mr. McKEE: Yes, and there is no way for the Government to return; it has hit rock

bottom, as can be seen in headlines such as "State Acts on Wheat", "Mannum to be Killed: Industries Closing" and so on and in letters to the editor. I am sure the honourable member has read these articles and letters and wishes he could burn the newspapers.

Mr. Langley: Challenge them to have an election.

Mr. McKEE: The Government would not be game to be in that. The people want to know why the Premier has not carried out his promises. They want to know why he has not built Chowilla dam after saying he would do so. He really conned people on the river, for they believed that he would build the dam. He accused the Labor Government of increasing fees in all departments and said that, as soon as he got into power, he would reduce taxation. He also said that prices were too high. He said that Labor had put up rates and prices and had hit the little man, and that he would reduce those rates and prices. However, the first thing he did on assuming office was to abolish price control and close down the Prices Branch. He increased hospital charges, water rates, tram and bus fares, and everything else he was able to get at. He even increased third party insurance—whatever for? He increased stamp duties. The Premier when at Naracoorte said, "There has been a lot of opposition to these stamp duties". I'll say there has! There has been opposition at Melrose in the district of the member for Rocky River, and in fact in every part of his district.

Mr. Venning: They opposed your increase in rail freights on wheat, too.

Mr. McKEE: But they will not use the line. The Premier is closing down the people's railways.

Mr. Freebairn: Hear, hear! Quick smart, too.

Mr. McKEE: Note that down. The Government has increased taxation, the cost of living and every other possible impost. In fact, it has introduced two new ones. The Premier has done exactly the opposite to what he promised the people he would do prior to the last election, and the people are now convinced (and this will be brought home to the L.C.L. at the next election, whenever it occurs; I do not care when it occurs—tomorrow, next week, next year or in two or three years' time) that the Government is finished. The people have had the Government. The Premier went around this State

telling people outright lies. I have been to the South-East and to the North and wherever I go, and particularly amongst the primary producers, people say, "We had no idea we were going to fall for these stamp duties and third party insurance and every other increase that has affected us so severely."

Mr. Venning: What would you have done to improve the economy of the State?

Mr. McKEE: The financial Bills we were putting up were defeated in the Upper House. You would have done better by passing them because you took over one that affected your supporters more severely than the stamp duties and succession duties Bills. I am speaking to a gloomy bunch of Government members about a gloomy Budget, so I will sit down.

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): I am sure some members will be interested in what I have to say. I was shocked to hear the member for Port Pirie say that capitalism is not interested in education. What arrant nonsense!

Mr. Langley: Are you interested in capitalism or Socialism?

Mr. RODDA: I am in the middle of the road: the L.C.L. is interested in all people, including those represented by the honourable member who has just resumed his seat. We have a great love for the people of Port Pirie.

Mr. Hurst: You're only interested in keeping the people down.

Mr. RODDA: Popycock! Our interest in all the people is the reason why we are on the Treasury benches and why we shall be after the next election.

Mr. McKee: You may not have Tommy after the next election.

Mr. RODDA: After the next election some of us may not be around. A document coming into this Chamber later this week may be bad for me. The only salvation I have is that the dear ladies in the district of Dundas will support me if I have to join Sir Henry Bolte.

Mr. Clark: Are there enough of them?

Mr. RODDA: For the edification of the learned Dr. Cyclops, yes. The Treasurer introduced a Budget that will do justice to the future of this State in the light of the conditions with which he has had to contend, and despite what the member for Port Pirie said about the taxes that were introduced, we all know that they were introduced to give balance to the financial affairs of this State. Education is a topic about which much has been said in

this debate. As the member for Eyre said so concisely, truthfully and succinctly, Government members are interested in education. I should hate it to be thought that we are not interested in education, although we are only simple farmers.

Mr. Hudson: Simple-minded farmers.

Mr. RODDA: The member for Glenelg is apt to cast aspersions on people on this side. He took the Government to task, but the member for Eyre, referring to those remarks, drew attention to misconstruction by the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson).

Mr. Hudson: I did not put on any misconstruction at all. The fact remains that you have used increased Commonwealth aid to reduce the extent of your own commitments. That is what you have done.

Mr. RODDA: The member for Glenelg is not accustomed to cutting his suit according to his cloth, although that is what the poor simple-minded farmers have to do. That is why they stay in the industry, although I do not know how much longer they will stay in it, because the margin is getting almost non-existent.

Mr. Langley: Whose fault is that?

Mr. Hudson: You are trying to get increased aid from the Commonwealth Government, but you should not use the aid you are getting to reduce your commitment.

Mr. RODDA: I considered what the member for Glenelg said in this debate, especially his comparisons with recent financial years and his praise of his own Government. I think he said (and I stand to be corrected) that the increase in the allocation to tertiary education in the 1969-70 period was relatively small: the honourable member said that .7 per cent was the increase.

Mr. Hudson: That was the increase in our financial commitment. The overall increase is larger, but most of it is provided by the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. RODDA: I think I understand what the member for Glenelg said, although I am only a rural hick from the sticks. I think the honourable member is producing progaganda, and the member for Eyre said that the member for Glenelg was fairly good at twisting figures. The honourable member knows that he is fond of describing people like myself as simple-minded farmers.

Mr. Hudson: That is the first time I have used that phrase.

Mr. RODDA: The honourable member accused us of fiddling the books. I think he made that statement to my distinguished friend, the accountant, the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney). The member for Glenelg well knows that the programmes for university and advanced education colleges are determined for a three-year period.

Mr. Hudson: But they are subject to the influence of the State Government.

Mr. RODDA: But they are determined for a three-year period. I think the important difference is that the institutions have recurrent budgets in calendar years, not financial years. The member for Glenelg did not say this when he was speaking. The capital programmes are planned for three-year periods, and because of peaks in capital programmes and movements in academic salaries within any specific triennium, and with adjustments in capital grants delayed until enabling legislation is passed, there may be serious distortion of provisions in certain financial years. I think in all fairness that this is probably what has happened on this occasion to which the honourable member has referred. The Treasurer could well expect to receive shortly Commonwealth contributions of closely \$400,000 towards increased costs of the South Australian Institute of Technology dating from July 1, 1967.

Mr. Hudson: Where did you get that word "closely" from?

Mr. RODDA: It could be less or more.

Mr. Hudson: I know of only one person who uses that word.

Mr. RODDA: The honourable member's influence appears in many places around the town, and perhaps mine does too; perhaps we know too much about one another.

Mr. Hudson: I was just wondering who wrote that sentence.

Mr. RODDA: Pending the passing of the Commonwealth legislation, costs have been met by advances from State funds. We have to settle our accounts on the due date. Although this may not be important to some people, it is important to the Government. This delayed Commonwealth contribution to be received this year has the apparent effect of reducing the net State contributions. This is what the honourable member for Glenelg castigated the people on this side about for so doing. The only way in which a reliable picture of State support of tertiary education programmes can be formed is to consider the

provisions determined over the three-year periods, not to take one in isolation and bend it to suit one's argument.

The member for Glenelg referred specifically to the University of Adelaide, the Flinders University and the Institute of Technology. The recommendations of the appropriate Commonwealth committee, supported by the Commonwealth and State Governments, were for programmes of \$39,100,000 in 1964-66, and originally for \$52,400,000 in 1967-69. That is to say, at the beginning of the 1967-69 triennium an increase of about \$13,300,000 was approved. But later, because of the increased academic salaries and other costs, the total programmes were increased by \$3,400,000 to \$55,800,000. This total increase in the 1967-69 triennium was agreed at \$16,700,000.

Mr. Hudson: And that is running at over 40 per cent.

Mr. RODDA: The honourable member is perhaps a little better at figures than I am.

Mr. Broomhill: Can't you work that out?

Mr. RODDA: Not when I have the member for Glenelg to do it for me. For the 1970-72 triennium (this is the one the member for Glenelg was castigating the Government about) the Treasurer and his Government have agreed to find the State's share of an increase of \$19,400,000 for the three institutions.

Mr. Hudson: And that is a percentage increase of less than 33.3 per cent, so the percentage increase has declined.

Mr. RODDA: It is a little better than the .7 per cent that the member for Glenelg was taking in isolation in one year. He was looking at his Government's performance with hindsight. This will make the total programmes \$75,200,000. If increases in academic salaries are approved, we shall be called on to support even higher totals. Over the whole of this period the general sharing arrangement has remained unchanged with the Commonwealth providing half of the funds for capital works and 35 per cent of the funds for recurrent needs. The honourable member said that the average increase in the budgetary provision for education was 11 per cent during each year of the A.L.P. Government's administration, and that it had been reduced by this Government to 9½ per cent. The reason for the apparent lesser percentage increase lies in the treatment of awards. The increases calculated for previous years are based on actual payments, and—

Mr. Broomhill: You're admitting there is a lesser percentage increase.

Mr. RODDA: The honourable member is looking at an accomplished fact, but he is only on the threshold. The member for Glenelg is artful at pulling the wool over people's eyes.

Mr. Hudson: Are you saying the teachers will get higher salaries this year?

Mr. RODDA: The honourable member knows they will.

Mr. Hudson: As an officer of the Government and Parliamentary Under Secretary, you agree that they will get increases?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order!

Mr. RODDA: These increases are calculated from previous years and are based on actual payments; and the actual payments reflect the cost of awards given during the year. It is a long-standing practice to present to Parliament Estimates, based on known salary and wage awards and determinations, and to provide especially for variations in awards which become effective after the presentation of the Budget. The proposals concerning the Education Department for 1969-70 are accordingly framed and have regard to known rates of pay. If increases are granted as a result of a determination by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, the Teachers Salaries Board, or other competent authorities, increased funds will be made available, and the actual pay to be eventually recorded would be increased accordingly. Likewise, the percentage increase for the department would then be above the 9½ per cent, about which the honourable member was complaining.

Mr. Broomhill: Would you explain that a little more carefully?

Mr. RODDA: I have said what I intended to say on the matter. If the Opposition wants a little more information, it can look in the same place as I looked.

Mr. Broomhill: Where was that?

Mr. RODDA: The provocateurs opposite are perhaps kidding themselves that they are among the great sleuths. We have heard in recent weeks much about the campaign being waged by the teachers institute. We do not deny that the institute has every right to raise matters that it regards as important to the community; and, indeed, teaching is important to the community. The member for Gawler asked me a question at one stage during his speech. Although he was kind enough to tell me that he would ask the question, I was called to the phone at the time and did not hear what he said. However, I was told that the effect of it

was that certain people had taken exception to what I was alleged to have said about Mr. Harris.

Mr. Broomhill: You did say it, too.

Mr. RODDA: We have heard much in recent weeks about what members opposite refer to as a crisis in education. It is fashionable to have crises: there is one in the wheat industry now. The member for Chaffey (Mr. Arnold) tells me there is one in the citrus industry, too. I do not know what crisis is concerning the member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning). It is remarkable that the crisis in education has arisen in the last 12 months! When Opposition members sat on the Government benches we did not hear this cry, and the public was not then subjected to the doubtful form of entertainment now being shown on television.

When I referred to this matter by interjection, some members, particularly the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo), were critical. The member for Gawler (Mr. Clark) handed out some fatherly advice, and the member for Wallaroo (Mr. Hughes) was involved, too. They accused me of being political. Of course, this is a political matter organized in an attempt to discredit the Government.

Mr. Hudson: Don't you give the teachers any credit for sincerity in wanting to improve conditions in education today?

Mr. RODDA: Some members opposite have criticized me for mentioning Mr. Harris as one of the organizers of the present campaign being financed by the South Australian Institute of Teachers. I do not think I have ever claimed the campaign was financed by the Australian Labor Party. However, there is no doubt that Mr. Harris was the A.L.P. candidate for the Alexandra District at the last election.

Mr. Jennings: What is wrong with that?

Mr. RODDA: There is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. Hudson: You are trying to imply there is something wrong with it, because that is the basis of your attack on him.

Mr. RODDA: If Mr. Harris never experiences an attack worse than mine, he has nothing to fear. If he is a member of this House after the next election he will be able to defend himself.

Mr. Clark: But he is not here now.

Mr. RODDA: There is no doubt that Mr. Harris is still an active member of the A.L.P. Do members opposite deny that?

Mr. Langley: No.

Mr. Hudson: He has every right to be.

Mr. RODDA: There is no doubt that his actions as an employee of the South Australian Institute of Teachers are influenced by his strong political beliefs and ambitions. He would be an unusual man if he was not influenced in this way. I do not think that the people are being hoodwinked by this campaign: thinking people fully realize that the present Government is using the maximum amount of Government funds for education, having regard to its overall commitments for essential services. The suit must be cut according to the cloth. The current campaign organized by Mr. Harris on behalf of the Institute of Teachers urges the people to contact their local member of Parliament. Not one constituent in my district has contacted me as a result of this campaign.

Mr. Broomhill: But how many letters have you received?

Mr. RODDA: I have received some letters. I do not mean to imply that people in the Victoria District have no need for further educational facilities. There is a priority list, and the people in my district and the people of South Australia generally recognize that the Government is doing everything possible to meet the needs of education and to improve current conditions in the schools. The ultimate desire for a Utopian education system cannot be met overnight by anyone.

Mr. Broomhill: You'll be out on your ear next trip.

Mr. RODDA: If that happens, a Labor Government will be in the same boat as the present Government finds itself now. Despite the twisting of figures and manipulation of the member for Glenelg to which the member for Eyre referred, a Labor Government would still have these difficulties. I have had comments from a person who lives on Eyre Peninsula and who is apparently an avid reader of *Hansard*. He noted some comments I had made by interjection when the member for Wallaroo was speaking during the Loan Estimate debate. This correspondent, a teacher, writing in support of the campaign being executed by Mr. Harris, said:

Teachers who, by the very nature of the bureaucratic Education Department, are a servile lot, have finally become militant.

Mr. Langley: What's wrong with that?

Mr. Hudson: Isn't that partly the point, and doesn't it show that the teachers have not been prompted into this?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order!

Mr. RODDA: What nonsense to describe the Education Department as a bureaucratic organization. The Director-General of Education and all the senior officers of the department are persons who have trained as teachers, have had years of experience as teachers, and are obviously sympathetic to the needs of teachers, as well as to the needs of education generally in this State. Furthermore, the department is being administered by a Minister who has spared no effort to understand and, as far as possible, remedy the problems within the department. My correspondent from Eyre Peninsula suggested that "by Mrs. Steele's disclaiming any educational crisis and political sniping such as you indulged in, you only add to teachers' discontent". I know too many responsible teachers within the education service in South Australia to believe that most teachers believe this to be the position.

I have great respect for most teachers in South Australia. The present attempt to hoodwink the public by the use of the slogan "crisis in education" is not supported by many of the active teachers in the State. I have the highest regard for the President of the South Australian Institute of Teachers (Mr. White). I have seen him in my district, and he is extremely interested in education and is doing all he can.

Mr. Broomhill: He doesn't agree with what you are saying.

Mr. RODDA: I would hate to see what would happen if the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) was the publicity officer for the teachers' institute. Then we would see the old Glenelg guernsey rushing madly through the field.

Mr. Clark: You have to have qualifications to get that job—qualifications the member for Light hasn't got.

Mr. RODDA: I bow to the learned observation of the member for Gawler.

Mr. Clark: You despise any form of learning, as you've shown by interjection and in your speech.

Mr. RODDA: That comment is out of character for the honourable member.

Mr. Clark: But it's true.

Mr. RODDA: It is something he wants to believe. People on this side are doing all they can for education and are keeping everything in balance, including the Railways Department.

Mr. Hudson: Its losses have gone up by \$4,000,000.

Mr. RODDA: Of course they have. We saw a spectacle last Thursday afternoon—

Mr. Broomhill: You were the ones who created the spectacle as the result of what happened here.

Mr. RODDA: I did not find the trains any more comfortable to ride in when the Hon. Frank Walsh was Premier.

Mr. Hudson: But they did not make a big loss.

Mr. RODDA: For a special reason.

Mr. Hudson: What special reason?

Mr. RODDA: Because the Labor Government did not spend any money on track maintenance.

Mr. Clark: They went to the pack in three years.

Mr. RODDA: The member for Mount Gambier was involved in the really big crash that occurred there; he is lucky to be here after sailing up over 35 tons of superphosphate in a sleeper. That is something I do not envy him. It is by good luck rather than by good management that I missed that derailment. One gets the impression that it is not safe travelling in a sleeper. Many important things are dealt with in this Budget. I commend the Treasurer for the manner in which he has presented it and in which he is conducting the financial affairs of this State. I have much pleasure in supporting the first line.

Mr. BURDON (Mount Gambier) moved: That progress be reported.

Motion negatived.

Mr. BURDON: In supporting this Budget, first let me say that I have been amazed and staggered by some of the remarks made by members opposite about education. I am disappointed at the attitude taken by the member for Victoria in his attack on the publicity agent of the S.A.I.T. I believe this is quite out of character and that this Committee should deplore its being raised in this debate. This individual is an employee of the S.A.I.T. and as such was working under its instructions. Whatever his political affiliations, they are no concern of the S.A.I.T.; nor are the political beliefs of any other members of the teaching profession, who have their own beliefs about which political Party they wish to support. It ill behoves members of the Government to berate an employee of the S.A.I.T.

and try to imply to the people of South Australia that the campaign being waged by the institute has a political flavour.

Mr. Freebairn: You know that he applied for the job so that he could use it for political advantage; it is well known by the people.

Mr. Hudson: The honourable member should withdraw that remark.

Mr. Freebairn: I will say it in my speech.

Mr. Clark: That is the sort of rot we expect from the honourable member.

Mr. BURDON: The remark of the member for Light clearly indicates his thinking in this matter. I cannot apologize to the member for Light for what I say.

Mr. Freebairn: How much do you know?

Mr. Clark: What do you know?

Mr. Corcoran: What he doesn't know he makes up.

Mr. Freebairn: I have had three conversations with the President of the institute, so that I have some knowledge.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order! Interjections are out of order. The honourable member for Mount Gambier.

Mr. BURDON: I am deeply disappointed in the remarks made by and the attitude of the member for Victoria about education, and his attitude towards an employee of the South Australian Institute of Teachers. This criticism also applies to the member for Eyre. For these members to say that there is no crisis in education and claim that they have not received letters from teachers, from parent organizations, and from other organizations in the State, is a bare-faced lie, because I have received letters from women interested in education, from mothers of children, and from teachers who have held meetings in my district. I quote from a letter I received in the last day or so, as follows:

I am taking the trouble to write to you to lend my support to the current agitation for more money for education. I have a daughter who is a teacher, as well as children still at school, so I am in the position of being able to see both sides of the problem, and I do know there is a very real crisis in education.

Mr. Rodda: Who wrote this?

Mr. BURDON: I have the letter here, and if the honourable member wishes to look at it he is welcome to do so, but the name of the writer may shock him. The letter continues:

I have worked for 15 years at canteens and mothers and welfare clubs, and well know the tremendous amount of work done and the money raised by these bodies, but we can't just keep up.

The letter further states:

I will not go into great detail about this "hot" issue of education, but I agree with everything that is being said about it. I do not actually blame the Minister of Education.

What member on this side has actually blamed the Minister of Education?

Mr. Hudson: It is the Government's responsibility.

Mr. BURDON: Of course, and the Minister of Education has to administer the moneys made available to her by the Government through the Treasury Department, and also the moneys that may be received from the Commonwealth Government. The letter continues:

I feel the Commonwealth Government should do more to finance South Australia, especially in the education field. I have written to Dr. Forbes also to tell him so, that is how strongly I feel about it. I am, Yours faithfully.

I quote from another letter, as follows:

As a trained teacher and a mother of six I should like to enlist your support for the proposals of the South Australian Institute of Teachers. We desperately need more money spent on education.

After continuing with a reference to the new high school at Mount Gambier, which will be full by the commencement of the 1970 school year, the letter states:

I have no doubt that the staffing ratio for 1970 will again be inadequate in numbers and in qualifications.

There is also a reference to the money the Commonwealth Government is spending on education in the Australian Capital Territory. Those are the two letters I received recently from parents of children in my district. I have also received letters from practically every school in my district supported by the signatures of every member of the staff, and I was rather taken aback by the member for Victoria's remark that he had not received any such representations. The member for Victoria would be aware of the campaign being conducted in the newspapers and on radio and television by the South Australian Institute of Teachers. I would not know why the honourable member did not receive any telephone calls over the weekend, for I received a number of telephone calls supporting the campaign, and I was happy to be able to inform the callers that we on this side supported it. I am rather surprised that the honourable member is not also supporting it in this Chamber. Some of these calls came from the heart of the honourable member's own district.

Mr. Rodda: I think they were from the Millicent District.

Mr. BURDON: I did not receive even one call from that district. However, I received some from the Victoria District, and I received many from my district. People can come to their own conclusions regarding the statements made by the member for Victoria in this Chamber tonight.

Mr. Hurst: He was too busy writing his speech to answer telephone calls.

Mr. BURDON: It would have been advantageous for him if he had answered the telephone instead of preparing his speech. The honourable member, probably for political reasons, is trying to imply that this is not a serious campaign. However, I think he should be warned that it is a serious campaign and that most of the people in South Australia are solidly behind it. I am rather amazed that members opposite can speak as they have done on this subject.

I think that the subject of education has had a pretty good airing in this Chamber. I repeat that I fully support the campaign that is being waged. This matter must be brought to the attention of the Commonwealth Government, the source from which finance must be made available for the education systems of South Australia and the other States. Each State has its own education system and is jealous to maintain that system, but what is the reason for this? In my opinion, this situation has serious drawbacks and, although certain educationists may not agree, I think that the systems could well be made uniform so that students travelling from State to State would not be adversely affected through having to

cope with the various methods at present used and so that there could be an interchange of teachers throughout Australia. I believe that this would benefit not only the teaching profession but also the students.

I remind Government members that during the term of the Labor Government they repeatedly accused our Government of taxing the people too much and of not spending sufficient within the State. However, not long after the present Government came into office in April, 1968, it presented a Budget that increased taxation in South Australia to the tune of 20 per cent, raising an additional \$8,000,000 or \$9,000,000. That is contrary to what the Premier previously told the people of South Australia his Party would do if it were elected to office; in fact, he said not one word about this. Having secured Government by this means, the Treasurer in his first Budget whacked on taxation—

Mr. Broomhill: Vicious!

Mr. BURDON: It was described in the newspapers as being vicious, and the people of South Australia used other adjectives as well. The Treasurer said, when explaining this Budget, that various State taxes had been increased. I have received some letters from the Director of the South-East Chamber of Commerce on this matter. I have also received a letter from the Corporation of the City of Mount Gambier.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.36 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 24, at 2 p.m.