

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, September 25, 1969.

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

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, intimated his assent to the Bill.

PETITIONS: ABORTION LEGISLATION

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER presented a petition signed by 177 persons stating that the signatories, being 16 years of age or older, were deeply convinced that the human baby began its life no later than the time of implantation of the fertilized ovum in its mother's womb (that is, six to eight days after conception), that any direct intervention to take away its life was a violation of its right to live, and that honourable members, having the responsibility to govern this State, should protect the rights of innocent individuals, particularly the helpless. The petition also stated that the unborn child was the most innocent and most in need of the protection of our laws whenever its life was in danger. The signatories realized that abortions were performed in public hospitals in this State, in circumstances claimed to necessitate it on account of the life of the pregnant woman. The petitioners prayed that the House of Assembly would not amend the law to extend the grounds on which a woman might seek an abortion but that, if honourable members considered that the law should be amended, such amendment should not extend beyond a codification that might permit current practice.

Mr. RYAN presented a similar petition signed by 676 parishioners of Mount Carmel Church, Alberton, and members of the Mount Carmel Primary School Parents and Friends Association.

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In recent days there have been press reports about the Juvenile Court Magistrate's allowing parents to impose corporal punishment on their children and, upon their doing so, his releasing of these children on bonds. I know that this is not the first time that this has happened in the Juvenile Court: some years ago some magistrates followed this course. This is a course of

which I strongly disapprove. The encouragement by the Juvenile Court of the practice of parents' thrashing their children as a condition, or an implied condition, of their release is, in effect, the imposition by the court of corporal punishment, and I do not consider that that punishment should be used in any way as a judicial imposition of punishment. The Juvenile Courts Act makes no provision for imposing corporal punishment and in this manner, as in the use of the remand procedure as a penalty, the magistrate is enlarging on the penalties that the Parliament has provided as remedies under that Act. I would be loath to introduce in the House measures that were specifically designed against these procedures, but I suggest that the use of remedies that have obviously not been provided by Parliament is simply a back-door method of doing something that is not normally approved in relation to juveniles, and I would hope that action would be taken to see that this ceased. Will the Attorney-General take this matter up with the magistrate?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: These matters have been exercising my mind for some time and I intend to discuss them with the Juvenile Court Magistrate (Mr. Wright). I point out (and I know the Leader is aware of this) that I cannot interfere directly in any matter in which a magistrate imposes a penalty: this is his exercise of his judicial responsibility and discretion. However, I intend to discuss these matters with the magistrate in due course.

INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION

Mr. GILES: On Wednesday members received a booklet describing certain aspects of South Australia's primary and secondary industry, and I commend the Premier for the preparation of this publication. Can he say whether it will be distributed widely in other parts of Australia and possibly in selected areas overseas to promote South Australia and induce further industries to come here?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am pleased that the honourable member has referred to this booklet, because the Premier's Department is proud of it. It has a wide look at the whole of South Australia and emphasizes the importance of primary and secondary industries here in a high-quality technical way. This booklet is an example of this State's fine publishing and printing works. What is more to the point is that we are sending thousands of copies to the South Australian Agent-General in London and we will be sending copies to other States for distribution by the relevant authorities.

Further, we will see that industrialists and visitors from other countries are given the booklet. I commend the honourable member for his interest in this publication.

SIDEBURNS

Mr. LAWN: The Oxford Dictionary defines "psychology" as the science of the nature, functions, and phenomena of the human soul or mind. The Government employs psychologists in the Education, Health, and Social Welfare Departments, so that it can be taken for granted that Cabinet accepts that definition of "psychologist" and that it is a *bona fide* and completely genuine profession. On page 3 of this morning's *Advertiser* the following report appears:

Sidelight on sideburns—Ego and sex are the driving forces behind the current "sideboard" fashion, says South Australian psychologist Charles Fraser. "Sideburns spring from a feeling of insecurity—a desire to feel important to oneself—and are regarded by their wearers as a symbol of masculinity," he adds. "A man who does not cultivate them is basically satisfied with himself."

Will the Premier say whether he is wearing sideburns because he feels a sense of political insecurity and of self-importance, and whether he needs the sideburns to feel that he is a man?

The SPEAKER: Does the Premier desire to reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The fact that I have a modified sweep of my razor at present is no indication that I feel insecure. The honourable member would be correct if he said that he thought I was dissatisfied, because I am always dissatisfied with what is accomplished in this State. It is my aim to improve the situation and to increase the accomplishments that are occurring in this State, and also to rectify the rather difficult situation that was bequeathed to my Government by the honourable member's Party when it left office. Apart from this dissatisfaction with affairs as they stand and the ever present desire to better them, I assure the honourable member that there is nothing else in this and that I am letting nature take its course, at least to some extent.

MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS

Mr. McANANEY: It has been suggested to me that many married women who are ex-schoolteachers, in the age group from 35 years to 40 years, whose families have grown up and do not need the same care and attention as they used to need, may be seeking employment

but, because of the change in the education curriculum, they think that they cannot apply for teaching positions without some refresher course. Can the Minister of Education say whether the department has considered providing a refresher course lasting three months or six months for these people if they are prepared to attend it?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The honourable member can be assured that every possible avenue that we can explore in order to obtain more teachers is being or has been explored. It has been suggested to the department that a vast pool of married women who in the past were teachers would be available to return to teaching. Actually conditions of employment of women within the service have been extremely liberalized. Married women may now enter teachers colleges as either departmental students or private students and from 1970 women students who marry may continue their courses with allowances. We have explored the aspect mentioned by the honourable member. However, certain difficulties have been created because of the immobility of married women, many of whom have family commitments and cannot be employed in the country because of their domestic responsibilities. In reality this has the effect of discriminating against single women, because it is the single woman who is sent to the country, the married women mostly not being able to go.

Further, some years ago a short-term emergency measure course was introduced to meet a problem existing at the time. Because some women wished to fulfil certain obligations and help their families in one way or another they came back into the teaching field but, once they had met those obligations many of them resigned. Other women who had been away from teaching for a long time probably considered that they could not cope with problems arising from new courses being introduced which involved a whole new range and variety of subjects. Therefore, on a personal level they have not returned to teaching.

I assure the honourable member that all these possibilities are being explored and that next year, when the teachers college intake is being studied, it will be time to find out whether the various plans that we have put into effect will attract women into the colleges and also whether, in fact, there exists this great pool of untapped teaching resources, as has been suggested.

Mr. RODDA: My question is supplementary to that asked by the member for Stirling about married women teachers.

Mr. Hudson: Are you going to apologize to Mr. Harris of the Teachers Institute?

Mr. RODDA: No. In the community are many well-educated women between the ages of 35 and 40 years. We have heard much lately about the needs of education and the shortage of teachers. Will the Minister of Education examine this vast untapped teaching source, consisting of people who have a special ability and who can be easily trained to take their place in this important field? I am sure that if these people were employed we would go a long way towards meeting some of the needs about which we are hearing so much at present.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: It has been suggested that there is a vast untapped pool of potential teachers amongst married women. I believe the extent of this pool will be revealed when applications for entry into the teachers colleges next year are received, because the conditions under which married women will be able to enter teachers colleges have been substantially liberalized. If the people concerned desire to enter the teaching profession, there really is nothing to stop them from applying to do so. One must bear in mind, of course, that as we will be introducing minimum three-year courses as from 1971, these people will have to be prepared to study for that period, and this could pose some problems regarding married women.

We are doing this because we believe, as do members of the teachers institute, that teachers should be properly trained, and because of the complex nature of education today, including the provision of comprehensive courses. Therefore, it is entirely up to the married women who desire to enter the teaching profession, who believe that they have the qualifications that will enable them to do this, and who consider themselves to be able to undertake at least three years' training, to take advantage of the opportunities being offered them at the beginning of 1970.

MIGRANT HOUSING

Mr. RYAN: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to the question I recently asked about a house being provided for a migrant constituent of mine who is living at the Pennington hostel?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have been handed a note on this matter from my Secretary just a few moments ago to the effect

that the General Manager of the Housing Trust has informed my office that a house at Taparoo is available and is being offered for occupancy, as from October 4 next, to the family to whom the honourable member referred in his question.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Mr. VENNING: As there is some concern about Proclamation Day being declared a holiday on the Friday and not necessarily the Monday, can the Premier offer any explanation that may clear up this matter?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I think almost every year when Christmas has fallen within one day of the weekend there has been a desire expressed by some sections of the community to have holidays so arranged that there will be a continuous holiday period of four days for those people not employed on Saturday morning. During this year, representations to this effect have been made, and the Government has taken the somewhat unusual step, to meet people's convenience, of declaring Proclamation Day on the Friday instead of on the Monday. The honourable member will realize that this will give those people not employed on Saturday morning the Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday as a complete four-day break from employment. However, this raised some difficulty for those groups of people under Commonwealth awards who would receive an extra day's holiday in this period. Previously, under certain Commonwealth awards some people in the State would have received the Friday as an additional holiday, as well as Proclamation Day. The Minister of Labour and Industry, who investigated this matter before the Government took action, received an undertaking from the South Australian Employers Federation that it would not oppose an application to the Arbitration Court to have this extra holiday on the Friday instead of on the Monday for those people affected by the awards. This left only one group of people, as I understand it, who would have lost any holidays as a result of this move, namely, people employed in the Commonwealth Public Service. I raised this matter with Senator Cameron, who asked a question on it in the Commonwealth House recently, and I have been informed today that the Commonwealth Government has authorized the observance of a holiday on the Monday for Commonwealth officers in all States and territories. This removes the last difficulty that had been occasioned to any individuals, so

no-one will lose their holidays over this period and much inconvenience has been removed from those people who would have had to return to work on the Friday. The Government's move has met the convenience of these people, and this arrangement should be satisfactory to all concerned.

GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. McKEE: Has the Premier a reply to my question of September 18 regarding the appointment of a committee to investigate standardization of the railway line between Adelaide and Port Pirie?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: A standard gauge railway is currently being constructed between Port Pirie and Cockburn under the provisions of the 1949 Railway Standardization Agreement between the Commonwealth and South Australia. When completed, these and other railway standardization works in Western Australia and New South Wales will provide an interstate standard gauge railway between Sydney and Perth. Through standard gauge operations between Sydney and Perth are expected to commence in January, 1970, so far as freight is concerned, and in February, 1970, so far as passenger trains are concerned. To assist the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments in reaching agreement concerning the provision of standard gauge railway services to Adelaide, it has been decided to retain consultants, with experience in such work, to undertake a study and to report on the most efficient and economic method of connecting Adelaide by a standard gauge railway to the interstate standard gauge railway between Port Pirie and Broken Hill.

The terms of reference and the list of consultants who have been asked to submit their proposals for undertaking the work have been agreed upon between the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments. On August 12, 1969, each of the consultants was supplied with a brief and asked to submit proposals within one month. These submissions are to be made to the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport, who will evaluate the proposals received. After this, he will seek the South Australian Government's approval before proceeding with the engagement of consultants. The terms of the brief agreed on between the State and Commonwealth Governments regarding the proposed standardization of the railway between Port Pirie and Adelaide provide for a full study to be undertaken, including outline drawings of the proposed works and realistic estimates of the cost of the works

recommended to be undertaken. These will take several months. It is therefore not expected that any report will be available until about February or March, 1970.

CREAM SALES

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Lands a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my question of September 16 about imported cream being sold in this State?

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

The Chief Dairy Officer of the Agriculture Department reports that people in the metropolitan and adjacent areas consume about 4,700,000 lb. of cream a year. It is estimated that 70 per cent of this cream comes from Victoria. Based on a price of 45c a pound, this is estimated to be worth about \$1,485,000 at retail level, which is close to the figure of \$1,500,000 quoted by the honourable member.

The South Australian Dairymen's Association is financing a campaign designed to promote consumption of South Australian cream with the slogan "Fresh as the morning, S.A. cream". The campaign commenced this week and is being publicized through the press, radio and television media. In addition, a specially made bottle and tag, and cartons are being distributed. This campaign has the co-operation of the trade. Consideration will be given to price structure to ensure the South Australian cream does not compete at unfavourable prices.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Mrs. BYRNE: The Premier will be aware that a means test is applied to people applying for treatment at the Dental Department of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Will he ask the Minister of Health what scale is used?

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

SIREX WASP

Mr. RODDA: I understand that timber entering Tasmania in Swedish packing cases constructed of softwood has recently been found to be infested by Sirex wasp. I notice that this matter was raised yesterday in the Commonwealth Parliament by Senator Martin Cameron.

Mr. Virgo: Are you trying to promote him?

Mr. Hudson: Who's that?

Mr. RODDA: It is Martin "The Nose" Cameron, the bloke with the long nose. I am pleased that the member for Glenelg is following closely what I am saying.

Mr. McKee: Question!

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must now ask his question.

Mr. RODDA: Seeing that the Senator has raised the matter—

Mr. McKee: Question!

Mr. RODDA: —will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Forests whether any timber likely to come to South Australia from Tasmania can be looked at closely before it enters these shores, because the matter Senator Cameron has raised is of great importance to South Australia?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The matter raised by Senator Cameron—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: —is a very serious one indeed.

Mr. Virgo: He won't be Senator much longer: he has only five weeks to go.

The SPEAKER: Order! That is beside the point.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The fact is that, apart from bush fires, the Sirex wasp is the greatest problem facing Woods and Forests Department officers. Outbreaks have occurred in Tasmania over many years, but I have not heard of the recent one. Since the first appearance of Sirex wasp, particularly on the mainland (in Victoria), the South Australian department has been extremely vigilant in investigating every report of the wasp. Members will recall what has happened in the Port Adelaide area when there has been a possibility of timber from overseas harbouring this wasp. Although I do not know of the new outbreak, I will take up the matter with my colleague, and I hope to obtain a good reply both for the honourable member and for Senator Cameron.

PERMANENT WAY

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked recently about a certificate given by the Railways Commissioner on the condition of the maintenance of the permanent way that I understood was contrary to the report of the committee that the Government appointed to investigate derailments?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Section 21 of the South Australian Railways Commissioner's Act states, *inter alia*, that the Railways Commissioner is required to report in writing to the Minister "the general condition of the lines and accommodation for traffic". Although the certificates referred to may appear to be at variance with the preliminary report of the independent committee, there can be no doubt that they were given in good faith. It is not accepted by the Railways Commissioner that

the preliminary report warrants the repeal of the Railways Commissioner's report for the quarter ended March 31, 1969.

Mr. VIRGO: I draw the Premier's attention to the report of the South Australian Railways Commissioner, laid on the table of the House by the Attorney-General two days ago, for the quarter and the year ended June 30, 1969, part of which states:

The Chief Engineer and the Chief Mechanical Engineer have respectively certified that the way and works and the rolling stock have been safely maintained during the quarter.

I remind the Premier of a statement he is reported in the *Advertiser* as having made, as follows:

It is quite apparent from a preliminary examination that there is an urgent need to upgrade the track as well as institute other means of improving the operations of trains in South Australia.

The Premier apparently at that stage agreed to the report of the committee. However, if he is endorsing the reply he gave me today, he is now saying that the report does not warrant the repeal of the Commissioner's certificate. I at no stage doubted that the report was given in good faith. However, as the two reports are at variance one with the other, will the Premier say whether he supports the contention contained in the reply he gave me today or whether he supports the contention of the committee which he or his Government appointed to report on derailments?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member seems to be of the same mind as that of the member for Light in always seeking out inefficiencies within the South Australian Railways. The honourable member has by question and statement in the House this session seemed to imply that there is something wrong with the railways, and I believe that this has reflected on employees in all sections of the Railways Department. This does not seem to square with the type of representation I have had from the railwaymen's unions. However, if the honourable member has set out to seek all the weaknesses and inefficiencies in the railways as he sees them, I will obtain replies for him. In this case I will again obtain a report.

Mr. VIRGO: I fear that the Premier either deliberately or unconsciously misconstrued my earlier question, as the views I have on the railways' functions are as far apart from those of the member for Light as are the two poles. I believe that the railways must continue to play a very important role in this State's affairs, whereas the member for Light

would close the department down and sack all its workers. The Premier was wrong in considering that I had said that there was something wrong with the railways. I told the Premier that we had before us the two reports the views of which were at variance. Will the Premier say which of these two points of view he and his Government support?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I told the honourable member that I would obtain a report for him. I can only assume that he is confused in his thinking about the railways situation and I believe from his general attitude, which he has announced loudly and frequently in the House, that he has found something wrong with the railways. From his explanation I inferred that there was nothing wrong with the railways and, if there is nothing wrong with the railways, I take it that he is satisfied. If he is not satisfied, however, I will try to find out what his complaint is by reading several of his questions and trying to get some coherence from them. Whatever his attitude may be, he has not been a good advertisement for the Railways Department or its employees. However, I will obtain a report for him.

PETROL PRICE

Mr. CASEY: The Premier is probably aware that discussions by oil companies about an increase in the price of petrol are taking place in all States. Only today I read in the *Advertiser* a report stating that the South Australian Prices Commissioner (Mr. Baker) is presently discussing this important matter with the oil companies. The Commissioner has apparently said that the industry will start using local crude oil at the end of this year, and this will affect the costs. I think it is high time motorists were given the full facts on this matter, as they are all affected by it. Therefore, before Cabinet makes a decision on the matter, will the Premier take up with the Commonwealth Government the question of why people should pay more for petrol refined from local crude oil than for petrol refined from imported crude oil?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: No doubt the honourable member has followed the oil discoveries made in Australia and what has been written about the effect on the price of local petroleum products. Raw material from the local source will cost more than that from the foreign source; in fact, the yield from the indigenous material is different from the yield from some of the imported crude oils, so there are

repercussions that will affect pricing. The honourable member will understand that Australian oil companies jealously guard their own internal financial structure, and the price fixing that emanates from the South Australian Prices Commissioner depends greatly on the acceptance by the oil industry of this rationalization procedure. However, I shall be pleased to obtain for the honourable member a report containing as much information as possible.

GAWLER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. CLARK: Recently the Gawler Primary School Committee, in which I have a great interest because I taught there for 15 years, sought my assistance about a problem at the school. The committee first wrote to the Education Department about this matter on May 28, 1968, stating:

I have been instructed to write to you concerning the playground area on the southern side of the school, which is in need of attention. The retaining walls on the terraced stone are in bad condition and should be replaced. The playground area needs levelling so that development can be made to provide a suitable surface for equipment which at the moment is of very little use to the children, because of the existing conditions. The committee asks that an officer of the Public Buildings Department inspect the area, preferably in conjunction with a committee representative, so that the needs of the area can be fully understood. This area is immediately behind the new fence recently erected by the department and is rather an eyesore, as it was previously hidden by the old stone wall.

The committee was told in reply that the matter was being considered. Since then the committee has written in almost identical terms on three occasions, the latest being on July 30 last, when the department replied to the effect that the matter had been referred to the Director of the Public Buildings Department for attention. As the committee, being anxious to have this important work carried out for the benefit of the children, is rather disappointed and disheartened because it has not been done, will the Minister of Education find out whether something cannot be done to help the committee obtain substantial assistance for the benefit of this school?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to do that.

CALLINGTON COPPER

Mr. WARDLE: For some time it has been known that drilling has been carried out in the Callington area to determine the potential of the copper deposits, and I understand that some mining has been done. Will the Premier

ask the Minister of Mines whether these tests have been successful and whether there is any likelihood of finding ore on a large scale in this area?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I think it is well known that Broken Hill South Limited has been conducting intensive search operations in the Kanmantoo and Callington area and this will doubtless result in additional knowledge of copper ore availability in the area. However, I will get a report from my colleague and let the honourable member know what is the present position.

MOORLANDS INTERSECTION

Mr. NANKIVELL: At a road junction at Moorlands, Highway No. 8 deviates from Highway No. 12, and on the Tailern Bend and Lameroo approaches to the corner substantial and clearly defined signs are erected, indicating the major junction and the directions that the roads take. However, on the southern approach to the junction (that is, the approach from Coonalyn or Melbourne) there is no indication that this major junction is ahead, nor is it signposted in the same way. Will the Attorney-General take up with the Minister of Roads and Transport a suggestion I have made previously (I think in the Loan Estimates debate) that such a sign be placed on the Coonalyn or southerly approach to the corner?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

TEXTBOOKS

Mr. BURDON: A parent of a child at the Mount Gambier High School told me recently that, although he had paid for social studies and history books at the beginning of this year, the books had not yet been received. As the school year is almost finished, can the Minister of Education give the reason for the non-receipt of books that have been paid for?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: If the honourable member gives me the name of the child, I will certainly follow the matter up. I understood that all books had now been supplied and, as I am surprised that the position could be as the honourable member has stated, I will certainly inquire.

ACCOMMODATION SIGNS

Mr. VENNING: Some of the proprietors of the several reputable caravan parks in this State have approached me, stating that it would be of great assistance to them if they were permitted to erect certain international symbols used throughout the world to indicate

the facilities available at their parks. For instance, in the case of a caravan park, the sign may depict a caravan and, if the area is one in which tents may be erected, a tent may be shown on the sign. Will the Minister of Immigration and Tourism ask his department to consider permitting these international signs, or similar signs, to be erected to help travellers and tourists find accommodation areas in our State more easily than they can at present?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I think this matter is entirely one for the Minister of Roads and Transport (as Minister in charge of the Highways Department) and Minister of Local Government (as Minister in charge of local government), because the Highways Department has discouraged the erection on roads of signs not related to traffic matters or for other obvious directional purposes. Several requests have been made about this matter. In fact, a deputation met me recently about the erection on roads of signs indicating the presence of caravan parks, but no-one has previously asked me about the use of international code signs. My immediate reaction is that this is a good idea and I will ask my colleague whether he would allow the erection of these signs. Although the honourable member has not referred to the erection of the signs on roads, I assume that he intends that they be erected there, because tourists and other travellers would be likely to see them there. As soon as I get a reply from my colleague, I will let the honourable member have it.

MANNUM INDUSTRY

Mr. HUDSON: Yesterday, I asked a series of questions about the employment position at David Shearer Limited at Mannum and, in reply to my first question, the Premier said:

I understand that the Minister of Labour and Industry (Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe) has the matter in hand and that arrangements are being made for alternative employment for at least some of the retrenched persons.

That statement is given publicity in a story in today's *Advertiser*. Later, I asked the Minister of Labour and Industry whether he could say whether any ex-employees of David Shearer Limited had been placed back in employment as a result of the activities of his department and, when replying, he said:

I cannot answer that question, because I do not know. Offers have been made to the company on this matter, and I can ascertain what has happened.

There seemed to be a conflict between the Premier's initial reply and the Minister's later reply, and consequently a misleading story

has appeared in the *Advertiser*. As I was trying to resolve the conflict at 4 o'clock when Question Time ended, can the Minister of Labour and Industry indicate what is the correct position concerning the activities of the State Government in this matter?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I regret that the honourable member was saved by the bell yesterday and that he could not get elucidation of his further question, because there was no conflict between the reply given by the Premier and that given by me. If the honourable member had read further, he would realize the Premier said that the Minister of Labour and Industry had the matter in hand and that arrangements were being made for alternative employment for some of the retrenched persons. I said that negotiations had been held with the board of management of David Shearer Limited at Mannum, and at the request of the relevant union, the Sheet Metal Workers Union of which Mr. Lean is the Secretary, I was meeting the parties at a conference early next week. No conflict existed at all and I believe that, to a large extent, this matter has been exaggerated beyond the significance that the honourable member has attached to it. I am sure that there is no discrepancy here and that there will be a happy solution to this problem. Much credit for the solution that I believe will be reached is due to the part played by the member for Murray in the immediate approaches he made to the companies concerned. I hope that next week's meeting will resolve this matter to the satisfaction of those concerned and also to the satisfaction of the member for Glenelg.

WHEAT STORAGE

Mr. HUGHES: In explaining my question, I quote from an article in this morning's *Australian*, headed "Emergency Wheat Storage given to three States", as follows:

The Australian Wheat Board yesterday allocated emergency storage for 60,000,000 bushels of wheat in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The move follows the authorization last week by Federal Cabinet for the board to finance extra storage costing \$10,000,000 to help the wheat glut. New South Wales will receive storage for 28,000,000 bushels, Victoria for 12,000,000 bushels and South Australia 20,000,000 bushels.

The extra storage will mean Australia will have 780,000,000 bushels of wheat stored unsold in silos. The chairman of the board, Dr. A. R. Callaghan, said last night Western Australia and Queensland are expected to have enough storage to handle carry-over and new crop deliveries in 1969-70. Bulk-handling authorities in the individual States will decide on the location and building of the emergency storages.

As I have been telephoned by farmers from near Alford and from the Hummocks, north and south of Wallaroo, will the Minister of Lands request that the Minister of Agriculture consult with South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited to ascertain whether some of the South Australian allocation for emergency storage will be spent in the area near the Wallaroo terminal?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: There would be no need for me to discuss this matter with my colleague because I know he is treating the matter as one of urgency, but I will pass the question on to him.

Mr. HUGHES: Even though my question concerns agriculture, I will not address it to the Minister of Lands to be passed on to the Minister of Agriculture, because it appears from the reply he gave me on emergency wheat storage that such action is not necessary, as when I asked that consideration be given to the allocation of part of the Commonwealth Government grant to the area around Wallaroo the Minister said there was no need to refer the question to his colleague. Am I, and the farmers I represent, to assume that part of the South Australian grant from the Commonwealth Government for the erection of temporary storage for grain is to be spent at Wallaroo?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I had great difficulty in following the question and I could hear only about half of the honourable member's previous question.

Mr. Hughes: Don't blame me; blame the amplification.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: It may have been the fault of the amplification system, but I sent a message to the honourable member to turn on his microphone. At the time, he was reading from a newspaper. I received a message from him that he wanted me to take up with the Minister of Agriculture the allocation of further money for the storage of grain. I said that there was no need to refer the question to the Minister of Agriculture because he was already considering this matter as urgent but that, as the honourable member had asked the question, I would do so. That is the position as I left it, and I think that the second question the honourable member has asked is unnecessary.

SOFT DRINKS

Mr. HURST: I have received a complaint from a constituent in business concerning the recent increase in price of 1c for 6½-oz., 10-oz. and 13-oz. bottles of soft drink. Will the

Treasurer ascertain from the Prices Commissioner the factors involved in arriving at this additional charge for small bottles, particularly bearing in mind the price of the larger bottles compared with that of the smaller ones, and find out whether these factors justify the increased price?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I will refer the honourable member's comment to the Prices Commissioner for him to report to me.

MODBURY NORTH-WEST SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: On November 21, 1968, the Public Works Committee recommended the construction of a primary school at Modbury North-West at an estimated cost of \$360,000. The site is located back from Milne Road near Carousel Road in section 3011, hundred of Yatala, and access will be from Carousel Road through a block acquired for that purpose. It seems that, although this will be called the Modbury North-West School, it is situated in the area controlled by the city of Salisbury and will be located in the District of Gouger on the boundary of the District of Barossa. This school is being built to serve children from both districts. On December 9, 1968, Cabinet approved the expenditure of this sum to allow the scheduled programme to proceed for the provision of this new primary school, and site works are now in progress. Can the Minister of Works say when this school is expected to be completed?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Although the first part of the question concerns nomenclature I will examine it, and I will also ascertain what are the details of the works programme and inform the honourable member.

TOTALIZATOR FRACTIONS

Mr. HUDSON: I refer to the Third Annual Report of the South Australian Totalizator Agency Board, on the first page of which there is a table showing the revenue received by the Government during the last financial year, as follows: stamp duties, \$893,191 (4.25 per cent of turnover); fractions, \$198,134 (.94 per cent turnover); unclaimed dividends, \$81,985 (.39 per cent of turnover); commission on New South Wales investments, Broken Hill, \$1,577 (.01 per cent of turnover); total, \$1,174,887 (5.59 per cent of turnover). The following statement then appears:

While total fractions paid to the Government represent .94 per cent of turnover, fractions from win and place pools have totalled 1.35 per cent of the relevant turnover. This is a matter of some concern. The board is currently examining various alternatives, and it is

proposed to submit a recommendation to the Minister regarding this alarming diminution of the return to investors.

The report clearly indicates that the percentage of turnover represented by fractions on both the win and place pools is much greater than was ever expected when the T.A.B. legislation was passed by this House and fractions were reserved to the Government as part of revenue. Will the Premier therefore consult with the Chief Secretary with a view to ensuring that some modification takes place in the current arrangements with respect to fractions, so that the investor obtains a more reasonable return and does not further have to suffer the alarming diminution of returns to which the Chairman of the board refers in his annual report?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will consult with my colleague on this matter. However, I should have thought the honourable member himself would have a better idea of this than I, as it was his Government, I understand, that was responsible for the legislation. The honourable member will realize that the Government has now achieved significant relief for punters through removing the winning bets tax. This was an election promise made last year and one that the Government has now fulfilled. That has been, I think, of real benefit to those engaged in this type of activity. However, I will take up with my colleague the matter referred to by the honourable member and see whether there is any further room for movement in this regard.

PORT PIRIE SEWERAGE

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Works yet considered the question I recently asked about Government grants to local councils for effluent drainage schemes being made on a similar basis to that on which grants are made for sewerage schemes?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I take it that the honourable member is referring particularly to Port Pirie. A week or two ago, when I was in the honourable member's district, in company with him I discussed this matter with the Port Pirie City Council and undertook to examine the position. I have now referred it to the Minister of Local Government and also to the Minister of Health, because both these Ministers are involved. As the honourable member will realize, the provision of a common effluent drainage scheme, which is becoming widely used nowadays in many country towns, is principally administered by the Health Department, although the Local Government Department is also involved. On my recent return

from Port Pirie, I took up this matter with my colleagues on the honourable member's behalf. If the honourable member wishes, I will pursue this further to see whether a report can be expedited.

RAILWAY ECONOMIES

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Some weeks ago I asked the Premier what steps the Government would take to effect economies in the Railways Department. The Budget shows that last year the losses on the railways were over \$12,000,000. As this is a vital feature of the Budget, has the Premier a reply to the question I asked about three weeks ago? If he does not have a reply concerning Government policy to effect economies on the railways, in view of the enormous importance of the railways losses will he expedite a reply?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will see where the information is and get it for the honourable member as soon as possible.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My question is to the Premier and is supplementary to questions asked by me.

Members interjecting:

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I am pleased to hear members opposite say "Quiet", which shows they want to hear my question clearly, whereas they showed no great inclination last evening to hear my comments about the Railways Department. My question concerns Government policy regarding the surplus of staff in the South Australian Railways, which I detailed with some precision last evening. As the Treasurer has provided in the Budget for ancillary staff in the Education Department, can the Premier say whether some of the surplus South Australian Railways staff can be transferred to the Education Department to carry out this work?

Mr. Virgo: What surplus staff?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am again facing what seems to be a united front presented by the members for Edwardstown and Light. However, I think the question must surely have been asked purely to emphasize the point the member for Light made last evening. He believes there is some need for reorganization of staff.

Mr. Virgo: No wonder you have him as Under Secretary.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member can either join with the member for Light or ask his own question.

Mr. Virgo: I won't join with the member for Light.

The SPEAKER: Order! This seems to be developing into a debate between members, and this is not the time for debate. I ask the honourable Premier to shorten his reply and not to let this develop into a debate, and I ask the honourable member for Light and the honourable member for Edwardstown not to pursue this debate.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I apologize, Sir; the member for Edwardstown is one of my heavier responsibilities. I believe the member for Light has asked his question to emphasize the point he made last evening. I do not think the detail of his question would stand up to much examination. As the honourable member will know, specialities are involved in both particular vocations. However, I know he is taking a deep interest in the situation and that his motivations are to see the best interests of the State served.

RELIEVING TEACHERS

Mr. GILES: The Minister of Education is aware of the need in certain fields of education and, as a result of the actions she has already taken, we can see that she is doing everything in her power to improve the situation. This is illustrated by the fact that 246 ancillary staff will be appointed in schools next year. However, there is a field in which I believe there is a further need, namely, relieving teachers. At present, I am told that a permanent teacher must be away from school for three days before a relieving teacher can be appointed from the department's pool of relieving teachers. Will the Minister consider whether, when teachers are away for less than three days, a relieving teacher may be appointed in the teacher's absence?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: This matter is in the hands of the school's headmaster, who has the power to do certain things to find relieving teachers, but it is not always easy to do this. There is a general shortage of teachers and it is often difficult at short notice to find a teacher to relieve the situation. However, I will obtain a detailed report on this matter.

VICTOR HARBOUR RAILWAY

Mr. McANANEY: The Transport Control Board has conducted an inquiry into the possible closing of the Victor Harbour railway line, and evidence has been taken over recent months. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport when the board's report will be available?

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

NUCLEAR POWER

Mr. BURDON: I was particularly interested to read in the report of the Electricity Trust the reference to nuclear power stations. I notice that the trust has commented favourably on the proposal that a nuclear power station may present appreciable advantages if located in the South-East of South Australia. The member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) and I raised this matter earlier this year. The last paragraph of the report states:

Following a request from the Commonwealth Government for discussions on planning for nuclear power in Australia, the South Australian Government has made a submission on these lines to the Commonwealth Government.

Can the Minister of Works say what are the latest developments, since the submissions were made, regarding the provision of nuclear power in the South-East of South Australia?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I thank the honourable member for his complimentary comments about the trust's report, which I believe is well presented. The section dealing with nuclear power is based on the submissions I made on behalf of the State to the Atomic Energy Commission and the Minister for National Development earlier in the year. Officers of the trust were present when I made those submissions, which the report summarizes. Since then, the Commonwealth Minister (Mr. Fairbairn) has announced that the establishment of the first station in the Eastern States, near Canberra, is being considered. This Government pointed out to the Minister as recently as two weeks ago South Australia's contention that there was a need for such development here. I have reiterated to the Minister the importance of considering this concept of development in the South-East of the State. In addition, the Premier has written to the Premier of Victoria (Sir Henry Bolte) pointing out this State's views and requesting Sir Henry's assistance.

THE ESTIMATES

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from September 24. Page 1765.)

THE LEGISLATURE

House of Assembly, \$72,015.

The CHAIRMAN: I intend to put the various items *seriatim* as has been previous practice, and I think that will be in accordance with the wishes of honourable members.

Line passed.

Parliamentary Library, \$27,528; Joint House Committee, \$38,212—passed.

Electoral Department, \$124,608.

Mr. VIRGO: I hope we can deal with this line without the discussion impinging on the report of the electoral commission, which is as yet unknown. I am bitterly disappointed that the salary provided for the Returning Officer for the State is only \$7,595. Although there has been a small increase of \$171 on the sum provided last year, this is a niggardly salary to pay this officer, who falls into the category of people such as, perhaps, the Commissioner of Police, and others who must be in a financial bracket in which they are completely above the suggestion of financial need. I do not believe the Returning Officer for the State should even be responsible to a Minister; he should be a Commissioner as is the position in other States. I do not suggest that the present Minister is being overbearing with the Returning Officer. Looking through the Estimates, I see that even the Comptroller of Prisons receives about \$1,000 more than the Returning Officer receives. Will the Attorney-General tell me, either now or later, the salaries payable to Returning Officers for other States and the Commonwealth? I shall be amazed if the salary of our Returning Officer is not the lowest such salary in Australia. I think his salary is considerably lower than that of the Commonwealth Electoral Officer for South Australia, and, although Mr. Walsh may not appreciate my saying that, at least he is able to seek guidance from the Chief Electoral Officer for the Commonwealth (Mr. Ley), whereas Mr. Douglass can seek guidance from no-one except the Attorney-General, and I do not think he ought to go to a Minister on matters affecting his department. He ought to be in the same position as judges, magistrates, and industrial commissioners, who are nominally under the control of a Minister but who, as far as I know, do not seek guidance from the Minister.

I think the whole of Australia appreciates the action of the former Attorney-General (Hon. D. A. Dunstan) in initiating the preparation of electoral rolls by computer. I am reliably informed that the writs for the forthcoming Commonwealth election will be issued next Monday and that the rolls will be available within a few days. This could not have been achieved when the rolls were prepared by the letterpress system. At that time, human errors were made, and we still had two rolls. We have been saved the

burden of having to carry around both a House of Assembly roll and a Legislative Council roll. The introduction of the combined roll was a tremendous step forward and I commend the Attorney for continuing the practice. I should like an assurance from the Attorney that he will continue to have rolls prepared in this way, because there have been rumours that we will be reverting to the old system, and I hope those rumours are not correct.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I share the high personal regard that the honourable member has expressed for Mr. Douglass, the Returning Officer for the State, and I note the honourable member's views about his remuneration. I will try to find out the salaries paid in other parts of Australia. I assure the honourable member that the Government does not intend at present to alter the arrangement for the printing of electoral rolls.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): A report affecting the Electoral Department will come before the Chamber this afternoon. I understand that the Secretary of the electoral commission will present a copy of the report on redistribution to the Speaker at about 4 p.m. today.

Mr. Virgo: He's giving it to the Governor at 3.30 p.m.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This report vitally affects every member and, indeed, the whole public of the State. I am informed by the Speaker that the proceedings in this Committee will prevent the presentation of that report before 5 p.m. or 5.30 p.m.

Mr. Clark: Why?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am told that the Speaker will not be able to lay the report on the table, because we shall still be in Committee. I ask the Premier, or whoever is in charge of this matter, whether there is any reason why the report should not be tabled as soon as it is received. It may be argued that this will mean that members will not be particularly interested in the proceedings for the rest of the afternoon but, given the nature and importance of this report, I should have thought that it was a matter on which the Government could accommodate members. We sat until reasonably late last evening to pass the first line and not much work is likely to be done on the lines in the time allowed this afternoon. In consequence, I ask that the report be tabled and copies given to members as soon as it is presented to the Speaker so that members may see what is proposed about electoral redistribution.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I have considered this matter and know that members have a detailed interest in it. I think it must be ordered that the report be printed before members can have it.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It's printed now.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am sure members know the Parliamentary procedure. The report is not available to members until it has been ordered to be printed. If at 5.15 p.m. we order it to be printed, copies can be distributed and we could adjourn then, which would be three-quarters of an hour before the normal adjournment time. I think that is a reasonable concession. This report has been months in the making (some would say years) and surely we do not have to disrupt our proceedings. To adjourn three-quarters of an hour earlier would be a concession. Surely members are cool enough in temperament to wait until near the normal adjournment time to see this report. I do not think the State or the Parliament would be well served by our adjourning for the sake of members' curiosity, and it is nothing more than that.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: You're acting like a big kid.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It is ridiculous and childish to say that we are acting like kids in going on with State business.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable Premier.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Tempers should not be raised on this matter.

Mr. Virgo: You raised yours first.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The personal whim of members should not delay the State's business for an hour; members have already waited for six months for the report to be prepared. I can remain cool enough during that hour and let my curiosity wait, and I have not the slightest indication of what is in the report.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the Premier is so insistent that the extra hour's work this afternoon is vital to the security and future of the State at this stage of proceedings (an attitude that I am sure has been noticeably absent on other occasions when the convenience of members opposite has been otherwise), I suggest that we report progress temporarily at 4 p.m., allow the report to be tabled, and then continue with the business until 6 p.m. I am certain that members can sit and look at the report, because they sit in their places looking at other things, including members opposite. Why cannot we have the report

as soon as it comes in? It seems to me that the only reason is that the Premier wants to prevent certain news media obtaining details of the report and comment on it for use in their news time. If the Premier is prepared to work we will sit here. I suggest that he table the report as soon as it is ready. If he is not prepared to do that (and we are prepared to facilitate that action) he must have an ulterior motive.

Mr. CORCORAN: I was a member when a report from an earlier electoral commission was submitted and, immediately it had been presented to the Premier, it was given to members—and the Premier was a member then. We do not ask the Premier to adjourn immediately the report is tabled. If members were interested in the report they might not discuss details of the lines, and this could save time. Perhaps the Premier did not see it that way. However, as the Premier has taken this attitude we can find enough matters under the Electoral Department line to talk for some time. I am as anxious as other members are to see the report, but I cannot understand why I have to sit here until 5.15 p.m. to see it! If the Premier co-operated with the Speaker and reported progress, as the Leader suggested, members would be able to satisfy their curiosity when the report was tabled, and I am sure that the business of the House could still continue.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I cannot understand why members cannot wait for an hour to see this document. It does not relate to any State crisis or other serious situation. However, I have now received technical advice that when the document is made available to the Speaker it automatically becomes available to members, pursuant to Standing Orders. Members can read it to their heart's content and still be free to take part in the debate.

Line passed.

Government Reporting Department, \$200,135; Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, \$9,873—passed.

Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement, \$4,240.

Mr. CORCORAN: This committee has served a useful purpose and has been involved in inquiries throughout the State on drainage and other matters, particularly in the South-East, but as there is little land left available to develop and the activities of the South-Eastern Drainage Board have practically ceased, can the Minister indicate what is the likely future of this committee?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Lands): This session the Government intends to introduce a Bill to extend the life of this committee.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, \$195,800—passed.

PREMIER AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Premiers' Department, \$409,478—passed.

CHIEF SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF HEALTH
State Governor's Establishment, \$32,541;
Chief Secretary's Department, \$55,877;
Department of the Public Actuary, \$110,934;
Auditor-General's Department, \$314,208;
Government Printing Department, \$1,033,606;
Police Department, \$10,271,192; Prisons
Department, \$2,131,454—passed.

Hospitals Department, \$27,605,515.

Mr. JENNINGS: I have always admired the voluntary system of admission to mental homes such as Glenside and Hillcrest Hospitals, operating under the Mental Health Services. However, in my association with these hospitals I have seen evidence that the voluntary system does not work in some cases as well as we would like it to work. I am speaking of the time before charges were applied, and I am referring to those patients who voluntarily become hospitalized to the extent that they become completely dependent on the hospital. However, because they are voluntary patients, they can walk out at any time, often having lost any knowledge they have had of how to conduct themselves in private life, and having made no arrangements for their future or caring about their responsibilities.

This could easily be the case after only 18 months or two years in such a hospital. We have, I think, some evidence that many people who have been members of the permanent Army or other services, after their term has expired, merely sign on again, because they are not prepared to face up to the responsibilities of life. Although I have always admired the voluntary system of admission to mental homes, I rather dispute the wisdom of the practice to which I have referred. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health to obtain a report on this matter from the Director of Mental Health Services or some other appropriate officer?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will refer the honourable member's remarks to my colleague and see what information I can get for him.

Mr. CORCORAN: The son of a constituent of mine is an assistant pharmacist working, I think, in a laboratory at the Queen Elizabeth

Hospital. It has been pointed out to me by this lad's father that the lad has been furthering his studies by attending a certain course two days a week, the course extending over two years, I believe. Until now, the department has paid this person's salary for the two days he has been attending the course, but he has now been told that this practice will be discontinued. As far as I am aware, no payment will now be made towards the loss of salary incurred by him when attending this course. However, as I believe that the hospital authorities are anxious that this person, and the five or six others who are in a similar position, attend the course, because it will be to the hospital's advantage to have these people qualified in this regard, will the Premier ask his colleague whether what I have said is correct and, if it is, why the payment has ceased? If the payment has, in fact, ceased, will the Premier ask that the situation be reviewed?

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

Line passed.

Department of Public Health, \$1,268,856.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Prior to the Labor Government's leaving office, a decision was taken to appoint a Director of Geriatric Services. This had been recommended previously and had been postponed for a period, and a decision was subsequently made that this must be done urgently in order to assess how we could obtain sufficient coverage for geriatric services in South Australia and co-ordinate them properly. The appointment of this officer was strongly recommended by the Public Health Department and the Public Service Board. Until we could get a report from a Director of Geriatric Services, it was unlikely that South Australia would be able to make full use of the Commonwealth subsidies for the geriatric homes which are now in use in other States as hostels, though not hospitals, but for which a Commonwealth subsidy is obtained. This is an area in which we have previously been gravely deficient in South Australia, and there is no sufficient provision for old people's assistance in regard to hostels.

We had decided to make the appointment and had advertised for applications for it before we took office. That appointment was not proceeded with last year, and I see to my dismay that there is no provision on the line for such an officer. Will the Premier please tell me what is intended to be done in this most important matter, both Parties at the

time of the last election having talked about the necessity to improve geriatric services? On the present indications there is no provision for the necessary planning and administrative work in this area.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I understand appointments have been made to the geriatric services but, whether or not this has been in line with the Leader's interests in the matter, I cannot say at present. However, I will get a report on the matter for him.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If there are appointments to the geriatric services, they should show in the Premier's notes concerning the staffing of this department.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will look into this as the debate continues and, if I have no explanatory notes, I shall have to obtain a report for the Leader.

Line passed.

Department of the Public Service Board, \$513,590.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have been told that 220 State public servants have resigned this year and that this number exceeds the number of resignations in previous years. I have also been told that the main reason for these resignations is the lower salary rates paid in South Australia compared with those paid by other State Governments and by the Commonwealth Government. This State has a fairly constant erosion from its Public Service at any time: officers go from our Public Service to other Public Services, but I understand that the rate has increased to an alarming extent. In South Australia, the salary at age 21 years for a person with Leaving certificate is \$2,510; in New South Wales it varies, according to the position, from \$2,464 to \$2,643; in Victoria it is \$2,898; in Queensland it is \$2,590; in the Commonwealth Public Service it is \$2,900; in Western Australia it is \$2,780; and in Tasmania (where a claim has been pending for some time) it is \$2,569. The South Australian rate is lower than that of any other State or of the Commonwealth, with the sole exception of a few officers in New South Wales, depending on the interpretation of the award. Will the Premier say what action is being taken to try to curb resignations that occur because emoluments in South Australia are significantly lower than those for comparable occupations elsewhere?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The Leader knows that these matters are subject to the Public Service Board's decisions and, while there is no absolute relationship, I refer the Leader to the Auditor-General's Report (page 17), which

shows that the annual increase for 1969 in personnel employed by the Government is 2,100, compared with 2,300 for the previous year and 1,200 for the year before that. The Leader may argue that, while many were coming into Government service, some were resigning. However, the figures in the report indicate that there is no dearth in the categories referred to of people willing to take up Government service. I will refer the Leader's query to the Chief Secretary, but I remind the Leader that the Public Service Board must perform its many duties, of which recommending salaries is only one, and it makes its recommendations only after protracted investigation.

Line passed.

Miscellaneous, \$7,820,206.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The maintenance grant to Meals on Wheels was \$18,000 last year, whereas this year it has been reduced to \$5,000 although there is an increase of \$3,695 in the grant for capital works. As it seems that additional capital works will create a demand for a greater expenditure on maintenance, will the Premier explain this position?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The grant is less than the 1968-69 grant because of the current cash position of Meals on Wheels. Although the decision was a result of an agreement between the organization and the Government, I will obtain further information.

Mr. GILES: I notice an increase in most subsidies payable to hospitals. I believe that one of the things that has aggravated the financial pressure on country hospitals is that there are many pensioner patients in some of them. These pensioner patients should not receive their full pension while in hospital. They receive free hospitalization and, in addition, their pension. Some pensioner patients own houses that have been let for rental and this income is sometimes collected by their family while the pensioner is receiving free hospitalization. I do not think that the State should have to pay twice.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I express appreciation for the continuation of the grant to the Nuriootpa school band competition. It is pleasing to see how these young people have been encouraged by the South Australian Band Association. The bandsmen are living ambassadors for the State, and I regret that it has been found necessary to reduce the association's grant by \$2,000. Will the Premier consider this matter further?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I share the honourable member's high regard for the association's work. The association has been one of the

great avenues of promotion of the State because it has proved that we are a people of varied tastes and valuable talent. The fact that Nuriootpa is referred to is probably to be expected when one sees who represents that district in this place. The work the honourable member has done for his district speaks for itself, and it is with much regret that we have seen today that the honourable member has announced that he will not seek re-election. Perhaps I should say how much regard those who have been associated with him have for the honourable member, who has given long years of service. One of his particular prides is this band association and its competitions. I assure the member for Hindmarsh that there has been no real diminution in the grant towards this organization. Last year a special grant of \$2,000 was made so that the Australia-wide competition, which rotates between the six States and therefore is held in this State once every six years, could be held here.

Mr. VIRGO: I read the announcement of your retirement, Mr. Chairman, with some regret and I believe the Parliament will be the poorer for your leaving it. Perhaps similar comments will later be made in relation to the member for Hindmarsh and others. When referring to the Gumeracha Hospital the member for Gumeracha said he regretted that pensioners should be able to get free hospitalization and still be able to collect the full pension.

Mr. Giles: I didn't say that in the context you are using.

Mr. VIRGO: The honourable member said that, when pensioners went into hospital, they should not continue to receive the full pension.

Mr. Giles: You didn't say that the first time.

Mr. VIRGO: That is a frightful statement to make and I completely dissociate myself from such a reactionary view. A pensioner, who lives on a pittance all the year, should, according to the member for Gumeracha, have that pittance taken away merely because the State provides free hospitalization. That view is even more frightful when we consider that it comes from a person elected to represent the views of people. I am certain that the honourable member's views in this case do not reflect in any way the views of the people in his district, because I believe those people are more charitable in this regard than he is.

Mr. VENNING: I am pleased to see the provision of \$303,000 for maintenance for the St. John Council of South Australia, this

being an increase of \$39,000, and \$60,000 provided for capital. This organization provides a wonderful service in the northern parts of the State as well as in all other areas, and the sums provided will be of great assistance to it.

Mr. HUDSON: I refer to the provision of \$20,000 for aged citizens' clubs. The pattern of expenditure since the subsidy was first granted has varied. In 1963-64, the initial year of the subsidy, \$5,576 was paid; in 1964-65, \$23,064; in 1965-66, \$17,375; in 1966-67, \$22,171; and in each of these years the provision was \$20,000. In 1967-68, the last year of Labor Government, the amount voted under this heading was increased to \$28,000, and \$26,259 was paid. Last financial year saw a substantial reduction in the sum spent, and I suspect that the initial momentum of the scheme for subsidizing senior citizens' clubs has now been lost, because the sum provided under this heading has been substantially underspent for the first year since 1963-64.

As building costs have increased, it takes longer than it did previously for any private organizations concerned to assist the elderly citizens in their area to establish a senior citizens' club and to provide the necessary cash. Secondly, with several senior citizens' clubs established in different areas, probably the need for additional clubs to be established is less and the number of new clubs likely to be established in any one year is fewer. For that reason, too, the demand on the Treasury has been reduced. The current limit on the subsidy is \$6,000, which was the limit in 1963 when the legislation was first passed, and it is now high time that the limit on the subsidy was increased. I have asked questions of the Treasurer about this matter. In the Brighton area the Lions Club has decided to raise money to establish a senior citizens' club on Brighton Road, north of the Brighton Returned Services League Club. The Brighton council is assisting, having purchased land at a cost of \$11,000 for the club. At the initial meeting to launch the appeal last week, an additional \$17,000 was raised. The Lions Club hopes to start the project, which will probably cost \$30,000 or \$40,000, and the Government subsidy of \$6,000 is paltry by comparison. The cost of land and of building will be higher than it would have been six years ago and, because of the success of other such clubs and the need to expand facilities, it is hoped to provide something a little more extensive than usual.

A senior citizens' club established at Glenelg about four years ago has been so successful that it has been able, from its own resources, to finance extensions, particularly kitchen facilities and smaller rooms, although it would like to do more. Doubtless, senior citizens' clubs fulfil a real need in the community by providing a meeting place where elderly people can enjoy company, participate in functions, and play cards and games. The amount provided last year was not spent, and increased costs and other factors provide a substantial case for increasing the subsidies. I ask the Government to consider the matter carefully, judging it not on what is done in particular cases but on the kind of assistance needed to establish a club in a most difficult area, having regard to land cost and land availability.

Mr. GILES: I should like to reply to allegations made by the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo). Some patients in country hospitals have been there for five years or more and may remain there for the rest of their lives. I agree that they should not be required to pay for hospitalization. However, I do not consider that the community should have to pay twice to do this while pension money is perhaps being given to their children who are working. The inmates of the home for aged folk at Lobethal give all but \$1 from their pension to the cost of conducting the home and, because the home has a good matron, a slight profit has been made in the year. As these people are giving all but \$1 from their pension, I do not think that other people who are receiving a full pension and giving it away should be given free hospital treatment. I think the member for Edwardstown has tried to gain political advantage from a situation that needs consideration.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Every member of the Royal District and Bush Nursing Society appreciates the provision made for the society. Last year \$57,000 was provided, and this year \$60,000 is provided. I have been a member of the Hindmarsh branch for more than 27 years. The branch was the first to be established when the society, then known as the Bush Nursing Society, was formed, I think about 80 years ago. The relief and comfort provided by the nurses and sisters in the society is great and I compliment particularly two persons who have served in that branch. During my term of membership, I have known only two secretaries. The late Mr. W. E. Medlen served as secretary for 14 years, and

Mr. A. A. Gething has been serving as secretary for more than 13 years. Mr. Gething, who has many duties to perform as well as many family responsibilities, has served the society in an extremely efficient way. Because of my association with this organization, I was pleased to attend the launching of the special appeal of the South Australian branch on August 1, addressed by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide. I make a strong appeal to the public to donate whatever they can to this worthy organization, because those with health and the money may need this help in the future.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have discussed with the Under Treasurer the limit of the subsidy for aged citizens' clubs. The sum of \$11,926 was underspent last year, but there is a heavy list of commitments and approvals before us for the current financial year. We have already paid out \$5,500, and approvals totalling \$20,511 have also been made. The allocation this year is \$20,000 and, obviously, we will catch up with the backlog of underspending last year. However, the honourable member's point about increasing the limit will be considered.

Mr. HUDSON: I hope that the outcome will be favourable. The "Murray Mudge" Old Folks Home has been established in Glenelg, largely with Commonwealth subsidy, by the Methodist Church. Last year \$25,000 was provided by the State but nothing was spent. This year \$9,933 is provided and, as there is no doubt a story behind this alteration, can the Treasurer explain the position?

The sum of \$6,375 was actually spent in relation to the Church of England Social Welfare Committee for nursing homes for aged persons, but nothing has been provided this year. Can the Treasurer explain this change?

The maintenance grant for the Home for Incurables has been decreased by about \$500,000, and little is provided as a capital grant. Perhaps the home is now obtaining special Commonwealth grants. Can the Treasurer say whether that is so?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: That is correct. From January 1, 1969, the Home for Incurables qualified for the additional Commonwealth grant of \$3 for each approved patient. Most of the Commonwealth money was received by the home late last financial year, and this enabled it to finish the year with a large surplus. In relation to the "Murray Mudge" Old Folks Home, a group of applications by such institutions has been reported on by the Auditor-General, and I do not know whether this home applied. If the application

was received recently it would not have been processed, but I will obtain information for the honourable member. Also, I will obtain information concerning the Church of England Social Welfare Committee regarding its nursing home for aged persons.

Mr. LAWN: I thank the Treasurer for the increase in the provision for the Daughters of Charity from \$700 to \$1,000. The organization is grateful to the Treasurer and, although I have written to the Treasurer on their behalf, I understand that Sister Margaret has also written thanking the Treasurer for this increase. I know that she is grateful, because the added sum will enable the home to provide more assistance to needy persons in the city.

Line passed.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Attorney-General's Department, \$367,966; Crown Law Department, \$268,833; Public Trustee Department, \$372,934; Supreme Court Department, \$360,487; Local Courts Department, \$675,020; Adelaide Magistrates Court Department, \$200,433; Registrar-General of Deeds Department, \$456,651—passed.

Miscellaneous, \$107,155.

Mr. HUDSON: The grant to the Law Society of South Australia towards the cost of legal assistance to poor persons needs much discussion. The proposed grant for the current financial year is \$44,750, compared with \$42,750 last year; the increase is less than 5 per cent, and it is being made in circumstances where no adequate provision is made for assistance to poor persons. In fact, just about everyone is a poor person in respect of lawyers' fees. There are many cases where an individual feels that he has been unjustly treated but, if he proceeds to litigation, he will have to face bills that he cannot afford and, consequently, he does not proceed.

In many cases someone may be prosecuted for a traffic offence and may feel a sense of injustice but, if he uses a lawyer to defend the case, he will end up paying much more than he would have paid if he had pleaded guilty. Every member has probably advised his constituents to plead guilty in certain circumstances because the total cost to the constituents would then be less and because the likelihood of upsetting a charge in connection with a traffic offence is very small. The Law Society can undertake only the kind of legal assistance scheme that is within its financial resources and within the general willingness of the profession to take on cases at reduced fees.

I am not in any way blaming the society or criticizing the legal profession, nor am I criticizing particularly the current Government for the kind of assistance proposed for this financial year, because I believe that the record of previous Governments was not substantially better in relation to this matter. The provision for legal assistance in South Australia has been unsatisfactory for many years. It is unsatisfactory that the means test operates in such a way that only certain categories of people are able to receive assistance, which gives rise to a definite shut-off line above which assistance is not granted. It is unsatisfactory, too, that so little assistance can be given and that many people who cannot afford to pay a lawyer cannot qualify for legal assistance at present.

We have reached the situation where an individual, because of the cost involved, does not proceed to law, even though he feels he has justice on his side and to this extent the quality of justice meted out by our laws has been adversely affected. We need an overall scheme whereby legal assistance is effectively available to everyone who needs the protection of the law so that he can establish justice for himself or his family. This does not apply at present. I realize that what the State Government can do in any one year is limited by its financial resources, but I cannot agree that \$44,750 is a satisfactory provision for legal assistance. The State Government, even with its present limited resources, should at least see its way clear to double this figure as an initial step toward enabling the Law Society to extend the range of its operations considerably.

In my area there are many instances where, because of lack of zoning regulations, private industry is carried on in backyards. People living next door to such properties who are continually disturbed by the noise during the day and even at night complain about it to me and say, "What can we do?" I point out to them that until there are adequate zoning regulations the only course open to them is to take civil action on grounds of public nuisance against the people operating industry in backyards.

Mr. Jennings: And they cannot afford it.

Mr. HUDSON: That is so. It is also very difficult to get a group of people affected in this way to join together sufficiently to contribute enough so that, collectively, they can afford to employ a lawyer. Invariably with these things there are one or two people close to the nuisance who are most affected and there are those who are farther away, who are not affected to the same extent, who do

not have the same degree of concern and who are not prepared to contribute the same sum of money. Within our city (I am certain the same thing happens in country towns) all sorts of nuisance can go on without the private individual having any real way of remedying the cause of his grievance, simply because he cannot afford the kind of money necessary to go to law and does not qualify for legal assistance from the Law Society.

I believe that, if we compare our own scheme with that which applies in other States, South Australia is probably not many degrees worse off than are the other States. It is unfortunately true, however, when we compare the kind of scheme operating in South Australia with the English scheme of legal assistance, that we do not fare too well and do not stand comparison too well. Therefore, it is a constant complaint of English migrants in South Australia that they were much better off in England concerning legal assistance; they had an automatic right to legal assistance there which they do not have in South Australia. Again, we have had raised in this Chamber the position of pensioners (I think the member for Adelaide raised this matter) who have certain sums held in the bank but who, if they need legal assistance, do not qualify for it under the present scheme because they have some cash in the bank.

This money may be held in the bank to pay for funeral expenses. There are many pensioners who insist on being able to pay for their own funerals, and they keep this cash aside in order to do so; but because they keep this cash they do not qualify for legal assistance and do not get it when they need it. The ordinary family man puts money aside for a rainy day; that rainy day may have to be the day that the person concerned has to take some form of legal action. He may not have sufficient money for that, but he may have too much cash in the bank to qualify for legal assistance. This situation is simply not good enough. I do not want Government members to think that I am making a political point out of this, for I am not. The point I am making, in criticism of the extent of legal assistance that is granted, can be made equally against previous Governments of either Party, so it is not a political matter at all.

The very fact that member after member can instance cases in which constituents must be told to plead guilty and not go to law or to try to make some sort of private agreement, because they will not be able to afford legal costs, is a measure of the unsatisfactory state

of the present scheme. I hope other honourable members on both sides of the Chamber will be prepared to raise their voices on this particular matter.

Mr. LAWN: I support the remarks of the member for Glenelg. This session I have been concerned with one particular case involving legal assistance through the Law Society. Although the person concerned may benefit through the receipt of some property in the future, she at present cannot get her hands on it and is in receipt of a deserted wife's pension. This woman is paying \$1 a week out of her pension to the Law Society for legal assistance obtained. It is a most unhappy and unsatisfactory state of affairs for a pensioner to have to pay for legal assistance. Last year, I was concerned with the case of a deserted wife whose father-in-law came to me on her behalf. This woman, who works part-time, and who has to pay one visit every week to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, was charged a considerable sum by the Law Society for legal advice. While this advice was being given by a solicitor, she took sick and was not even employed part-time, so that when the account was rendered she had no money at all and was unable to pay the costs.

I said earlier this week that the Government should have a scheme whereby it was able to set the means test itself. Under the present scheme, the Law Society sets its own means test and makes a charge to poor people who are in need of legal assistance. I appreciate that I cannot at this stage debate a matter necessitating legislation. The member for Glenelg drew attention to the sum provided in the Budget, which is \$2,000 more than was provided last year, but this will not cater for much increase in the number of persons receiving legal assistance. The Leader of the Opposition recently asked the Premier a question about certain pensioners living in cottage homes who were badly in need of legal advice and possibly assistance and who, as the Leader said, have put aside possibly \$300 to pay for their funerals. In that case these people would probably be refused assistance by the Law Society, and that is most unsatisfactory.

I am not going to say that these people would definitely be refused such assistance, but they might well be asked to pay \$1 or \$2 a week out of their pension for any assistance they received. Therefore, free legal assistance is not being rendered to needy or poor persons. The discontent expressed by the member for Glenelg is not only restricted

to him and certain other members, including me: it is also shared by the Law Society, the President of which recently stated in a letter:

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.

In a memorandum that he provided to all members, the President states:

No records are available of the actual total value of the professional services contributed under the scheme by members of the legal profession in each year. However, what can be stated is that in 1968, in addition to over 800 man-hours contributed by members in administering the scheme on a purely voluntary basis, members who acted in assignments received varying proportions of their proper fees down to 19c in the dollar; and all these professional men still had to bear their full overhead expenses amounting to an average of 50c a dollar of notional income based on full fees. During the 1968-69 year, there were 3,118 applications for assistance of which 30 lapsed or were withdrawn, 268 were refused for various sound reasons, and the balance of 2,820 were dealt with.

Next year, 3,000 cases could be dealt with, and the Government is providing only an additional \$2,000, which will probably continue, as the President states, the present voluntary basis on the part of solicitors, who have to carry 50c in the \$1 in out-of-pocket expenses. That is scandalous. It is not right that we should expect the legal profession to carry a burden that should be borne by the Government. No man, whether in the legal or in any other profession, should be asked to work for practically nothing: in some cases, 19c in the \$1, and carrying 50c in the \$1 of their out-of-pocket expenses. Surely, in a society such as ours the economy should be such that we should not have to ask the members of the legal profession to work for nothing and even to meet one-half of their out-of-pocket expenses. Surely we can either evolve a better scheme or continue the present scheme and pay solicitors what they are entitled to, and have some say in the setting of the means test.

Mr. JENNINGS: I am interested in the matter raised by the member for Glenelg. I realize that many members of the Law Society, voluntarily, work very hard. However, I do not agree that people necessarily get good legal assistance as a consequence. When I complained about this previously it resulted in an article in the press by the President of the Law Society and another lawyer who attacked me and the member for Stuart, I think it was, on that occasion. I make it clear that I have

nothing against lawyers. In fact, my Commonwealth Leader and my State Leader are both distinguished lawyers.

Mr. Hurst: And you're pretty capable, too.

Mr. JENNINGS: Yes, and if I get into trouble I ask the member for Semaphore. I have consulted the member for Eyre on a couple of important legal matters but, generally speaking, I do not like crossing to the other side of the Chamber. One person I referred to the Law Society recently was living in Felixstowe or Campbelltown, on the border between my district and that of the Minister of Education, but naturally he preferred to come to me. I think that in fact he lived just on my side of the border. I could see it was a matter that should be referred to the Law Society; so I referred it and the solicitor assigned to that person was Mr. Teusner. I did not tell the person that I thought that, if he went to see Mr. Teusner and the charge was riding without lights on his bicycle, he would probably finish up being hanged, because Mr. Teusner is a Parliamentary colleague—and I never speak ill of my Parliamentary colleagues!

However, I did suggest that a mistake had been made on this occasion, so I rang the Secretary of the Law Society, who told me, "This is an obvious mistake." A solicitor from the city was assigned to this person. If he had not had the initiative to telephone me, I do not know what he would have done, because he had only about 20c left and how he could have got to Tanunda to see Mr. Teusner I do not know. He could not have gone by taxi—he would probably have had to ride a pushbike. Consequently, a metropolitan solicitor was assigned to him. How he got that I do not know, but we do know of the stringent means test that has operated for a long time. At one time an applicant could not have even a radio.

The member for Adelaide has often complained about lawyers, their charges and the way they treat his constituents. I have been told a few things and do not know whether they are right or wrong, one of them being that especially in matrimonial cases it is ascertained whether the junior counsel is acting for the other party. If so (and this is particularly the case if it is desired that the matter be protracted) senior counsel will then be briefed for the first party, and eventually both junior and senior counsel find that their firm is

working for both sides. It is not ethical to do this. However, strangely enough, the fees charged are never refunded; that is a wellknown practice. Although most lawyers are honest hard-working men, I think a better system than the present one could be devised. The Government makes only a minor contribution towards the Law Society, and even the increase is a **minor one**.

Mr. HURST: I, too, believe that more adequate provision should be made for the Law Society. The increase of \$2,000 provided will not even maintain the *status quo*. As progress and development take place, new legislation is introduced and the legal problems in a society increase. As Parliamentarians we are supposed to ensure that justice is done to the people of the State, but I regret that, under the present set-up, that is not always possible. Many people who are justified in raising a matter on a legal basis cannot afford to pay counsel and are therefore deprived of justice. The Government should provide the necessary finance to ensure that such people receive proper attention.

Many families become involved in legal proceedings in which they cannot afford to participate. Some firms went bankrupt and other persons took over the debts. Summonses have been issued for sums of \$100, \$200 or \$300 for goods alleged to have been purchased, but the persons concerned could not afford to contest those summonses. I consider that every person with qualifications is entitled to an appropriate fee for the services he renders, and lawyers are in that category. When one considers the time involved and the work necessary in litigation, one finds that the cost of this is beyond the resources of the person concerned. Both those people and the lawyers are entitled to protection, and they would receive that protection if the Government provided the funds necessary.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Electoral Commission.

Ordered that report be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.13 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 30, at 2 p.m.