

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 2, 1969.

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

REAL PROPERTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

PETITIONS: ABORTION LEGISLATION

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE presented a petition signed by 20 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. FREEBAIRN presented a similar petition signed by 29 members of the Point Pass Lutheran Church.

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS**SUPERANNUATION**

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have been approached by a schoolteacher who intended to draw out in one lump sum his superannuation contributions and long service pay. On inquiring of the Education Department whether he could continue teaching until his birthday or whether he had to resign on December 31 this year, he was told that he could not resign on December 31 but would have to go on teaching until the day before his birthday or

until the end of the first term in 1970. He was also told that he could not withdraw his superannuation contributions in one lump sum. According to the Superannuation Department, to qualify to do that he should have resigned before he reached the age of 60 years. The department said that now he could only retire and get superannuation contributions in fortnightly payments.

This teacher has before him the prospect of owing about \$3,000 on his house when he retires. If he got a lump sum he could pay this, but the amount he will get in superannuation, plus some subvention from a Commonwealth pension, will not be enough to make up the periodic payments on the amount owing on the house, and the result for him in retirement will be ghastly. I inquired of the Superannuation Department how a contention of this kind could come about because, on the face of the Act, this is not evident. It appears that it arises from an interpretation of two sections of the Act, section 51 (1) of which provides:

Where a contributor resigns or is dismissed or discharged from the service there shall be paid to him the amount of the actual contributions paid by him under this Act.

That is simple enough. If this teacher were to resign in December this year, he would be paid the actual contributions, according to that section, but the department reads that as being subject to section 38, which provides:

Voluntary termination of service (however expressed) by a contributor who is not entitled to retire on pension shall be deemed to be resignation.

That does not prohibit what the contributor intends to do in these circumstances, but the interpretation placed on it by the department is that the converse must operate: in other words, since voluntary termination of service by a contributor who is not entitled to retire on pension shall be deemed to be resignation, voluntary termination of service by a contributor who is entitled to retire on pension shall not be deemed to be resignation, even though that is not expressed in the Act. On the basis of that interpretation the contributor, having passed the age of 60 years, is prevented from obtaining the moneys he paid into the Superannuation Fund (the contributions he has personally made) as a lump sum refund, which is far better for him than is the receipt of a pension.

With great respect, I cannot see the basis of the interpretation, which I think is quite wrong, of this section. It is putting a gloss on section 38 that I do not think this Parliament ever

intended should be put on it, and I do not think there is the slightest justification for it. Will the Premier take up this matter urgently, for I understand this is not an isolated case, many rulings of this kind having been given and many people having been affected?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I shall be happy to get a report on the circumstances and the ramifications involved in the application of the Act.

LOANS

Mr. McANANEY: As I understand that the Commonwealth Government underwrites the amount of Loan moneys used by the State each year, can the Treasurer say what proportion is raised in borrowings from the public and what proportion is provided by the Commonwealth Treasury?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: This rather complicated matter is not capable of an answer in terms of a regular percentage of the funds supplied either from loans provided by the public or from the Commonwealth Treasury accounts in order to underwrite the full amount. This varies substantially from year to year. From memory, I believe the total Loan programme underwritten by the Commonwealth Government last year at the Loan Council was about \$758,000,000. As the honourable member knows, the Commonwealth Government, in a way similar to that in which a broker in private practice underwrites any other loan, underwrites this programme and guarantees to make the total available to the States, each State getting its share according to the agreed method of distribution among the States of the total amount. Neither the Commonwealth Government nor the Loan Council is able to forecast accurately the response by the public in any year to Commonwealth loans. The Commonwealth makes the best estimates possible. So that the States will be able to provide for a Loan programme and be assured of having the funds to carry it out, the Commonwealth underwrites the total amount. I think that probably 80 per cent of the total amount underwritten by the Commonwealth over the years is raised by public subscription to loans. However, this is not by any means a fixed amount, and I have quoted 80 per cent as being some sort of guess as to the average amount. In some years extremely heavy conversion programmes have to be met; in other words, loans maturing during the year have to be either renegotiated with the public or paid out to the original lenders. This affects the capacity of the Australian loan market to provide funds. I have in my office

some statistics on this matter that I will give to the honourable member next Tuesday if he asks me about the matter then. I will give him some accurate details of what has happened during, say, the last 20 years.

BANKSIA PARK STORAGE TANK

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of September 24 about a storage tank being erected at Banksia Park?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The concrete surface storage tank that is currently being built at Tea Tree Gully will ensure better supplies and pressure to consumers east of Dillon and Hancock Roads and up to a level at R.L. 920. These properties at present are supplied by a system whose pressure is governed by the old Tea Tree Gully tanks, which have a full supply level at R.L. 950. As the new tank has a full supply level at R.L. 1020, the pressure in this area will generally be improved by 70ft. The upper limit of satisfactory supply from this tank is, however, R.L. 920, and there will still be a number of allotments in Acacia Avenue, Camelia Street, Lilac Street, Giddings Avenue and Fair Crescent in the old subdivision to the east of Hancock Road, which will be too high for direct services. Allotments below RL 950 will be granted indirect services if these are required.

WATER USAGE

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked about usage of water from the Murray River?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The honourable member asked for information about the diversion and use of water from the Murray River from 1915, in periods of decades. I have a table that sets out the annual diversion from the Murray River in South Australia in each decade since 1917-18, together with the latest figures available. The first River Murray Commission annual report was published in 1917-18 and no diversion figures are available for before that time. The table is as follows:

Year	DIVERSIONS FROM RIVER MURRAY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA		
	Irrigation of one acre.	Stock areas over domestic and town supplies.	Total
	acre feet	acre feet	acre feet
1917-18 . . .	48,300	148	48,448
1927-28 . . .	104,079	1,798	105,877
1937-38 . . .	140,417	1,938	142,355
1947-48 . . .	150,452	6,876	157,328
1957-58 . . .	181,518	65,682	247,200
1967-68 . . .	371,048	106,159	477,207
1968-69 . . .	298,974	38,133	337,107

SHOW EMPLOYMENT

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry a reply to my question of September 16 regarding the employment at the Royal Show of juveniles who were placed in charge of moving vehicles?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The newspaper report on which the question was based concerned allegations of a mother that her 13-year-old son had worked in sideshows for two weeks for up to 15 hours a day and had received \$13, and that he, together with two other boys, 14 years of age and 16 years of age respectively, were in charge of and responsible for the small moving vehicles in one sideshow. Investigations have revealed that the boy concerned (who, when he obtained employment, stated his age to be 14 years) was employed at the Royal Show for only one day (Saturday, September 6) from 9 a.m. until 10.30 p.m., with one hour off for each of lunch and dinner. Because of the inclement weather and lack of patronage he had other periods off during this day. After he had been at the show for one day the boy complained about the noise of the sideshow and was offered work at the Glenelg sideshows the following week, where he did not work full time. He was paid \$20 and not \$13 as was claimed. There is no award applicable to persons employed on sideshows. The question of their wages and hours of work is a matter for agreement between the parties concerned. The investigation also revealed that the allegation that boys aged 13, 14 and 16 years of age were in charge of and responsible for small moving vehicles to be without foundation: the allegation apparently referred to a sideshow at Glenelg, where the only persons allowed to operate the electrical equipment controlling this sideshow were the foreman and an electrician.

Mr. JENNINGS: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry a reply to my question of September 18 about casual employment at the Royal Adelaide Show?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: As a result of the honourable member's question, inquiries have been made which reveal that Messrs. T. O'Brien and Sons, of 141 Abbottsford Street, Melbourne, had 16 stands at the Royal Show selling sweets, cool drinks, pies and pasties, doughnuts, etc. About 100 persons were employed by this firm at various times during the show. These employees were engaged on a contract of hiring by the hour and were therefore entitled to the rates prescribed for

casual employees by the Cool Drinks and Confectionery Shops Award. As they were casual employees, their employment could be lawfully terminated on the giving of one hour's notice or payment in lieu thereof.

FITNESS CAMPAIGN

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: As one of the Government-appointed members on the National Fitness Council of South Australia, I was present yesterday morning at the official opening of the Fitness Australia 1969 campaign by the Premier in the Adelaide Town Hall, at which the Attorney-General was also present. I was pleased to see the Attorney there because his department takes a special interest in the council's work, provision having been made in this year's Estimates for a \$50,000 grant for the training of youth leaders and for youth clubs. At the opening it soon became apparent that the Attorney-General's fitness and athletic figure were the envy of many other people present who were less fortunate than he in this regard. Will he say whether he demonstrated his support for the campaign in a practical way by running a fitness mile this morning? Also, what advice can he give to keep fit in order to benefit those Parliamentarians who are less fit than he?

The SPEAKER: Order! Does the Attorney-General think this is a fit question?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I think it is a fit and proper question to reply to, Mr. Speaker. I noticed the interest and reaction of members opposite to the question.

Mr. Casey: I will challenge you any day.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: At what?

Mr. Casey: Anything: you name it.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I must not be diverted, Mr. Speaker. Each man to his own poison, as the saying goes, and, as I prefer running to any other method of keeping physically fit, I confidently recommend it to all members. As the old Latin expression has it, *mens sana in corpore sano*—a healthy mind in a healthy body. I thoroughly enjoy running, as well as using it as a method of keeping fit.

Mr. Hurst: You are always running away from questions.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I particularly recommend it to the member for Semaphore—

Mr. Hurst: I don't have to run as fast as you.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: —and if he would like some encouragement and coaching I should be pleased to give it to him.

Seriously, now that the member for Angas has given me the opportunity I commend the campaign that the Premier yesterday launched (and very effectively, if I may say so) for national fitness. The National Fitness Council in South Australia has several pamphlets in which are set out methods to be followed to this end. One that naturally appeals to me most is *Running into Fitness*, and I have copies available for members if they would like them. Another is *Isometric Exercise Programme for Home Use*: that is, doing exercises in the privacy of one's home. Some members who may be self-conscious of their figures may prefer these exercises to a more public exhibition of their running.

Mr. Broomhill: I prefer a gymnasium.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That is good, but it costs money and takes time, whereas anyone can run as this does not cost anything and is a pleasant pastime. In commending the objects of the campaign, I hope that all members will take heed of it and act on it. I hope that it will be a great success and be taken up throughout the community.

ALBERTON SCHOOL

Mr. RYAN: Many times I have been invited to various functions conducted by the Alberton Primary School Committee, an energetic and enthusiastic committee which has over the years raised much money to be spent on amenities for the children. However, the committee considers that it may now be raising money for a lost cause, because this school is probably one of the oldest divided schools in the metropolitan area. Some members of the committee have asked me whether the Minister of Education could ascertain whether the department intends to renovate the buildings or improve conditions at this old school because, believing that any funds raised should be for a worthy cause, they wish to know whether the department will be adding to the schools. Will the Minister obtain that information?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have an idea that I received a letter from the school committee last week. I have indicated my intention of visiting this school, one of the oldest in the metropolitan area, because of the various facets about the school which the committee has brought to my notice. I visit many schools, although most of them are in the country, but last week I visited the Taperoo school. I believe it is advantageous for Ministers of Education to see for themselves the conditions at

some of our schools, both in the city and in the country. I shall be happy to follow up the request of the honourable member because I am appreciative, and so is the Government, of the tremendous work done by school committees in raising funds to provide amenities and extra facilities for the children at our departmental schools. I will do two things: first, I will follow up the remarks that he has made and see what can be done in this regard; and secondly, I will follow up my intention to visit the school as soon as I can.

LOTTERY

Mr. EVANS: For some time I have been concerned about the position of a Parliamentarian who participated in the State lottery and was fortunate or unfortunate enough to win a prize. Can the Premier say whether the seat of such a member would be declared vacant? Alternatively, can such a member, under the Constitution, participate in and accept a prize from the State lottery?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I would not like to gamble on this question. As members know, the Constitution forbids doing business with the Government in any privileged way, but I cannot quote the Constitution on this matter, because I have not refreshed my memory. I would like to think that the clause that enabled members to participate in business offered to them would extend to their ability to buy a lottery ticket. I assume that some members of Parliament participate in a lottery occasionally, and the honourable member has asked what is not really a light-hearted question, because members should know whether they may, under the Constitution, participate in lotteries. I am therefore pleased that the question is yet unresolved and that I have not yet struck a prize in the lottery. I will get a considered reply from the Law Officer of the Government.

TEXTBOOKS

Mr. HUGHES: As I understand that the Minister of Education has a reply to a recent question asked by the member for Mount Gambier (who is absent from the House) concerning the supply of high school textbooks, will she give it now?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Because of some misunderstanding between a publishing firm and the Mount Gambier High School one of three textbooks originally set for first-year social studies was not received. Staff consultation had revealed that sufficient material was

available in two other textbooks studied, and it was therefore decided to refund the cost of the third book to parents. Payment was to be completed on Friday last.

AFRICAN DAISY

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about the biological control of African daisy?

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

These caterpillars, commonly called the woolly bear caterpillar, have been observed by departmental entomologists and weed control officers to be feeding on African daisy during the past 10 years. At times their numbers build up to the stage when the African daisy has been defoliated over several acres but their effects are usually short-lived and the bushes quickly recover. In some cases, as reported by Mr. Kemp, long-term control of small areas results because grasses are in a position to compete. However, for two reasons, there is no possibility of gaining effective long-term control using the woolly bear caterpillar. The reasons are as follows:

(1) The caterpillar has been a natural part of the environment while the African daisy has spread throughout the Adelaide Hills. If it had been capable of controlling the daisy, the weed would never have reached the proportion it has.

(2) The woolly bear caterpillar is a cosmopolitan feeder and, if large numbers were bred and released, they would not just eat the African daisy, which recovers quickly anyway, but they would severely damage many other garden plants.

BEACHPORT ROAD

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to the question recently asked by the member for Millicent, who is unfortunately away, about the road from Beachport to Robe?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It is considered that there are no bends on the Robe-Beachport road dangerous enough to warrant the allocation of funds for reconstruction prior to commencement of reconstruction and sealing of the whole length. It is planned to commence reconstruction in 1971-72 and to carry it through progressively until completed.

PETERBOROUGH ROAD

Mr. CASEY: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I recently asked about the Peterborough-Ucolta road and the future of the railway crossing in the area?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Highways Department and the South Australian

Railways have reached agreement for the construction of an over-pass structure at Dowd Hill on the Peterborough-Ucolta road. Designs and land acquisition are proceeding, and construction is expected to commence early next year.

TEACHER ACCOMMODATION

Mr. McKEE: The Minister of Education will recall that earlier this session I asked her a question about her department's proposal to provide teacher accommodation at Port Pirie. I am sure the Minister is aware that it is difficult to obtain satisfactory accommodation in Port Pirie, particularly for teachers, and I am sure she will agree that these people should have satisfactory accommodation. Will the Minister inquire urgently into this matter?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will try to get that information for the honourable member by next week.

TEMPORARY SPEED LIMITS

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Premier a reply to the question I asked a few weeks ago about imposing temporary speed limits where roadworks are in progress?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Under section 20 of the Road Traffic Act, the Road Traffic Board is the approving authority for the erection of 15 miles an hour speed limit signs at roadworks. In order to expedite the erection of such signs, the board has delegated its authority in this regard to prescribed police officers who, when exercising this authority, have regard to any danger to workmen, but avoid approving the signs unnecessarily, as their indiscriminate use detracts from their value, and motorists then tend to disregard them. This system, instituted in 1962, has generally worked well. As a guide to police officers and construction authorities, the manner in which these signs are to be used is described in the Road Traffic Board's *Code of Practice "Traffic Control At Works On Roads"*. The system has worked satisfactorily over a period of years and there is no justification for any change, as the police officer is the final arbiter in any dispute. In my constant attempts to enlighten the member for Edwardstown, I have obtained the booklet referred to and I will give it to the honourable member so that he may study it.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked earlier this week about racial discrimination?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: On Tuesday, the honourable Leader asked me a question that really concerned two separate matters relating to racial discrimination. One part of it concerned an incident which was the subject of a letter in the *News* of that day and which had taken place at a dance at Woodville. I have already directed that inquiries be made into this matter, and I hope to have a report soon. However, one of the people concerned with the organization of the function has already been in touch with me to assure me that there was no discrimination whatever, but this matter will be investigated. Regarding an incident that occurred at Port Augusta on May 3, I gave the Leader an answer on Tuesday, from memory. As I find, on checking the position, that I was not entirely accurate in what I said, I will go through the matter now to make certain that the report is straight.

I first heard of the incident from Mr. Jessop (Commonwealth member for Grey), but it was not until I received a letter, dated May 26, from Mr. Jack Horner (Secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders) that I had anything in writing about it, and then it was merely an allegation of an offence under the Prohibition of Discrimination Act, without any details. I replied to Mr. Horner on June 5, asking for details and saying that the Aboriginal concerned should get in touch with me direct in order to give me the details so that an investigation could be undertaken. I heard nothing further until I received a letter, dated August 6, from the South Australian Council of Civil Liberties. This letter contained, I think, three statements concerning the incident.

Within a few days of receiving that letter, I referred the matter to the police for inquiry. The honourable member asked me the question on Tuesday of this week; in fact, at that time, unknown to me, the file had come back to the office. It was received in the office on September 29 (last Monday) but, as the honourable member will appreciate, it takes dockets sometimes a day or so to get into my room, and I did not see the docket with the report from the police until yesterday morning. Since then, I have carefully considered the report from the police and, in my opinion, any prosecution under the Act would fail. I have discussed the matter with the Solicitor-General and, in his view also, that would be the result. As the publican in this case said that persons concerned would be served in the

public bar if they went there, it would not be possible to establish that an offence pursuant to section 4 of the Act (that is, a refusal to serve) had been committed, so, in our view, a prosecution would fail. Therefore, I believe I cannot give the necessary certificate, under section 9 of the Act, to prosecute.

The only other point I would add here is that in the party was a non-Aboriginal who told the police, when he was questioned by them during the inquiry to which I have referred, that he was there to get publicity for racial discrimination and to stir up trouble, although he did not use those words but a rather more vulgar phrase. Of course, whether or not that was so does not affect the matter of a prosecution, but it is an important factor to which I refer because it indicates a conscious desire to test out the publican in the particular circumstances.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Perhaps they were going on previous experience.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: That may be so. I think the fact should be known. The result of the inquiry and the investigation is that, in my opinion, it is not appropriate to prosecute under the Prohibition of Discrimination Act.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Attorney-General says he does not intend to grant a certificate under the Prohibition of Discrimination Act and he refuses to do so on the ground that, in the instance complained of, although the licensee refused to supply drink to Aborigines in the lounge he said he would supply it in the public bar. The Attorney-General says that means that under section 5 of the Act, a prosecution cannot be successfully launched. Section 5 (1) of the Act provides:

A licensee within the meaning of the Licensing Act, 1932-1964, shall not refuse to supply food, drink or accommodation to a person by reason only of his race or country of origin or the colour of his skin.

I take issue with the Attorney-General when he says that a refusal to supply in the lounge but an agreement to supply elsewhere is sufficient compliance with the section.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader cannot debate the question.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Apart from that, as I believe that that section could be used, I draw the Attorney's attention to the fact that there is a general section in the Act relating to "service" deliberately enacted to cover any attempts at evasion. Section 4 provides:

A person shall not refuse or fail on demand to supply a service to a person by reason only of his race or country of origin or the colour of his skin.

The definition of "service" is as follows:

"service" means the supply for reward of water, electricity, gas, transport, or other rights, privileges or services (not being services rendered by a servant to a master) by any person (including the Crown and any statutory authority) engaged in an industrial, commercial, business, profit-making or remunerative undertaking, or enterprise.

Service, the supply of liquor in a lounge, is a service within the meaning of the Act: it is a service available to the public and denied to these Aborigines. A clear case has been established on the Attorney's own admission, yet he refuses to grant a certificate for prosecution under the Act. Will he urgently reinvestigate this matter because, if these kinds of evasion of the Act are allowed on the flimsy grounds he has put forward, the Act needs immediate amendment. The Act can be enforced. Section 4 is extremely widely drawn. The supply of liquor in a lounge is a service that was denied in this case on the ground of the colour of skin and race of the persons denied the service. In these circumstances, will the Attorney-General urgently consider granting the certificate?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I was not responsible for the draftsmanship of the Act: that was the responsibility of the honourable gentleman, who was the Attorney-General when the Bill was introduced and, as I remember it, he piloted the Bill through the House in his dual capacity of Attorney-General and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. I can only take the Act as I find it. This morning I considered section 4 and section 5 and, in my opinion, the refusal or failure on demand to supply does not occur unless there is an unequivocal refusal or failure to supply, and there was no unequivocal refusal in this case: there was a refusal to supply in the saloon bar (not in the lounge, as the Leader said) and an intimation that the supply would be made or given in the public bar. In my opinion, that is not sufficient to found a prosecution under either section 4 or section 5. If the refusal had been linked with some unreasonable condition imposed by the publican as to any matter pertaining to those seeking the supply, it might have been a refusal, but there was none that could be interpreted as unreasonable. I am as anxious as the Leader is to prevent racial discrimination in South Australia and to use the provisions of

the Act if they can be used but, with the best will in the world, in the circumstances as I know them, I do not believe that a prosecution under either section would succeed.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Under the Act it is not essential that prosecutions be taken by the police or the Crown. They can be taken by anyone, and they merely require the certificate of the Attorney-General. He has expressed a certain view on a particular section, but we are in fundamental disagreement about this. However, as there is no reason why the matter should not be tested in the court to find out the meaning of the law, will the Attorney-General grant to me or to some other person interested in pursuing this matter the right to bring a prosecution under this section to test the law, as he says he is as anxious as I am to see that this kind of practice is stamped out?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: No, I am not inclined to do that. As I understand it, the duty that Parliament has put on the Attorney-General under section 9 (2) is to see that no prosecution is undertaken lightly or frivolously. In my view any prosecution which would fail would be undertaken lightly or frivolously.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: So you are not prepared to test the law even though the law is as broad as it is.

The SPEAKER: Order! I cannot allow this matter to be debated across the Chamber. The honourable Attorney-General.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I am not reflecting on the Leader's competence as a lawyer, but I do not believe he would have any more success than my officers would have if a prosecution were launched. Whether he or someone else did it, the situation would be the same, and I do not feel justified in giving him or anyone else a certificate.

ELIZABETH TRANSPORT

Mr. McANANEY: In the debate last evening the member for Gawler (Mr. Clark) suggested that the new bus service from Elizabeth to Adelaide would be subsidized to the extent of \$100,000 (and he said that was a modest figure) or possibly \$150,000. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to what extent the service will be subsidized and what is the estimated total cost of the service?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will inquire.

MANNUM INDUSTRY

Mr. HUDSON: I refer again to the position at Mannum, where there is still considerable concern, particularly in relation to employment prospects in the town. Events of the last few weeks will have some impact on general business activity in the town, particularly as anyone who has been laid off from work and who wishes to seek further employment will almost invariably have to seek it elsewhere. Several former employees of David Shearer Limited have already left Mannum. The Minister of Works said yesterday that he had promised a deputation that he would see what could be done about encouraging industry to go to Mannum. Of course, that would continue a policy that has been followed for a long time, but it is doubtful that any immediate gains to Mannum will eventuate as a result of anything the Minister may be able to do. I understand that the local council has certain projects, and indeed over the last two years has had applications for subsidy for one or two tourist projects rejected. It would appear that, if the Government really wished to assist the Mannum area to get over the temporary difficulties, grants to the council to assist with various local developments could be considered.

Mr. Casey: That's been done before.

Mr. HUDSON: Yes, by the previous Government. I understand that the council is interested in development at the lookout over the river. Also, an area of recreation land is being purchased at present between River Lane and the Murray River and north of the present recreation ground, and there may well be other development projects or road projects that could be got under way, as a result of Government grants to the council, to stimulate activity in the area. Will the Premier consult with his relevant colleagues to see what can be done through assistance to the Mannum council to offset the effect of the down-turn in employment in that area and, if assistance can be given, will he approach the council and open negotiations?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It may surprise the member for Glenelg to know that one of my relevant colleagues is the member for Murray (Mr. Wardle), who represents the district concerned. In taking up the representation of this district, which is so ably represented by the member for Murray, I am not sure whether the member for Glenelg is casting his eyes this far afield because of the electoral redistribution to take place, or whether

he has some other idea. I assure the honourable member, however, that I have been in constant touch with the member for Murray and that I have also spoken to representatives of the company involved, as has the Minister of Labour and Industry, who, after consulting with the member for Murray, has considered the matter deeply and is presently thinking about certain courses. The member for Glenelg can rest assured that the district is ably represented and that its member and the Minister are actively considering the problem.

Mr. HUDSON: I assure the Premier that I am interested in the position at Mannum, first because I am a citizen of South Australia and regard my responsibilities in this Parliament as extending beyond the boundaries of my district (and I am sure even the Premier regards his responsibilities likewise) and, secondly, because I and my family regularly visit the Mannum recreation area, which is one of the most attractive recreation spots on the Murray River and a place the Premier should visit if he has not already visited it. In Mannum this morning I spoke to the Chairman and the Clerk of the Mannum District Council, and as yet no offers of special assistance have been made to the council to try to help the town of Mannum overcome the present difficulties. Therefore, whatever action may be under way, negotiations with the council have not commenced.

I again point out to the Premier that the effect on the town of the decline in employment at David Shearer Limited is serious, because it will bring about a considerable reduction in spending, particularly as many of those who were put off work have moved out of the town to seek employment elsewhere. Will the Premier say whether his previous reply to me indicates that the Government will not consider making special grants to the Mannum District Council and will not open negotiations with the council to consider what special local projects can be commenced now?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I think that the honourable member is doing what is unprofessionally known as a bit of stirring in trying to attribute motives to the Government as a result of my previous reply. I am aware that his interest is a State-wide one. I have visited Mannum and have spoken at public meetings there concerning the interest the honourable member takes in the public of South Australia. I am greatly interested in Mannum and, if the honourable member will put his question on notice, I will obtain a reply for him.

Mr. HUDSON: Will the Attorney-General discuss with the Minister of Local Government the possible ways of stimulating employment in Mannum, and ask him to consult the Mannum District Council in order to find out in what way his department can assist the council?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes.

Mr. HUDSON: Before the end of the last financial year the Minister of Immigration and Tourism had received applications from the Mannum District Council concerning assistance for tourist projects in that area. One of these applications was rejected by the Minister, and I understand that this year the council is to receive only \$1,335. In view of the current employment difficulties being experienced in Mannum, will the Minister reconsider his decision with respect to this project, which he previously rejected after receiving representations from the council and the local member?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I suggest that the honourable member put the question on notice.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATION

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Premier seems to take exception to an Opposition member's asking a question concerning a district represented by a Government member. If that is his feeling, will the Premier ask members on his side to refrain from asking questions regarding districts represented by Opposition members? I remind the Premier that yesterday the member for Eyre (Mr. Edwards) asked a question about events in the Whyalla District. I think the fact that I am acting for Mr. Loveday (member for that district) while he is overseas is well known and has been well advertised. Until now I have not taken objection to other members' asking questions about this district, but I consider that, because of the Premier's attitude, I must now protest.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will not try to impose any form of censorship on members. They have their own responsibility about whether they look after their own districts and whether they refer to other districts. The answer on those matters will be given at the ballot box when the people have their say about the representation given. I am sorry if I gave a different impression to the honourable member.

Mr. Casey: You didn't give an impression: you said it outright.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I did say, and I repeat, that the position at Mannum is well in hand. I am sure that the member for

Glenelg would have been pleased about the many replies given to him previously, and I should think the member for Hindmarsh would be the first to admit that the member for Glenelg has received many courteous replies on this matter. I doubt that any other member has been as persistent as has the member for Glenelg in inquiring about matters affecting districts represented by other members, and inevitably the time must come when a Minister looks askance at a member seeking detail in reply to questions concerning another member's district. Therefore, if we wish to make comparisons we must consider the depth of questions asked of Ministers. I am not inclined to impose any form of censorship and I will give the honourable member the same reply as that given to the member who first inquired about the matter.

NUMBER PLATES

Mr. HUGHES: In asking this question on behalf of the member for Mount Gambier (Mr. Burdon), I assure the Attorney-General that I have no political ambition to represent Mount Gambier should any redistribution of districts take place.

Mr. Hudson: That's not what I hear!

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to the honourable member's question about permitting owners of motor vehicles to retain old registration numbers?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Contrary to the spirit of the interjection made by the member for Glenelg, I accept the honourable member's assurance that he has no covetous eyes on Mount Gambier. My colleague states:

The new registration system, which includes a change to *alpha numero* plates as well as the principle of tying the number to the vehicle for its life, has operated very effectively since its introduction in January, 1967. It would be a retrograde step to interfere with this by allowing retention of numbers as was done under the old system.

MORGAN ROAD

Mr. CASEY: I hope the Attorney-General will not object to the fact that I am asking a question about a road that is not in my district. I know that the member for Burra will not object, because it is only a short road between Burra and Morgan that is used extensively by some of my constituents who go to Morgan to water ski. I have often been told that it would be in the interests of people living in the North if the road were sealed. I was pleased to read in the *Advertiser* this week a

statement by the Minister of Roads and Transport that consideration was being given to constructing the road between Morgan and Burra so that it would eventually be sealed, and that this would greatly benefit east-west traffic. He spoke to me on this matter only three days ago. Will the Attorney-General ask his colleague when the Highways Department is expected to be able to upgrade and eventually seal the road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I take it that this road is in the new District of Frome, which will be represented by the present member for Burra after the next election. Therefore, in the interests of both the present member for Frome and the incoming member for Frome, I will inquire as requested.

BENLATE

Mr. GILES: In recent years a new chemical has been developed and sold under the trade name of Benlate. It is being used in various parts of the world in the control of fungus diseases, mainly black spot on apples, powdery mildew and mites. The chemical has been released for use in Victoria and I understand its release in South Australia is being considered. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture to expedite the release of the chemical, so that certain growers throughout the Adelaide Hills can try it during the coming season, as it seems exceptionally effective in controlling the three diseases to which I have referred?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will put the question to my colleague.

SOUTH-EASTERN FREEWAY

Mr. EVANS: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my recent question about the South-Eastern Freeway?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It is intended to leave the Echunga road (Main Road No. 226) open, thereby retaining the present access to the Hahndorf oval and cemetery.

PORT PIRIE SILOS

Mr. McKEE: Can the Minister of Marine say whether there has been any further development regarding making available land at Port Pirie for wheat storage?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I assume that the question refers to the application by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited to me for permission to erect additional silos along the wharf frontage at Port Pirie.

Having considered this matter, I told the company that land was available on the property leased by the company from the Marine and Harbors Department at the rear of the existing silos and that the co-operative had my approval to erect there the silos that they required. However, the co-operative then asked for permission to erect the silos in line with the existing silos. If this were done the only remaining portion of the wharf available at Port Pirie for future expansion would be largely blocked by the silos and, in these circumstances, I did not approve the application. However, I have approved of the co-operative's building its silos at the rear of the existing silos, where adequate land is available.

SOUTH ROAD WIDENING

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question about making provision for a clearway on South Road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The section of South Road from Marleston to Daws Road is designated in the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report as subject to widening to 80ft. in priority 1. This would normally indicate that widening should take place within about five years; however, a large number of arterial improvements is allotted a similar priority and, since the five-year advance construction programme is presently being reviewed, it is not possible to say at this stage exactly when the widening of any particular section will be commenced. There is no intention of widening the road progressively from Torrens Road southward, and work may be carried out on two or more sections concurrently. In view of acquisition which has already taken place, it is probable that the widening will generally be in the form of a 7ft. strip on each side of the road. The particular stretch of road mentioned by the honourable member includes Emerson railway crossing. Since it has now been determined that the rapid transit rail link from Edwardstown to the city will continue on the existing route at Emerson, some form of grade separation will be necessary at this point. Details of this separation have still to be worked out and, until this is done, the extent of land requirements for the road improvement cannot be precisely defined.

MIGRANTS' PLIGHT

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I was concerned to read in this morning's *Advertiser* that a group of migrants who had arrived in Adelaide last weekend from Czechoslovakia were facing

acute difficulty regarding accommodation and employment and that they were almost penniless. These migrants have come from behind the Iron Curtain, which divides the Socialist world from the capitalist world, and I think efforts should be made to welcome them and to give them every assistance. Can the Premier say whether the Government has made any move to help these migrants through what is reported to be a most desperate situation?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I took action today to see what could be done in this regard. My information is that on the arrival of these migrants it was found that 66 of them were breadwinners and that they are now living in three Commonwealth hostels. The Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service has been active since they arrived last Sunday and by last night half of them had been placed in employment. This seems to me to be very good progress and the department is continuing to negotiate for employment for the others.

If any of these people are without money I believe that they can be assisted by the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service. However, no-one has so far sought this type of assistance either from the officers in the department at the hostels or from district employment officers. I assure the honourable member that I took action quickly when I saw this report this morning and I am happy to find that progress has been made so quickly. I think we can expect the position to be resolved soon as we know in South Australia that migrants from Czechoslovakia make splendid citizens and I do not expect any difficulty in having them placed. However, my officers and I will keep a close watch on the situation and do what we can.

CHANDLER HILL TANK

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my previous question concerning the area served by the water tank at Chandler Hill?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: At present the Engineering and Water Supply Department is building one 2,000,000-gall. concrete surface storage tank on Chandler Hill. This tank has a full supply level at R.L. 1290, is located near the top of the hill and is at the same level as the 1,000,000-gall. tank originally built as part of the Clarendon-Blackwood scheme. This additional storage tank is necessary because of the increase in demand in recent years in the Belair-Blackwood area and to supply the new branch line from Chandler Hill to Heathfield. A sum of \$58,000 has been

included on the 1969-70 Loan Estimates to enable this tank to be finished.

On the 1969-70 Loan Estimates provision has also been made for the expenditure of \$70,000 to enable a start to be made on a further 2,000,000-gall. concrete surface storage tank on Chandler Hill. This tank is, however, located on the western side of the hill and has a full supply level at R.L. 850, i.e., it is about 400ft. below the top of the hill. This tank will replace an existing 30,000-gall. squatters tank and is necessary to ensure a satisfactory supply to consumers at Braeview and to areas to the south and east of Happy Valley reservoir which are too high to be served from the reservoir itself.

LAKE ALEXANDRINA FISHING

Mr. McANANEY: I understand that a Commonwealth Government grant has been made to investigate the fishing industry. A man who has been fishing at Lake Alexandrina for many years has written to me stating that since 1958 he has not been able to catch callop or silver perch, and he has asked whether money could be used to investigate lake fishing. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether an investigation has been made into fishing in Lake Alexandrina and, if it has not, whether one could be made?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will ask my colleague and inform the honourable member when I have received a reply.

WOODVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The Minister of Education will recall that she told me she would like to visit the Woodville Primary School at a convenient time. Today, she said she would visit the Alberton Primary School and, as she will be passing the Woodville Primary School on the journey, will she consider visiting this school on the same day? If she decides to visit this school, will she inform me beforehand so that I can arrange for members of the school committee and welfare club to be present?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to do that. I have already suggested to the Director-General that, as time permits and opportunity offers, I will now visit metropolitan schools, because I have not seen many of them. Recently, I told the honourable member that I should like to visit the Woodville Primary School. I have a limited knowledge of this school, because I visited it many times when I was associated with the advisory council for deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

The honourable member knows that there is a speech and hearing centre at this school, although it is housed on a fairly cramped site. I will certainly accede to his request, and I suggest that he leave it to me to arrange a convenient time, when I shall be happy to accompany him.

PAECHTOWN MILL

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Lands and Transport to my recent question about tourism in the Hills area, particularly concerning the mill at Paechtown and other buildings?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: My colleague states that this matter has been discussed with officers of the Highways Department. It is considered that the character of this early group of buildings would not be despoiled in any way and that the extra distance visitors would need to travel to get from one location to the other would not be a hardship.

MENINDEE LAKES

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the rates of evaporation in the Menindee Lakes, particularly in Lake Speculation?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The average net evaporation value for the Chowilla storage site as used by the technical committee in the studies, after allowing for rainfall and applied pan coefficient, was 46in. a year, which lies between the figures suggested by the honourable member. Rainfall and evaporation figures were based on historical data. The average figure for net evaporation less rainfall for the Menindee Lakes as used by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission is 64in., based on historical records. The net evaporation figure for the period 1956-1965 was 53in. (well below the long-term average). Lake Speculation is filled by overflow from Lake Menindee. In the years 1956-65, the situation is obscured by the fact that the Menindee Lakes scheme was being constructed for the first half of the period. It is evident from records that Lake Speculation received Menindee water for two years in the period following 1956, which indicates that the average evaporation for the eight-year period exceeded the figure suggested by the honourable member and, in any case, the figure for the eight-year period was well below the long-term average. This data was allowed for in the computer studies.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

THE ESTIMATES

In Committee of Supply.

(Continued from October 1. Page 1864.)

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Minister of Education Department, \$19,788.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE (Minister of Education): When I asked leave to continue my remarks last evening, I had just begun to deal with the percentage of the State Budget being devoted to education, and I had pointed out that, as had been acknowledged by the previous Minister of Education, it would be incorrect to expect more than a quarter of the State's revenue resources to be devoted to education. It is rather interesting, if one goes back over the years, to find that, in 1949-50, 11.4 per cent of the Budget was devoted to education in South Australia, whereas the present figure is 25.5 per cent. I shall have a little more to say about the percentage of moneys spent on education in relation to the South Australian Institute of Teachers and to its current campaign.

If one excludes the Commonwealth contributions made in regard to science, library and technical equipment, one finds that the 1968-69 vote for the Education Department from State revenue funds was \$53,317,000, the actual payments in that year being \$54,632,000. The proposed 1969-70 vote is \$59,821,000, an increase on the vote for the previous year of \$6,504,000, or 12.2 per cent. The increase on actual payments in 1968-69 is \$5,189,000, or 9.5 per cent, as stated by the Treasurer in the Budget speech. In the last financial year the overall increase in the Education Department vote, compared with 1967-68 payments, was 8 per cent. The Education Department vote this year represents 18.5 per cent of the State Budget, whereas in 1968-69 it represented 18 per cent. However, although the .5 per cent increase, quoted both inside and outside this place, is correct, that increase in one year is substantial and amounts to about \$1,700,000.

The Public Buildings Department revenue vote contains an item relating to the maintenance of school buildings which, in 1968-69, amounted to \$1,370,000 and which for 1969-70 is \$1,650,000. When the member for Glenelg was speaking to the first line, he referred to the proposed increase of 9½ per cent in the provision for the Education Department and

compared it with increases of about 11 per cent in previous years. The reason for the apparent lesser percentage increase lies in the treatment of awards. The increases calculated for previous years are based on actual payments that reflect the cost of awards made during the year. I think it is generally accepted that it is a long-standing practice to present to the Parliament Estimates based on known salary and wage awards and determinations and to provide especially for any variations of awards that become effective after the Budget is presented.

The 1969-70 proposals in relation to the Education Department are accordingly framed, having regard to the known rates of pay. If increases are granted as a result of a determination by the Commonwealth arbitration tribunal, the Teachers Salaries Board, or any other competent authority, increased funds will be made available, and the actual payments to be made would eventually be increased accordingly. Likewise, the percentage increase relating to the department would exceed the 9½ per cent currently forecast. An award, or combination of awards, costing the department \$1,000,000 in 1969-70, would increase the percentage from 9½ per cent to 11½ per cent.

I wish now to refer to the letter on which has been partly based the present campaign of the teachers institute. I wish also to clear up the misconception concerning the sum devoted to education, as referred to in that letter, a copy of which I believe every member has received. However, first, I refer to the sequence of events that led to the letter's being sent out to members. Honourable members will recall that the teachers institute waited on the Premier and me and advanced what are now known as the 12 points.

Some of those points have been met by actions taken by the Education Department recently which have already been referred to by me and referred to in the Budget. Following this, as honourable members will know, a vote was taken, the result of which was communicated to me. However, an insufficient number of votes was cast to give the green light, as it were, to the institute to go ahead with a proposed strike. Indeed, I believe honourable members and the people of South Australia would have been sorry to see that strike occur, because of the status held in the community by teachers. However, the proposal to strike was defeated. Following this, I discussed the matters in question with the Premier and members of Cabinet, and

then arranged an appointment with Mr. White, so that he could discuss with me Cabinet's reaction to the result of the vote taken. Of course, the vote relating to the strike represented only one part of the various proposals on which teachers were invited to express their views at the time.

Mr. White and I had a long and friendly discussion, as is always the case when I meet the President of the South Australian Institute of Teachers. I believe that relations between the institute and the Minister of Education, the Director-General and other officers of the department are most amicable, and we frequently have discussions involving many topics. The first point I put to Mr. White during a lengthy conversation was that the Government's resources were limited. I pointed out to him the difficulty in meeting all the demands made on the Government; I explained how our total resources were spread to meet all the requirements expected of a Government; and said that we were doing all that we could, with the funds available, to meet the needs of education. I also said that these funds represented a quarter of the moneys available to the Government.

Then I went on to say what a fillip the Commonwealth Government's small grant (small in comparison with many other grants) of \$2,000,000 had been to the State's finances: it meant that we were able to balance our Budget. I then said that the Education Department's share of the State's resources from Consolidated Revenue was 25 per cent. Unfortunately, in replying by letter to the President of the institute, I inadvertently used the phrase "Education Department's share" instead of "education's share" generally which, as I said last evening, refers to all the tertiary institutions as well as to the Art Gallery, the Museum and the Education Department. I think it would have been very simple for the institute to ascertain that I was in fact referring to education generally and not to the Education Department. I very much regret that this mistake was made, as I pointed out in later correspondence to the President of the institute but, unfortunately, this letter was used.

For about an hour and a half Mr. White and I had a fruitful discussion on education matters that were of the greatest importance to both of us. Again, I simply asked him whence the institute expected the Government to obtain the extra money required to meet its demands. I told him that, if we devoted more money towards education, other things would have to suffer and that we might have to cut down on

such things as health and hospital services or on various aspects of social welfare, or that we might have to cut the vote of the Police Force, which maintains law and order. I simply put this to him as one responsible citizen to another. Then I said it was not possible for me at that stage to anticipate the forthcoming Budget (it would have been improper for me to do so), because there were to be meetings in Canberra that would affect the extent to which the State Government would be able to meet the increasing needs of education as well as all the other things for which the Government was responsible. Mr. White then left.

The next morning he telephoned, asking my secretary whether I could set out fairly briefly in a letter the points I had made to him the preceding afternoon, because he would like to amplify them to the executive of the institute. I did as I was asked (confirmed the actual points) and it was in this letter, unfortunately, that inadvertently I said "the Education Department's share of the State's resources from Consolidated Revenue was 25 per cent" when, in fact, I should have said that it was "education's share". I am indeed sorry that the institute saw fit to use this letter in the way it did; I had no idea that it intended to do so. I have wanted to clear up this point because it has been used against me, I believe, unfairly. If anyone belonging to the institute had taken the trouble to work out the percentage he would have realized instantly that the 25 per cent referred to education generally and embraced more than just the Education Department.

I refer again to the campaign conducted by the institute and to the letters I have received from the staffs of schools. One of the aims of the institute was that the Minister and members of Parliament should be informed of shortcomings which the teachers believed existed in education. They were to highlight the problems, deficiencies and shortcomings, as they saw them, in their schools. Although there are over 600 schools, I have received letters from less than one-seventh of the school staffs.

Mr. Broomhill: What does that prove?

Mr. Virgo: We've heard from the other six-sevenths.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Members have referred to me other letters but, together with the 80 I have received, the total would not reach 100. Therefore, it would appear that not all teachers and school staffs in South Australia wanted to further this aspect of the campaign. The 80 letters I have received

relate mostly to various deficiencies in the schools of the writers, deficiencies of which the department is well aware. The letters refer to inadequate buildings and accommodation, staff shortage (which I have said time and time again is a problem acknowledged by the Education Department and by the Government), and large class sizes. All these problems are real and valid, and they have been carefully tabulated and are being investigated by the department. Other matters are currently the subject of discussion between the President of the institute and me or between the Director-General and the institute. We are trying to find a solution to some and to rectify other problems that are known to exist in schools.

The other evening I came in fairly late and received a telephone call from a member of the press asking me whether I had any comment to make on the tele-poll conducted by the institute as yet another aspect of its campaign. I was told that about 8,000 people telephoned, saying that they wanted more money for education (and I was surprised that there were not more), and that 150 people telephoned to say that they did not want more money (and this amazed me). It seemed extraordinary to me that a third question was not included asking whether, if people wanted more money for education, they would be prepared to pay increased taxation.

Mr. Broomhill: You realize many people telephoned that number and left their telephone off the hook so that the engaged signal was given for hours?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I do not know the mechanics of the matter, but the figures I have just stated were those reported to me by the press, and I was asked to make some comment on them.

Mr. Broomhill: It wasn't a popular comment you made, either.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I believe this campaign has not been the success that the teachers wanted it to be. I have said time and time again that teachers have a real concern in this matter. School staffs had an open invitation to write to the Minister of Education and to highlight discrepancies, shortcomings and deficiencies they see in education. However, when I receive letters from only one-seventh of school staffs in South Australia, I can take no other view than that there has not been an overwhelming interest in the campaign waged by the institute.

Mr. Hudson: Not everyone should write to you, surely.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The essence of the campaign was that the letters should be sent to the Minister.

Mr. Hudson: I have taken up the matters that have been raised.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Few letters have been referred to me by members opposite.

Mr. Virgo: What's the good of referring them to you?

Mr. Clark: We knew it would be a waste of time.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I understood that members were asked to bring the letters to the attention of the Minister of Education. I am pointing out that I have had many duplications in the 80 letters that I have received that have come from members, mostly on this side, who have done what the teachers have asked by referring them to the Minister. There is no way of dealing with the matters unless they are referred to the Education Department. I said early in my speech last evening that I considered that teachers had a real concern for education. Their campaign would have made a much greater impact on the public if the Opposition had not stepped in politically and ruined the campaign. That is exactly what members opposite did.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am not saying that teachers are politically motivated, but I am saying that the impact of their campaign was ruined by the Opposition.

Mr. Broomhill: Nonsense!

Mr. Virgo: That's an insult to the intelligence of the teachers and parents.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have put before the Committee most of the relevant facts and have dealt with matters submitted by members opposite. We have been criticized up hill and down dale because of alleged deficiencies and weaknesses in education, and I want to refer to what has been achieved in the last 18 months. I feel a bit reluctant about this. I have not a complete list similar to the one from which the former Minister of Education (Hon. R. R. Loveday) quoted when he told members what he had done during his term of office, but I will tell the Committee what has happened since I have been Minister of Education.

Mr. Lawn: The crisis in education is No. 1.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: There is no crisis in education.

Mr. Lawn: Of course there is.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: We have a most forward-looking Education Department and I defy anyone to say that the department has not met, to the limit, the heavy demands made on it in this time in which we live, when all kinds of advances are being made. I have said that we are asking the Commonwealth Government for funds so that we can do more than we are doing at present. One of the things for which the previous Minister of Education claimed credit was the appointment of Regional Officers at Whyalla and Mount Gambier. From the docket on this matter I have ascertained that a recommendation was made to the former Minister that he approve the appointment of such officers in these two centres but that he did not proceed with the matter. He did not submit it to Cabinet and that remained for me to do. We appointed these officers, because it was recognized that we wanted to decentralize the control of education in South Australia.

These appointments went ahead, and the officers are functioning and making a big contribution to education in those regions. As members know, from January 1, 1970, we will increase secondary school boarding allowances. The allowances for students in from first year to fourth year will be increased from \$150 to \$180 and the allowance for fifth-year students will be increased from \$200 to \$230. The member for Glenelg, for some reason of his own that is hard to fathom, has moved for the disallowance of a regulation providing for continuation of payment of scholarship and book allowances for fourth-year and fifth-year students.

Mr. Hudson: I have not done that.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The honourable member has made some such suggestion.

Mr. Broomhill: You're wrong again.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I must ask the honourable member not to debate a motion that is before the Chamber.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: It was done with the best of intention, Mr. Chairman. I have already referred to the announcement in the Budget that we are appointing additional ancillary staff, and this goes a long way towards meeting the assessment made by the Institute of Teachers.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: And in one year.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes. Further, we are supplying outright essential mathematics equipment, instead of subsidizing its provision.

We have introduced the fourth step in providing equal pay for women and, incidentally, we have removed most of the remaining discrimination against married women teachers. We have made a substantial increase in the number of release-time scholarships, a matter that has the approval of the Institute of Teachers. We have made provision for a further 10 part-time release scholarships, bringing the annual quota to 10 full-time scholarships and 50 part-time scholarships. We have increased the allowances payable to teachers college students as from July 1 this year. We will admit married women to teachers colleges in 1970, with payment of allowances.

We are introducing a mature-age allowance and marriage allowances for entrants to teachers colleges. We have introduced a new element of teaching in our schools. I refer to flexible units, which are being watched with much interest. We have one unit in operation, and seven more in the course of establishment. We have set up the Karmel Committee of Inquiry into Education in South Australia and I understand that the committee has received about 150 submissions from people and organizations throughout the State and that its report is expected to be submitted later next year. As I have already said, we are participating in the nation-wide survey of education needs throughout the Commonwealth, with a view to approaching the Commonwealth Government for additional funds. I have mentioned only some of the many things which have been accomplished and which, because of our forward planning, will bring about improvement.

Mr. Broomhill: They were only some, were they?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I said that.

Mr. Broomhill: What about the others?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I have been a little more modest than the former Minister. He gave a list of about 40 things that had been done in three years. When I have been Minister for that time, my list will rival the one that he produced.

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: Why didn't he do some of the things that you are doing?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I consider that I have refuted many of the insinuations and criticisms that have been hurled at the Government about what it has allegedly not done in education. Education in South Australia is in a very healthy state.

Mr. Broomhill: Whom are you kidding?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Education is in a much better state than it was in when the

Labor Government was in office from 1965 until 1968. I have already referred to the increase in the sum spent on education in the last 20 years.

Mr. Lawn: You'll soon be cleaning the windows, will you?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: No, because the cost of that can be better spent on essential matters. Under this Government, education has made great progress and will continue to do so.

Mr. FERGUSON: It was thoughtful of the member for Glenelg to remind members last evening that he and I had been invited to a meeting at Minlaton.

Mr. Broomhill: But where were you?

Mr. FERGUSON: I was not present on that occasion.

Mr. Broomhill: Why couldn't you go?

Mr. FERGUSON: The honourable member should not make such inquiries. I am not in the habit of running away.

Mr. Broomhill: What happened on that occasion?

Mr. FERGUSON: It was almost humanly impossible for me to be present, but I assure the honourable member that my standing in the eyes of the Headmaster and staff of the Minlaton High School or any other school on Yorke Peninsula, and of the parents of the children attending those schools, has not been downgraded because of my absence on that occasion. Great developments in education have taken place on Yorke Peninsula. Maitland has one of the best equipped area schools in the State. I believe that the teachers at the schools on Yorke Peninsula are pleased with the department's efforts, and I have received correspondence that proves my point. I have received the following letter from the Headmaster of the Minlaton High School:

I would like to thank you sincerely for the way you have fostered our interests and needs whenever you could. We are indeed grateful for the lift that the school and Yorke Peninsula will receive from these developments.

I have also received the following letter from D. Chittleborough (Honorary Secretary of the Minlaton High School Council):

I have been asked to convey to you on behalf of the council and the Headmaster their deep appreciation for your continued interest and efforts in connection with the welfare of this school.

I believe that the letters are evidence that I have some standing left as regards education on Yorke Peninsula. If there is a crisis in education in South Australia it is only in the sense that there has always been a crisis in

education. There was a crisis in education when I was attending school. I hope the day will never come when the South Australian education system is so perfect that it needs nothing more.

It is most significant that the letters received from schools have come from the larger schools in the larger communities—centres where it is easy to mobilize teachers so that they can complain. I have not received complaints from teachers in one-teacher schools or two-teacher schools, even though teachers in such schools have to put up with far more serious deficiencies than do teachers in larger schools. So, it is clear that the campaign has been organized within the larger schools.

Mr. VIRGO: The Minister is apparently convinced (and I think the honourable member who has just spoken agrees with her) that there is no crisis in education. Both the Minister and the member for Yorke Peninsula were rather critical of the South Australian Institute of Teachers, which had the temerity to conduct a campaign to put education on a better footing! On the contrary, I think that it would have been justifiable to criticize teachers if they had remained silent because, if they had, they would not have been fulfilling their proper function.

The basis of this trouble lies in Canberra. The Minister says she is making, or planning to make, overtures to the Commonwealth Government, but the plain fact is that someone from South Australia must go to Canberra and stress how great is our need. There is little point in the Minister's saying that there has been an increase of \$X million here and \$X million there: the plain fact is that successive Liberal Governments in Canberra have ignored the State school system and have poured out their millions in trying to get votes through aiding the private schools. The Minister knows it, and she ought to be protesting so that State schools receive an equal share.

Mr. Wardle: Make your free Commonwealth election speech somewhere else.

Mr. VIRGO: The honourable member had better go to Mannum and make a few such speeches there. He may even like to ask the teachers and parents in Mannum whether there is a crisis in education. If he did so, however, they might put him in the lowest class. The Commonwealth Government has abandoned the State school system throughout Australia to the extent that parents and citizens associations in New South Wales and similar bodies in other States are up in arms because the

Commonwealth Government has lavished money on one sector and denied any money to the other.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: That is ridiculous.

Mr. VIRGO: The Minister can say that, but I ask her to bring forward evidence that contradicts what I have said. When she makes a remark like that, one thinks, "Is it any wonder there is a crisis in education?"

The Hon. Joyce Steele: You are completely ignoring the contribution the Commonwealth Government has already made in the field of technical education.

Mr. VIRGO: If the Minister would only get down off her high horse she would realize that what I am saying is correct. The Commonwealth Government has completely failed to provide finance for the State education system below the tertiary level.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: What about school libraries, laboratories and the training of teachers?

Mr. VIRGO: I ask the Minister to provide members with a comparison between the sum spent by the Commonwealth Government on the State school system in those categories and the sum spent on the private school system. If she were aware of this comparison she would realize that the State school system is being ignored completely. I believe that the private school system should receive some help, but no-one will convince me that we should be using the taxpayers' money to assist schools such as Prince Alfred College, St. Peter's College, Rostrevor College and other such colleges: these are prestige schools. Commonwealth finance ought to be channelled into the areas of need, not the areas of greed. Unfortunately, the present Commonwealth Government (and it has only three weeks to go) has starved the State primary school system over the period of 20 years referred to by the Minister.

Concerning the telephone poll, the Minister made the point that, although more than 8,000 people who phoned favoured more money being devoted to education, that was not of any great significance because, after all, 150 people who rang said that it was not required. I was informed by the institute that the arrangements for this automatic answering service were totally inadequate and that many people were unable to cast a vote. It has been suggested that the figure of about 8,000 in favour would have been trebled if facilities had been available. Surely the Minister and the Government are not so undemocratic that they do not accept the voice of at least 8,000

in favour compared with 150 against: that is almost 100 per cent. The Minister said that it would be interesting to ask the 8,000 people favouring more money for education whether they would be prepared to pay more taxation. Well, this is a typical red herring. Taxation need not be increased to provide more money for education, and the Minister knows that, for the Commonwealth Government's revenue automatically increases each year without taxation being increased.

The Minister said that, because 11 per cent of the State's revenue was spent on education in 1949 and now it is 25 per cent, the Government was doing a good job. Although she criticizes the Labor Government's effort for three years, she must realize that the Liberal Government was in power for most of that period of 20 years. Someone has to tell the Commonwealth Government that South Australia must have more money for education. Bolte obtained money for Dartmouth and other projects and Askin obtained it to build the Copeton dam, but we are unable to educate the children because of the lack of money. At 19 years or 20 years they can be sent to Vietnam to be slaughtered: perhaps if they were educated they would revolt against being slaughtered. The Minister seems quite fortified in her attitude that there is no crisis in education and that, because only one-seventh of the staffs of schools have communicated with her, she blithely assumes that the other six-sevenths are happy with the present position.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: I didn't say that at all.

Mr. VIRGO: That was the only conclusion one could reach from the Minister's remarks.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: You have put the wrong construction on them.

Mr. VIRGO: No other can be put on them. The Minister stressed the fact that she had received only about 80 letters, which represented about one-seventh of the number of teachers. As has every other member, I have received many letters, but I do not forward each one to the Minister: what would be the good? A letter from the Daws Road High School staff states that a resolution was unanimously carried that the Minister of Education should accept that there was a crisis in education and that she should give a positive and constructive lead to finding a solution. I have many similar letters from schools in my district. If all members gave the Minister letters that they had received she would find that instead of about one-seventh of the teachers declaring that there was a crisis in

education there would be about one-seventh, at the most, of teachers who had not got around to doing anything. I realize that the Minister's hands are tied to some extent, as were those of former Ministers. We do not quarrel about that, but we quarrel with the Minister and the Government for accepting what Gorton hands out, and for not demanding more, because of a coming Commonwealth election. That will be the time when people will be able to voice their desires in the field of education. If people want more money for education, we must change the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. HUDSON: I congratulate the member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson) on his speech. The meeting at Minlaton to which I referred was held in 1966 at the instigation of the South Australian Institute of Teachers and dealt with Commonwealth aid for education, and that is why the honourable member for Yorke Peninsula did not attend. What I find most difficult to understand about the Minister's attitude is that she supports Commonwealth aid for independent schools without a survey but not Commonwealth aid for Government schools without a survey. Surely, if Commonwealth aid for independent schools can be applauded (there has been no survey, as the Minister admits, because the independent schools participate in a survey), then why is there not emergency Commonwealth aid for the Government schools without a survey? There is no answer to this at all; yet the Minister says that she and all the State Liberal Ministers of Education have agreed that nothing can be granted by the Commonwealth Government until the survey has taken place.

I heard something about boarding allowances. I received a letter this morning stating that a student at the Adelaide Teachers College, having applied for a boarding allowance, was told in a letter received from the Education Department:

I have considered your application for a boarding allowance for the period February 7 to June 20, 1969, but am unable to grant it. It is not the policy of this department to pay a boarding allowance because of the temporary absence overseas of parents.

Some of the things that have been announced concerning policy have had little impact because they are not nearly as extensive as they should be (again, because of the limited finance available). One matter for which the Minister has now taken some credit relates to the allowances paid to student teachers. However, adjustments have been necessary this year to make up for the havoc created last year.

On this matter of letters from schools, I point out to both the Minister and the member for Yorke Peninsula that it is extraordinary that schools have written and openly criticized the department to the extent that they have. This is something that would not have happened in the past. It may not have occurred to the Minister (it obviously has not occurred to the member for Yorke Peninsula) that a teacher operating at a one-teacher school will be most reluctant to criticize the conditions at that school and to make some form of public protest. After all, many teachers at a high school can band together and gain strength by so doing.

Mr. Rodda: And some inspiration!

Mr. HUDSON: That is right—inspiration but not conspiracy. Just imagine the position of a teacher at a one-teacher school.

Mr. Allen: How many one-teacher schools are there today?

Mr. HUDSON: There are not many, but there are two-teacher schools. The member for Yorke Peninsula referred to one-teacher and two-teacher schools, and the same applies to both. These teachers consider that they would be taking a much greater risk in coming out and criticizing.

Mr. Allen: Why a risk?

Mr. HUDSON: It is a risk of having their heads chopped off. The member for Burra seems to forget that we are dealing with a department which has the reputation of being autocratic and hierarchical. Many teachers have the feeling that, if there is criticism, punishment will follow. The Minister can laugh as much as she wishes. The facts of the matter are that one aspect of the crisis in respect of the confidence of teachers at present involves the Education Department itself. Whatever the justification for that may be, it is nevertheless true that there is, among a certain percentage of students at teachers colleges, among teachers in schools, and in the teachers institute itself, a lack of confidence in many of the officers of the Education Department and a lack of confidence in the traditions of that department. There is a feeling that the department is autocratic and hierarchical and that it pays to be respectful and not to criticize, if the person concerned wishes to get on.

I think there are honourable members here who are well aware that this is the attitude of many teachers and that there are some grounds for such an attitude. You, Mr. Acting Chairman, possibly would agree with the points I have just made. That is one reason why no

letters would have been received by the Minister from some smaller schools, and it is simply because they do not want to have a particular criticism identified with one or two particular teachers. The old idea that unity is strength gives much greater courage to teachers at a larger school. I have had a number of letters from teachers at the schools in my district that I have not passed on to the Minister.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: I have probably received copies of them myself; I have many duplicates.

Mr. HUDSON: The Minister seems to have been surprised, for example, when I have asked questions about conditions at the Brighton Infants School. I have asked several questions about different matters relating to things being put to me in my district and have not referred to their source. For all the Minister knew, they might have come from parents. I thought that was the appropriate way to deal with the matter, because I thought that I had a little more chance of getting something done if I raised it that way than if I threw a letter on to the pile of letters on the Minister's desk.

Mr. Broomhill: You always were tactful.

Mr. HUDSON: Yes; I try to be tactful, particularly with the Minister of Education. For the benefit of the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn), let me state my attitude on the question of aid to independent schools. I have for many years supported such aid, because I believe the State has a responsibility for the standards of education in all schools and that, if there is an independent school where the standard is not adequate and the State Government is not prepared to close it down, it should assist. The problem that the State Government has at this time is a financial one; it has not the financial resources to provide the kind of assistance needed in many independent schools. Therefore, I believe that Commonwealth aid is necessary for independent schools, just as it is necessary for the State schools. I do not accept the fact that this Government has done all that it could have done in relation to education.

Mr. Evans: Has it done anything!

Mr. HUDSON: Oh, yes; I am not denying that it has: but I do not accept the fact that it has done all it could have done, and I object strongly to the practice adopted in relation to school buildings of using Commonwealth aid to reduce the Government's own financial commitment. This is a most dangerous practice

and one that I hope is never adopted again, because the danger is that the Commonwealth Government will say, "Well, if you use our aid for teachers colleges and reduce the amount you spend on school buildings, then we will have to give second thoughts to giving the same kind of aid in future." I think we run a great danger that we will cut off a future source of help if we adopt that sort of financial practice; and, to some extent, this has been done.

We on this side have been accused of bringing politics into the whole question of the teachers' campaign for Commonwealth aid for education. That is rubbish. The response of the teachers has become more and more open and virulent because of the behaviour of members of the Government and Ministers, and this is the message that is becoming so difficult to get across to members on the Government side. They have resolutely denied that there are any real difficulties, and it is only now that the Minister is coming out and openly recognizing them. The member for Victoria and other Government members have been making violent attacks on individual officers of the South Australian Institute of Teachers, accusing them of inspiring the whole thing. This is not a new campaign: it is the latest addition to a campaign that has been going on for years. Ask the member for Gawler about Commonwealth aid for education and how long he has been talking about it! He has been talking about it ever since he came into this Chamber, and I have been doing likewise. I attended meetings as far back as 1966, including meetings in the districts of members opposite. It is the political incompetence of the Government that has brought politics into this matter. If only the Government had been willing from the word "go" to go about this in the right way and recognize openly and publicly the problems to which the teachers were referring—

The Hon. Joyce Steele: Which we have done.

Mr. HUDSON: Very belatedly and half-heartedly.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: There are problems of teacher shortage.

Mr. HUDSON: The Minister says there are problems. Although there is a crisis in the teacher shortage the Minister comes out at the end of her speech and says that education in South Australia is in a healthy and progressive state. Which little bit do we believe? If we are short of mathematics and science teachers, we are not in a position to say that education in South Australia is in a healthy and progressive state. I would agree if the Minister said that potentially it is, because

there is great potential within our education system; but to say that it is in a healthy and progressive state at present is not true. The trouble with Government members on this issue is that they have offended the teachers so grievously by again and again making a political, or Party-political, response to the teachers' campaign that the matter has become political.

The Government has been like the Commonwealth member for Boothby (Mr. McLeay) was when he and I addressed a meeting of the Technical Assistants and Senior Masters Association and we got on to various matters connected with Commonwealth Government policy on education. Actually, the meeting was mainly concerned with education. The first thing he said implied that everyone there was hostile to him and had come to the meeting only to have a crack at him because he was a Liberal. The fact was that probably half the audience supported his point of view, just as probably half the teachers supported this Government's political point of view; but that has been reduced because every time the teachers have come up with some criticism of this Government on education matters there has been this political and Party-political response by Government members, which has shown generally a lack of recognition and appreciation of the problems and difficulties that the teachers feel so much. For their part, as a consequence, they have become more political, largely in response to the statements of the Government and the Minister and, to a limited extent, the fatuous remarks of the members for Rocky River, Light, and Victoria, amongst others. It has resulted in the campaign of the teachers becoming much more vigorous and on a much larger scale than it otherwise would have been. Members opposite provoked any political content.

Mr. EVANS: The member for Edwinstown said that I told my colleague, the member for Eyre, to be quiet when he interjected about letters not being sent on to the Minister by members of this Chamber. Actually, I turned to the member for Eyre and said that many of the letters were of the circular-type and had been sent to all members, so there was no sense in sending them on when the Minister already had a copy.

Mr. Broomhill: You should have sent them on. You could not have given a satisfactory answer yourself.

Mr. EVANS: Then there is the accusation by the member for Glenelg that we on this side are responsible for Party politics in this

matter. He implies that we have caused this and that we are responsible for its becoming a Party political issue. I ask him to sit and listen at times to his own colleague, the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo), and to think back to his own comments only last evening. This is what he is reported as saying at that time:

One of the problems that arises in discussions on education whenever the Premier or, indeed, a great percentage of Government members are involved is that they are completely incapable and have always been incapable of recognizing the real merits of the case that is being put up, and all they ever do is respond in the worst kind of Party political way. The evidence of this in recent months has been absolutely glaring. This is not the first campaign that the Teachers Institute has conducted: in 1965-66—although mainly in 1966—another campaign was conducted, during which I addressed a meeting at Minlaton that was attended by about 150 people. Both the member for Yorke Peninsula and I were invited to attend that meeting but the honourable member chose not to do so.

Mr. CASEY: Why?

Mr. HUDSON: I do not know; I do not suppose he was interested or did not think it was important.

This is the type of accusation he makes. Then the member for Edwardstown misconstrued the statement of the Minister that there were not more than 8,000 telephone calls in answer to the telephone poll organized by the institute and that she was surprised that there were 159 people who thought there was no need for any more money for education. She did not say, as the member for Edwardstown accused her of saying, that the fact that 159 people thought that was of no consequence. I am saying that the member for Glenelg said we used it in the worst Party-political sense, but he and his colleague have no room to talk. The member for Edwardstown finished up by saying, "I did not believe it was possible to find 150 L.C.L. supporters to ring up." This is the accusation he made. The accusation he made against me that I told my colleague to be quiet is typical of the attitude of the member for Edwardstown in this Chamber. The member for Edwardstown often talks about the children of today being the citizens of tomorrow. If I adopted the same attitude as he adopts, I could take it that he meant they were not the citizens of today. He uses any argument for his own political gain. He uses the teachers' campaign merely to gain support for the Labor Party in the forthcoming elections; indeed, he, like the member for Glenelg, uses it as a political issue more than does any other member in this Chamber. Several weeks before the institute started this campaign, two financial

members of the Australian Labor Party (both of whom have been the best of friends with me, and, indeed, still are and I hope always will be) came up to me at a function and said, "We will give you hell." These people are prepared to spend \$100 to keep the campaign going. However, they are in the minority group of the total number of teachers.

Mr. Broomhill: They were not doing it for a political reason.

Mr. EVANS: If the honourable member would like to speak to them, they would tell him that that is the reason. However, that is not the reason why most teachers have proceeded with the campaign; they are sincere in their belief that education needs to be improved. We might not have to spend more money in education: we might be squandering it in different ways.

Mr. Broomhill: You would suggest that schools operate on shifts, wouldn't you?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Nankivell): Order! I ask honourable members to stop interjecting.

Mr. EVANS: Although I used the term "shift work" previously, I meant that we might be able to stagger classes so that more use could be made of the capital expenditure involved in the building of teachers colleges. The members for Stirling and Victoria were with me when representatives from the institute agreed that there was some merit in this suggestion. Also, most teachers would agree that, as long as we could find enough teachers to use the buildings at different times, this should be done.

It has been insinuated that I have said that teachers colleges are factories. I said that a factory should be worked for more than eight hours a day, if possible; and we must look at all education matters in a businesslike manner. I know that the colleges do not manufacture articles, but they turn out developed products: students who have developed into teachers and who can teach our children.

The member for Edwardstown said there was not enough money to teach our children, but perhaps we should spend money at the beginning of each school year to ensure that parents are invited to schools to be given instructions on how they can encourage their children to make use of their free time at home in order to improve their education. A desire to learn is more important for education than is giving money, and this is what we must convey to the people, who must be prepared to make a sacrifice. It is not just a matter of getting more money.

Mr. Broomhill: What nonsense!

Mr. EVANS: It is not nonsense. If the honourable member does not know that dedication and an interest in education is necessary if one is to be educated, he should take another course in education. The only way to become educated is to be determined to be educated and to be dedicated in seeking education. If parents were asked to take an interest in their children's work and to help their children, and if this were successful, the improvement in education in this State would be surprising.

I do not say that the teachers' campaign is wrong. It has made members of Parliament and the public realize that money must be provided to maintain services and that, if present services are to be maintained, efficiency must be improved or taxes must be raised. The member for West Torrens has asked why so many criminal cases have not been solved. The answer is possibly that the Police Force is short of staff. In all facets of public life more money is needed, and that will always be the case, but that does not mean that the money will be spent wisely.

Mr. Broomhill: Your Government has salted it away.

Mr. EVANS: If certain legislation is found to be invalid, the honourable member may be pleased that these funds are available. However, it was not put away for that reason. As a State, we spend on education \$5 per capita per annum more than does any other mainland State. The member for Edwardstown has accused members on this side of not spending money on education in the past. However, the Government is made up of 19 people, seven of whom are new members, and it is a new Government with new attitudes. We can hold up our heads (as can the Minister of Education) regarding education, for during our first 18 months we have done as much as, if not more than, the Labor Government did in its first 18 months. Even though there may be shortcomings in education and in other fields, we have nothing to be ashamed of. This State's standard of education stands comparison with that in any other State or with that in many countries of the world. We should be proud of the standard of living that we have and we should not attack the State, as some members are doing to try to win a Commonwealth election.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Lands): Much has been said about politics being brought into the debate. I do not think politics should ever be absent from a discussion

in this place, but I want to see politics used in the right way. I do not like to see hypocrisy, and that is what I have seen in the last few hours. The key to this is contained in what the member for Glenelg said when he said that teachers would not have dared to protest publicly in the past. If he was referring then to the regime of the Labor Government, he was quite right because, during that time, when one teacher criticized that Government, a Royal Commission was held and the teacher was disciplined.

Mr. Clark: He didn't criticize that Government at all.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The terms of reference of that Royal Commission stated specifically that it was to determine what rights a teacher had to criticize the officers of the administration and to make any public criticisms. The Royal Commission had many other references and it was a great pity they were not followed up in the way they should have been. Included in the terms of reference of the Commission were the actions of Mr. John Murrie; the existing form of the regulations relating to discipline; the actions of the South Australian Institute of Teachers; what limits, if any, might properly be placed on the rights of departmental officers publicly to criticize the actions and policies of the Minister, the Director-General or the department; and what was the policy and practice of the department with respect to such criticism.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: We paid the cost of it, too.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes, but the Commission was set up by the Labor Government as a result of criticism by a teacher. Therefore, what is happening now would not have happened during the term of that Labor Government, and the attitude of Opposition members now is absolutely hypocritical. Opposition members have lauded the previous Minister of Education over and over again, but the Government has had to clean up what was left of the Murrie Royal Commission. When we became the Government, we were asked about the costs of the Teachers Institute with respect of that Royal Commission, and we agreed to pay half. The institute met the other half, yet that inquiry was brought about by the actions of the Labor Government.

Because of the cohesion they have for political purposes, members opposite are not allowed to criticize their own Ministers. They never criticized the previous Minister, but they have now pulled out all stops and levelled

every kind of criticism at the present Minister of Education, thereby immeasurably adding to her problems. She has done a magnificent job in education matters. The previous Government dropped the whole Murrie Royal Commission and arranged a settlement by reprimanding the teacher who had stuck his neck out, and by saying he must have no further promotion until the beginning of 1970. They conveniently dropped the other references of the Royal Commission. Much expense had already been involved in that Commission, and perhaps had those questions been answered there would not have been so much difficulty later. The Labor Government said it would deal privately with the Teachers Institute. It may have done that, but it spent public money by appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into public criticism and then let the matter fizzle out in private, leaving the odds and ends to be cleared up by our Government. What was the approach of our Minister when she came to office? The Government appointed a committee of inquiry, with the widest possible terms, to inquire into education. She appointed to that committee men of outstanding ability, and the committee's report will not be smothered up but will be made public. That is the difference between the two Governments. Whilst the former Minister of Education was well protected from criticism by his Party members, our Minister of Education has been pounded and attacked on all sides by the pot-stirring attitude of the Labor Party. This has added immeasurably to the amount of work that she has had to do. She has done a wonderful job in dealing with these matters.

I have a good example of what the Labor Party's attitude is. When a question was asked in the Chamber about a crisis in education, the Minister, in the course of her reply, said that there was no crisis in education. A subsequent statement by the former Minister of Education led me to think that he agreed with the Minister and that the word "crisis" could be taken in many ways and he did not see any unusual significance in a reply that included the words to which I have referred. However, members of the Labor Party, being politicians and worrying not about whether their own record was good or bad but only about attacking the Minister, spread this phrase around as quickly as they could.

Mr. Virgo: Spread it where?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: They attacked the Minister for having said that there was no crisis in education.

Mr. Virgo: Where did they spread that?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Members opposite know well that the Education Department is better now than it has been in the past, and that in future it will be better than it is at present. They know also that education is in a better position generally than it ever was in. They also know that the committee appointed by the Minister will report publicly on even more measures to improve education. However, members of the Opposition cannot allow one word of commendation of the present Minister to be uttered. They have to use every kind of trick to try to drag the Minister down. The action of the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) in using the ill-chosen words that the criticism now being levelled would not have been made in the past is typical of the attitude of himself and other members of his Party.

This Minister has an education system that is better than it has been. She is trying to get more assistance from the Commonwealth Government, despite the Labor Party's statement that she is not. She has explained many times that a nation-wide survey is being made as a result of a conference of Education Ministers from all States in the Commonwealth. The purpose of this survey is to find out what more can be done for State education. I have heard much talk about the troubles at our schools. I would not claim to be an education expert or to have studied schools in other places. On my last trip to the United Kingdom, two years ago, I went to only one school and that was not because I selected it and asked to be taken but because I was taken there. That school was inferior to any school that I have seen in South Australia.

Mr. Broomhill: You can't use it as an example if it's the only one you saw.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The member for West Torrens is an experienced member of Parliament, and he has gained that experience by sitting in his place and interrupting other members when they are speaking. He rarely gains any experience by making a speech himself.

Mr. Virgo: How constructive you are getting!

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: That is a compliment, coming from one of the champions of destruction in this Chamber. I repeat that the school I saw was worse than any I have ever seen in South Australia. Whilst there are good and bad schools in every community, we can be proud of our schools. Although many problems have to be solved and we will

solve only some each year, we must accept that we will always have problems. As one member said this afternoon, we hope the time never comes when we will not have any problems. The Minister has explained what she has been able to do in her term of office, and I have added one or two things that she had to do to clean up when the previous Government left office.

Student allowances have been improved, the Karmel committee has been appointed, and our Government has been able to announce that the vexed problem of ancillary staff is coming under control. Next year we will appoint several hundred such staff. That breakthrough was beyond the reach of the Labor Government. I tell Opposition members that, when they have the honesty to admit occasionally that they may have some faults and when they have the fairmindedness to say occasionally that this Minister has some virtues, then they deserve to be heard seriously. However, I think that until they do that, what has been happening is sheer political hypocrisy.

Mr. CLARK: I should think you would have noticed, Mr. Chairman, that this is a very funny place, and I mean not funny humorous, but funny peculiar. The Minister of Lands has invited us to admit some of our faults. However, although I respect and like that gentleman outside politics, since I have been a member he has not admitted having a fault, and I doubt that he believes he has ever been at fault in anything. Last night the Minister of Education made the best speech I have ever heard her make, but I do not know what happened to her during the night. The difference between her speech last night and her speech today was as great as the difference between the equator and the poles. We have been again told that there is no crisis in education, but the Minister cannot convince people simply by continuing to say this. I am reminded of the story of the old lady who saw the boys marching to go to war overseas, and she said, "Just look at Johnny — he is the only one in step." The Minister says there is no crisis in education, but nearly everyone else says she is wrong.

The South Australian Institute of Teachers knows more about this subject than any Minister of Education. The Minister of Lands chided Opposition members for being political, but he did nothing except be political. The member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Evans) has a peculiar philosophy of his own but it is incomprehensible to me and to most Opposition members. Opposition members have been accused of playing politics in connection with

this issue but I have not done so, nor have most of my colleagues. I have not criticized the Minister of Education except in the mildest way.

I repeat what I have said for nearly 20 years (and I am not saying it for the purposes of the Commonwealth election): the only answer is Commonwealth grants made specifically for education with no strings attached, so that the experts (our departmental officers) can decide the best way in which the money should be spent. This would be the salvation of our education system. I do not believe in the rubbish that has been cast at certain members of the South Australian Institute of Teachers. If politics has crept into this debate it is the Minister's fault. If a footballer is reported for an offence on the field, often the man reported had something done to him first. Because we are human we retaliate according to our natures.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I have always believed that we have not placed enough emphasis on adult education.

The Hon. Joyce Steele: We have the best adult education system in Australia.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I can well believe that. Only recently the Education Department built a fine adult education centre at Gawler, which serves many students. At adult education centres people who have left school at a relatively early stage can receive further education virtually at the tertiary level.

Mr. Wardle: The sum of \$180,000 is to be spent on an adult education centre in my district.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: That is a very fine thing. One of the greatest left-wing leaders the world has known, Mr. Nikita Krushchev, could not read or write in his childhood: he did not begin his formal education until he was 20. This shows the role that adult education can play. Several members made pleas for greater Commonwealth financial involvement in education. We cannot consider these Estimates without considering the complementary part played by the Commonwealth Government in our education system. After listening last evening, I was interested to read in this morning's newspaper the report of the address given by the Commonwealth Leader of the Opposition concerning education. It is evident that members of the Australian Labor Party are confused in their thinking on education. I have read carefully what the Commonwealth Leader of that Party said about Commonwealth finance for both non-government schools and for students

attending those schools. No Opposition member in this debate has been able to state the A.L.P. policy on education to students in non-government schools with clarity and in detail.

Mr. Hudson: That is not so. You weren't here, so how would you know?

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I was here most of the time the member for Gawler was speaking, and the only time I did not hear him was when I walked from here to the Whip's room, and he could not have outlined in detail the A.L.P. policy on aid to non-government schools in that time.

Mr. Evans: I think he could have!

Mr. FREEBAIRN: A dramatic cleavage exists regarding the thinking on State aid between the Commonwealth Leader of the A.L.P., a former Leader, and the Leader of the A.L.P. in the South Australian Parliament. I shall explain this divergence, because I think the people of South Australia have the right to know what the A.L.P. policy is on aid to non-government schools.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. FREEBAIRN: It was interesting to hear what the Commonwealth Leader of the A.L.P. said last evening—

Mr. Virgo: We didn't do what you did; we didn't disown him.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Almost half the Commonwealth Labor Parliamentarians would like to do that.

Mr. Virgo: Which half?

Mr. Hurst: You are the cause of all the trouble the Minister of Education is getting into.

Mr. Clark: And the troubles the Premier has, too.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Light must come back to the line dealing with education.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I am speaking about the line relating to the Treasurer's investment in students who attend non-government schools.

Mr. VIRGO: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. We are dealing with "Minister of Education Department", and that has nothing to do with students at independent schools.

Mr. Hudson: I was ruled out of order last evening.

Mr. Evans: But not today.

The CHAIRMAN: The item "Miscellaneous" contains a reference to a per capita grant to independent schools, and the honourable member can deal with this matter under that heading.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I was under the impression, Mr. Chairman, that you had allowed the debate to become somewhat general, but I shall be pleased to discuss the A.L.P.'s policy on aid to non-government schools under that heading.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! In dealing with education generally, the honourable member can make passing references to that matter, but if he wants to deal specifically with it the proper place would be under the heading "Miscellaneous" rather than at this stage.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Although there is curious thinking by the A.L.P. on aid to non-government schools, I shall concentrate my remarks more generally on the line "Minister of Education Department".

Mr. Hudson: You haven't sat down yet.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: What a pity that rude members opposite will not allow members on this side to make proper and deliberate speeches. It is impossible to consider our Education Estimates without paying some attention to the fountain of all finance, the Commonwealth Government. I think I agree with Opposition members in that, if we are to extend our investment in education, we must look towards the Commonwealth Government. We can certainly look to a Liberal and Country Party Commonwealth Government with some hope.

Mr. Virgo: Twenty years of desolation.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: However, we look towards a Commonwealth Labor Government with horror. We have no doubt what that Party would do to education in South Australia if it had its way. It is interesting to consider the remarks made by the Commonwealth A.L.P. Leader.

Mr. VIRGO: On a further point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not think we are debating the fine policy speech of Mr. Whitlam that was delivered throughout Australia last evening, when he elucidated our policy on education. The line we are discussing is "Minister of Education Department".

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Honourable members have been given considerable latitude in debating this line, and continual references have been made to financial support from the Commonwealth Government. I do not think it is out of order to refer to the Commonwealth Government policy.

Mr. Ryan: That will apply to all members?

Mr. Venning: It has applied.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I cannot understand how we can consider the State Budget without considering the general policies of the Commonwealth Government as they apply to our

Budget, because we depend on finance given to us by the Commonwealth Government to support our education policy.

Mr. McKee: What a policy!

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I know that both sides are interested in the policies of the alternative Government in Canberra to find out what sort of deal we would receive in the unhappy event—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I point out to the honourable member that the Commonwealth Government has been mentioned. References have been made to the Commonwealth Governments' policy, and if there is to be any reference to assistance from Commonwealth sources it must be referred to as the Commonwealth Government sources. We are not debating the policies of a Party that is not in Government at present.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your observation.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Light.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: My purpose has been not to publicize the faction fights that go on within the Australian Labor Party. My original plan—

Members interjecting:

Mr. McKEE: I move:

That the member for Light be no longer heard.

There is nothing in this line about the Liberal Party, the A.L.P. or the Democratic Labor Party.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There are too many interjections, and the Chairman cannot hear the point that the honourable member for Port Pirie has taken.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I think the member—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Port Pirie.

Mr. McKEE: I moved that the member for Light be no longer heard, because he had not referred to the line for the last 20 minutes. The member for Edwardstown has tried to take a point of order on three occasions in the last few minutes.

The CHAIRMAN: I understood the honourable member for Port Pirie rose on a point of order.

Mr. McKee: I'll let it go. I'll see how he goes.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I think the member for Port Pirie—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member will refer to the line.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: As I am causing some disturbance, I will defer the rest of my remarks until the "Miscellaneous" line is before the Chair, when I will speak in detail on policies of aid to independent schools.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: It was never my intention to speak to these lines, and I have refrained from doing so in recent weeks for reasons that I think are obvious. However, I am offended by the suggestion that I and other members on this side have played politics on education. I remind members, as I reminded them last evening, that I have served for many years on school councils and committees. Having done so during the terms of Ministers of Education including the late Mr. Jeffries, the late Mr. Justice Abbott, the late Mr. Rudall, Sir Baden Pattinson, Mr. Loveday (the former Minister) and the present Minister, I defy anyone to prove that I have ever played politics with education either in this Chamber or when serving on any school bodies, including the Executive of the Public Schools Committees Association.

I have never been asked to play politics in regard to education, and I say most emphatically that the Party's attitude to the present campaign of the South Australian Institute of Teachers has never been considered or discussed by me with anyone with whom I have been involved. To suggest that the Labor Party has jumped on the band wagon in this matter is cruel, untruthful, dishonest and despicable. Never will I play politics in regard to education. I realize that, during the years that I have been associated with schools and education generally, neither the department nor the Minister has been able to meet the needs of the day.

Mr. Evans: Do you think we have discussed it as a Party?

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Members on this side are too honourable to stoop to such low tactics.

Mr. Virgo: Get out of that one!

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I am sure the Minister of Education will admit that, in my correspondence and dealings with her as Minister, I have never played politics. In fact, not one Minister with whom I have dealt would accuse me of that. I acknowledge that the rapid increase in the State's population over the years has posed certain problems in education. At Loan Council meetings and Premiers' Conferences I have met Ministers from other States, who always stressed that they had not enough money for education and

had to appeal to the Commonwealth Government for additional money. No State Government, whatever its political complexion, has sufficient money with which to satisfy education needs, and it is imperative that the Commonwealth Government, again irrespective of its political complexion, play a more active part in education: it must accept its responsibilities to see that our young Australians are educated sufficiently to be able to hold their own with the people of other countries.

If we do not do this, our nation will fail. Anybody who suggests that our education facilities and standards are adequate is talking pure nonsense. As long as I have breath in my body, I shall always maintain a keen interest in education and will never degrade it by introducing Party politics into it. I wish some members would rise to their feet and apologize for what they have said, because I am hurt, as other members on this side have been hurt.

Mr. HURST: I am disgusted with certain members of the Government Party for the cheap, snide way in which they have gone around trying to attack members on this side for things that cannot be substantiated in the slightest degree. After the Minister of Education had given a lengthy explanation, the Minister of Lands spoke, but what he said about what had happened while our Party was in Government was completely misleading, and I am surprised that he should have uttered remarks that had so little foundation. When I made my first speech on a Budget, I said that I sympathized with Ministers of Education, no matter what their Party, as I believed that the Commonwealth Government was not discharging its responsibility in education. Opposition members try to deal with education problems in their districts by asking questions of the Minister in a dignified manner; they do not try to bring discredit on the Minister. If members opposite treated education matters in the same way, then many of the remarks made in this debate would have been unnecessary.

The only thing I can say about the member for Light's speech is that it was the greatest example I have seen of the need for adult education. I understand that members opposite are now holding meetings on the electoral redistribution to try to rearrange things so that the member for Light will no longer be an embarrassment to them in this Chamber. I thank the Minister of Education for visiting

a certain school in my district, and I am sure that she found that I had not been misrepresenting the position at that school. The Minister could not accuse me of playing politics, but I am surprised at some of the remarks of members opposite and Ministers this afternoon. When I attended a public meeting recently, I took with me a copy of *Hansard* containing a report of a speech by the former Minister of Education (Hon. R. R. Loveday) and, as the member for Light had spoken immediately after our Minister on that occasion, I also referred to his remarks, and he was in agreement. There is a shortage of teachers and the Commonwealth Government is not accepting its responsibilities.

The national body set up to conduct a survey of the education systems in the States is simply not sufficient; it is possibly all right as a long-range plan, but it is no use saying it will solve the problems existing today. We must remember that some of our teachers have been attracted to serve in the Canadian education system. I realize that the amount of teacher training that can be carried out is limited by the amount of money at our disposal. Not only the State Government but also the Commonwealth Government has a clear obligation to train teachers, and the Commonwealth Government is not doing sufficient in this field. Indeed, it is still attracting teachers into Commonwealth Government positions and thereby depriving the States of valuable teachers.

Last Tuesday evening the Minister of Works, the Minister of Roads and Transport and I boarded H.M.A.S. *Stalwart* at Port Adelaide. I was surprised (and the member for Port Adelaide (Mr. Ryan) will bear me out) that an officer saluted me as soon as I boarded the ship. I am not easily carried away, but I could not work it out. I said to the officer, "Am I seeing things?" He said, "No." I am associated with some schools, and I did not know that this young man, who had been a teacher, had joined the Navy. Then, another former teacher came up to me. In this way I discovered that two young men from my district had in the last few months left the South Australian Education Department and joined the Navy as instructors. They told me that they had not regretted the change and that they appreciated their excellent conditions. These people are receiving better salaries and enjoying better conditions than they did as teachers, and this is a situation that has been caused by the Commonwealth Government not meeting its obligation to education throughout Australia.

The Minister should make an immediate application to the Commonwealth Government for an extra grant for this State so that we shall not lose more teachers. We cannot ignore the present serious situation. I know of the difficulties of meeting the demands to improve our education system, but I believe that the matter is so urgent that we cannot wait for decisions to be made by the committee appointed by the Ministers of Education from each State. The trouble has been caused because the situation has continued for too long. Perhaps this committee will make recommendations for solving the problems, but it may be four or five years before this happens and, although I believe that the appointment of this committee is a move in the right direction, we cannot expect its members, by their decisions, to solve the immediate problems. If there is a further delay I believe that the problems will multiply so that the position will become even more serious than it is at present.

There has always been a demand for more training for young people in industry, but South Australia has never had sufficient recognition in this respect from the Commonwealth Government. This is one of the few States

in which apprentices compulsorily attend trade classes in their own time. They are forced to do this, because insufficient money is allocated in order to construct the buildings required to cope with increasing numbers of apprentices and with the demand for post-apprenticeship courses that are vitally necessary in the work of technicians and of those specializing in courses after receiving their basic training.

Although I know that the Minister of Labour and Industry and the Minister of Education are trying to cope with the situation, I think that, with all the other factors making a heavy demand on the financial resources of their departments, we shall see ourselves becoming involved in an even more serious situation. I appeal to the Government to heed what I have said, to acknowledge the actions of the Teachers Institute, and to make the appropriate representations to the Commonwealth Government.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.59 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 7, at 2 p.m.