

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, October 9, 1969.

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

PETITIONS: ABORTION LEGISLATION

Mr. CORCORAN presented a petition signed by 404 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 139 members of the Eudunda Lutheran Parish.

Mr. RODDA presented a similar petition signed by 100 persons.

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER presented a similar petition signed by 52 persons.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS presented a similar petition signed by 348 persons.

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS

BURRA RELICS

Mr. CORCORAN: I wish to ask a question of the Premier, representing the Minister of Mines, and I hope that the Premier can comment on this matter. There is in this morning's *Advertiser* a letter signed by Mr. Ian Auhl and also a subleader dealing with the re-opening of the Burra copper mine. The

letter, which the Premier may have seen, refers to the necessity to preserve historical relics associated with previous mining ventures in this area. During my term as Minister of Immigration and Tourism, I visited Burra and was most impressed by what I believed to be the tourist potential of this area. Indeed, I realize the need for the State to do everything possible to preserve any historical relics in the area. Although the member for Burra (Mr. Allen) has said that every step will be taken to preserve these relics and the Minister of Mines has given an assurance that no historical relics will be interfered with when the new venture is proceeding, I should be far happier if the Premier (or the Minister of Mines, if the Premier cannot do so) could give this Parliament the assurance that has previously been given that nothing will be done to interfere with these relics. Although I am particularly interested in the tourist aspect of this matter, many people are interested also in preserving historical relics throughout the State. Will the Premier comment?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member may be assured that the Government is concerned to see that, in commencing the new mining venture at Burra, the company concerned does not destroy the manifestations of our heritage and development.

Mr. Broomhill: But you don't worry about the Normanville sand dunes.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: It is wrong for the member for West Torrens (and inept of him) to interject, as he has done, on a subject that has nothing to do with the question. The Government is conscious of the buildings and surroundings that depict our early times. Indeed, I think it is not just the Government's attitude but that of the whole community, as the honourable member's question suggests. I assure the honourable member that every effort will be made to protect these relics. Although I have no personal knowledge of them and do not know the buildings or sites that may be affected by any prospective mining venture, I know the area generally. I understand that the company that will operate the Burra mine is almost wholly South Australian based and, as it is being run by South Australian citizens, it will be concerned about what the honourable member has said. I will refer the honourable member's question to the company.

I think all communities are finding that it is one thing to promote tourism by providing hotels and the sort of grand amenity that many people are pleased to see provided.

However, we must have more realistic and natural attractions, such as those existing at Burra, to show tourists. Indeed, in the cold, hard-headed economic sense, it is good business to preserve these attractions, in destroying which one destroys the State's business assets as well as its historical assets. The honourable member may rest assured that the Minister of Immigration and Tourism, who has given much time and effort to this matter, will not cap the building of a new tourist industry headquarters in South Australia with the destruction of one of the State's tourist assets and that this matter will be looked after properly.

GUN LICENCE

Mr. LAWN: Yesterday's *News* contains a report about an alleged bomb having been thrown on to the porch of the Commonwealth member for Adelaide (Mr. Andrew T. Jones), quoting Mrs. Jones as having said that her husband slept through the explosion and that "Andrew would sleep through an atomic bomb". The article also quotes Mr. Jones as having said, "I grabbed my pistol and ran out on to the front porch, but couldn't see anybody." On television yesterday evening, Mr. Jones said that, if the person returned again, "I will deal with him in my own way". Will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary whether Mr. A. T. Jones has a licence to carry a pistol and, if he has, for what purpose the licence was granted, whether it permits the holder to deal with other people in his own way, or whether that threat is sufficient to mean the cancellation of the licence?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am sure that the member for Adelaide—

The Hon. J. W. H. Coumbe: The other member for Adelaide.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The senior member for Adelaide—but that is not right. I am sure the member for Adelaide representing the most progressive Party would not be brandishing a pistol if he did not have a licence. If he is being bombed he may need a pistol. I do not intend to inquire about this at his house for fear that he might think that I had something to do with the pistol or the bomb. However, I will make some inquiries, although I do not relish inquiring into a subject that I think is already being well handled. As the member has, I take it, raised this as something happening in his district and as he may feel that he could be involved in a similar incident, I will see what information I can get for him.

ANGASTON SCHOOL

The Hon. B. H. TEUSNER: From my personal knowledge of conditions at the Angaston Primary School, I know that the toilet and ablution facilities are in a deplorable state. The school committee has endeavoured to have the conditions improved and, although it was promised by the authorities some time ago that they would be rectified, I have been told that no action has been taken. I intend to visit the school, which has a large attendance, on visiting day on Friday. Will the Minister of Education have immediate action taken to improve the conditions to which I have referred?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am not personally acquainted with the conditions at this school, but it is one of the schools I hope to visit, probably in the honourable member's company, as soon as the opportunity arises. In view of his question, I will call for an immediate report and try to let him have it. I do not know whether I will have that report in time for the school open day, but I will do my best.

OPEN-SPACE EDUCATION

Mr. CLARK: Although my question is to the Minister of Works, the Minister of Education will be interested in it, as it largely affects her department. This morning the Public Works Committee took evidence from the Director of Primary Education (Mr. L. Dodd) and the Assistant Superintendent of Primary Education (Mr. B. J. Kearney) on the proposed Lameroo Area School. Before the meeting, Mr. R. W. Johns and Mr. R. E. Johns, who attended as representatives of the Public Buildings Department, showed the committee some fine slides, most of them in colour, depicting schools overseas, particularly in the United States of America, Europe and England, and showing what had come to be known as the open-type school, such as we are contemplating building in South Australia. Indeed, apart from the experimental building at Burnside, the Lameroo Area School will be the first of this type of construction, although I understand that many of these buildings are the result of ideas that have been put before the department by Peter Falconer and Associates. I am sure that other members of Parliament would find these slides most interesting and I know that Mr. R. W. Johns would be only too happy to show them. Can the Minister of Works arrange for Mr. Johns to show these slides, perhaps during the dinner break, in Parliament House?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I shall be happy to accede to the honourable member's request and I know that I have his support and that of the Minister of Education in this interesting and exciting development in our plans for a new type of educational facility. Whilst abroad in April, I visited Oxford, England, in company with the Director of the Public Buildings Department (Mr. R. K. Dunn), Mr. Johns and Mr. Crosby of that department, and saw some of these schools in operation. I also saw some in Los Angeles, California. As a result of earlier studies abroad by the Director-General of Education, this consultancy was arranged and the two architects visited both these centres. I had met Mr. Falconer in England previously and spent a weekend in his company and at his office in Stroud, England. This matter has been developed further. The first school, at Burnside, is now occupied and another will be established at Cowandilla. I think that, altogether, eight of these units are out to tender now in various parts of South Australia, including two country areas. I suggested to Mr. Johns recently that, when he had the opportunity, he might care to explain this new development to members of the Public Works Committee. I am happy that the Chairman of the committee has suggested that members of both Houses might be interested in seeing slides depicting this new development. I thank him for his suggestion and I will see whether this showing can be arranged to the satisfaction and at the convenience of members.

BOLIVAR EFFLUENT

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of September 30 about the use of treated effluent to grow vegetables?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Following a detailed bacteriological and virological study of the effluent being discharged from the Bolivar Sewage Treatment Works, the Engineering and Water Supply Department confirmed the view of the Committee of Inquiry into the Utilization of Effluent from the Bolivar Sewage Treatment Works that the effluent should not be used for irrigation of any vegetables that might be eaten raw. A further opinion was sought from the Director-General of Public Health, who considered that the effluent should be confined to irrigation of stock fodder crops and fruit trees. I understand that pilot plant studies have shown that the water will grow certain salt-tolerant vegetables satisfactorily but, in view of the public health risk, these are not marketable. I have

inspected the pilot plant and its operations. The effluent cannot be used to offset excessive over-pumping from the underground basin in the Virginia area.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: I remember that some time ago the department was negotiating contracts with people who wished to use effluent from the Bolivar works. If I remember correctly, the charge was to be 1c a 1,000 gallons with some pumping cost. This would increase productivity considerably on these properties. Can the Minister of Works say whether any of those contracts have been finalized?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: The honourable member is correct in saying that approaches have been made to the Government in this connection. One such land developer, of whom the honourable member would know, had several interviews and considerable correspondence with me. The basis of the arrangement was a small pump charge and the price of water was as the honourable member stated. This contract has never been concluded even though several moves have been made by the department to conclude it. As a result, no water has been used by the developer, because he is not able to use the water until he signs the arrangement. Other matters are involved of which I can inform the honourable member afterwards, but no contract has been let.

YORKE PENINSULA ADULT EDUCATION

Mr. HUGHES: Part of a letter that I have received from the Council of the Yorke Peninsula Adult Education Centre states:

At the council meeting of this centre held on September 30, 1969, I was instructed to ask you to inquire as to the probable erection date of the administrative office and classroom block to be erected for this centre in Kadina. The Corporation of Kadina has agreed to release the present town hockey field to the Education Department for this purpose, subject to the Education Department providing an alternative hockey ground on park land adjacent to the corporation depot. This has been subject to correspondence and delay by the corporation, however, the last letter being written approximately two months ago. Erection of the building was approved on Public Buildings Department schedule No. 39.

The letter goes on to state that the Principal of the centre received a telephone call from Mr. C. Rooney (Superintendent of Technical Education) regarding details of toilet accommodation to be provided on the new site, but Mr. Rooney was unable to specify an erection date. Will the Minister of Education discuss

this matter with officers of her department to find out what progress has been made with the plans for the administrative office and classroom block, and when an announcement about the commencement of the work can be expected to be made?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be pleased to accede to the honourable member's request and get a report as quickly as possible.

Mr. HUGHES: I have received the following letter from the Yorke Peninsula Adult Education Centre:

At a council meeting of this centre on Tuesday last I was instructed to bring to your notice a growing interest in and demand for a post-secondary residential agricultural school and to ask you to make inquiries regarding the possibility of such a school being established in this district. The type of school being suggested by some residents of the peninsula and elsewhere is one to take boys at approximately third-year secondary level for a period of two years to give them a practical education in agriculture and related subjects. The school would not be a competition to Roseworthy college. Should you require further details on the type of school envisaged I would be pleased to discuss the matter with you.

As this is rather a big question on which to expect the Minister of Education to reply today, will she arrange for representatives of the Yorke Peninsula Adult Education Centre to discuss it with her officers, who could then submit a report on the possibility of the establishment of such a school on Yorke Peninsula?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I think I can reply now. The Minister of Agriculture appointed a committee to inquire into agricultural education, and as Minister of Education I requested that an additional term of reference be given to the committee, namely, to investigate the question of post-secondary education. Therefore, the matter to which the honourable member has referred is being considered by the committee.

MONUMENTAL MASONRY

Mr. EVANS: Has the Premier a reply to my question about headstone pedlars?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I take it the honourable member is referring to his question about monumental masons. The Secretary of the Master Monumental Masons and Sculptors Association (Mr. K. Jordan, of 945 Port Road, Cheltenham) was contacted regarding the practice of salesmen pestering recently bereaved people in order to sell headstones. The Secretary said that at his association's board meeting recently the matter was discussed and not one member of the board condoned the practice. Mr. Jordan says that such actions

are not general practice and he knows that many members merely send brochures about two months after a bereavement. It is possible that there may be more than one monumental mason involved in the use of visiting salesmen but they may not be members of the association. If the member for Onkaparinga supplies Mr. Jordan with detailed information, he will look into the matter.

PSYCHOLOGIST

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: The son of a lady who called on me this morning is somewhat mentally disturbed and is suffering from anxiety. He needs a psychologist's treatment or advice. I understand that when the lady sought an appointment for the lad with the Education Department psychologist, she was told that he would have to wait 18 months for an appointment. I was astounded at this, because my experience has been that the departmental psychologist gives fairly prompt service. So that there will be no misunderstanding, can the Minister of Education say how long one has to wait for an appointment? If she does not know now, will she inquire?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I am somewhat dismayed to hear the honourable member's remarks. As I cannot reply today, I will call for a report immediately. The position of psychologist is a most difficult one to fill and applications have been invited over a long period, but how well the general position has been met I cannot say.

GAS

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Labour and Industry a reply to my question about the need for natural gas in the Lower Murray area?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: The General Manager of the South Australian Gas Company states that surveys to determine whether there is likely to be a demand for natural gas are being conducted in some country towns along the route of the existing Moomba-Adelaide gas pipeline. For the time being these surveys are being confined to country towns which would require only a spur line from the present transmission line. Both Santos Limited and the Gas Company are co-operating closely in investigating potential industrial markets and attention will be given to the Lower Murray area as soon as it is practicable to do so.

Mr. JENNINGS: When I recently asked a question about the alleged proposed transfer of gas stoves and their installation in Housing

Trust houses, the Minister of Housing was regrettably ill, so he did not have the inestimable benefit of hearing my explanation. As I understand he now has information on the matter, will he give it to the House?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: In my unfortunate absence that day, the honourable member directed his question to the Premier, but I read the substance of the question and the explanation and referred the matter to the Housing Trust for a report. It is certainly not correct that all the houses in the Klemzig area will be changed over from electricity to gas. However, the present programme of the trust is that, in the case of some of the houses that have been occupied recently by new tenants who are paying a comparatively full rent, the trust feels obliged to provide the best amenities possible. In those cases where the houses lack certain amenities, the trust is providing them. When that has been done, the trust will give attention to the older houses that have been occupied for some time by tenants who, because they have occupied the houses for some time, pay a much lower rent. The trust will then invite the tenant to say whether or not he or she desires to have the change made and whether, if it is made, the tenant will be prepared to pay a little extra rent. This will not be done automatically and the people will be given the opportunity to choose whether they will have the additional amenity installed.

GRAIN STORAGE

Mr. CASEY: Yesterday, the Minister of Lands replied to a question from the member for Yorke Peninsula on wheat silos. I asked a question regarding this matter on September 23 and, as far as I am concerned, that question has now been answered. There are, however, a few aspects of yesterday's reply that I would like the Minister to clarify. The Minister said that silo space would be made available by the Commonwealth Government. Even though it was stated in the press several weeks ago that this would be by grant, the Minister said yesterday that this money would be obtained as an overdraft advance, but this is quite different from a grant. It has been stated that the advance on an overdraft is to be used because there will be a very slow turnover of wheat from the forthcoming harvest. Does this mean that the farmer can expect, on account of this overdraft advance, to be paid less than \$1.10 as first payment for his new season's wheat, and could it mean that the farmer would eventually pay for the silos because he

must pay now for storage in the silos of South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited and for the storage to be provided by the Wheat Board?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The making of decisions in the wheat industry is so fluid and involves so many authorities that I will not try to interpret the replies I get from the Minister of Agriculture. I think it is only sensible to refer this question to him and I will do that in this case. The honourable member said his earlier question had been answered by the reply to the question of the member for Yorke Peninsula. I assure the honourable member that, if he had an answer that was overdue, the delay would not have been deliberate. I acknowledge the great service the Minister of Agriculture is giving to members who ask him so many questions. He is under the tremendous pressure of marketing problems in many industries, yet he has succeeded in replying promptly and fully to questions. I have not heard him criticized in this respect: I am simply pointing out that he has done a good job. I will draw my colleague's attention to the fact that there may be a reply overdue to a question from the honourable member and, if there is further information required on his earlier question that was not given originally, ask him to obtain it, and also reply as soon as he can to the question asked by the honourable member today.

Mr. VENNING: Much has been said recently regarding the carry-over of wheat and the storage facilities that must be built to take the overflow, but very little has been said about barley. It is estimated that there will be a barley harvest of about 38,000,000 bushels, whereas we have storage facilities for only about 15,000,000 bushels. The Barley Board has made early sales of about 5,000,000 bushels but, unfortunately, we have not the early shipping we would like. My concern is for the barley over and above the available storage space. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture what can be done to alleviate the difficult storage problem that will face barleygrowers in the coming harvest and will he ask his colleague to confer with the appropriate authority on this problem? Bags will not be permitted for wheat and the cost of bags in relation to the value of barley means that it does not pay the barleygrower to put his barley into new cornsacks but, if storage is not available, he will have to do this. Storage facilities can be built for less than it would

cost growers to purchase bags. Will the Minister draw this urgent need to the attention of his colleague?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will refer this matter to my colleague.

MANOORA SCHOOL

Mr. FREEBAIRN: When asking a question some weeks ago, I pointed out that next year Manoora would be celebrating its centenary and I asked whether the Public Buildings Department could proceed with painting and renovations at the Manoora Primary School so that they could be completed in time for the centenary. Can the Minister of Works say what progress his department has made towards this objective?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will check to see whether I can arrange for a facelift for this school to be completed in time for these celebrations.

ENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. JENNINGS: The Minister of Works is aware that I have been asking questions about the Enfield Primary School: indeed, I have asked them for about 12 months and the most recent was, I think, on September 24. That reply seemed to me to be fairly satisfactory, and I was given to understand that it was the final reply. This morning I met a senior official of the Education Department who volunteered the information (and I emphasize that he volunteered it) that I had nothing to worry about with regard to this school. I showed him copies of *Hansard* and said, "Is this what you are referring to?" He said, "Oh, heavens no, that was the programme at the time the Minister replied to your question, but now it has been decided to recommend the erection of a completely new school." Will the Minister of Works investigate this statement and, if necessary, consult with his colleague and tell me the result, so that as many parents as possible can be made aware of the position, because they are getting impatient with the delays and the general procrastination?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I will take up this matter at once.

PENSIONERS' SPECTACLES

Mr. BURDON: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about supplying spectacles to pensioners in country areas?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The present position with regard to the scheme to provide spectacles to pensioners in country areas is little different

from what it was when a reply was given to a question by the honourable member on September 3, 1968. As stated then, efforts were made to obtain the co-operation of medical practitioners at Mount Gambier in implementing a pilot scheme in the district. However, the medical practitioners, whilst agreeing in principle with the scheme, indicated that they would defer any decision on whether they would be able to co-operate in any State-assisted scheme until such time as the Commonwealth had agreed to a request from the Australian Medical Association that the Pensioner Medical Service be extended to cover specialist services at specialist rates.

The latest information received from the Secretary, Australian Medical Association (South Australian Branch), is that its submission is still under discussion with the Commonwealth Minister for Health. It is possible that the Commonwealth may be delaying a decision in this matter until all States have published a Register of Medical Specialists. South Australia is one of the only two States which have as yet published their registers. A letter has again been sent to the Commonwealth Minister for Health informing him of the State's interest in this matter and asking for a report on the latest progress made with regard to the submission of the Australian Medical Association. A reply to this letter is awaited.

MODBURY HOUSING

Mrs. BYRNE: The Minister of Housing is aware of the many times I have spoken and the questions I have asked about the building industry and, in particular, about the cracks in many of the outer suburban houses in my district, and the suggestions I have made to improve the situation. I draw the Minister's attention to an article appearing on the front page of this morning's *Advertiser*, under the heading "Concern at Cracking" which, supporting what I have been saying, states:

Widespread cracking of private houses and some public buildings in the Modbury and Holden Hill areas is causing concern. The cracking of walls and concrete floors and the jamming of doors and windows is thought to be the result of excessive soil movement. Tea Tree Gully Council has asked the Premier (Mr. Hall) to protect home buyers by initiating more research into soil movement problems and more effective regulations governing the size and construction of foundations.

Can the Minister of Housing say what the Government intends to do about this matter in the circumstances?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: My attention was drawn to this newspaper article which I believe emphasizes the fact that, in addition to problems with houses, there are also problems in respect of council and other buildings. This accentuates the fact that problems are caused not only in houses built by the Housing Trust or by private builders, but that the problems persist in all buildings in the area. The honourable member knows (and I think she appreciates the fact) that, with the member for Enfield, I accompanied her on an inspection of houses in this area and looked inside, outside, and underneath them. It must be acknowledged that there is no absolutely certain solution for the problems in this area; at least not at a cost for foundation work that is economic or would fall within the ability of the prospective owner or lessee to pay. I believe that, in the case of houses that have been built covering part of the site, a degree of stability in the soil does develop. This situation has been shown to be true in areas of difficult building soils, and there are many such areas in the metropolitan area. From the experience of the Housing Trust, a year or two of stable moisture conditions under the house has tended to solve the problem, so that when repairs are made they have a greater degree of permanence. I noted the article, including the fact that further research is to be undertaken into the problem of soil movement. I noted also that consideration had been given to a specification for foundations, which would possibly withstand such movement. If sufficient money is spent on a foundation, there may be some assurance that a house built in that area will not crack.

However, unless substantial sums are spent (sums which, I think, are beyond the capacity of the owner to provide or the lessee to pay by way of rent), I am afraid that there is no real prospect of effecting permanent repair soon. Having had some experience in the building business, purely as an amateur, I have never seen things happening to other houses such as those happening in this area. I think this is clearly because of the serious deficiency of the soil in the area, having regard to the purpose for which it is used. Nevertheless, the area is advantageously placed in relation to the metropolitan area; and, as people want to live there, houses have been built. The honourable member's question is noted, and now that she has raised the matter again I will, as I proposed to do, have the trust make a further survey of the conditions to see whether its expectation that some stability would develop after a year or two has been fulfilled.

HOLDEN HILL POLICE STATION

Mrs. BYRNE: The newspaper report also contains a photograph and states that the Holden Hill police station and courthouse, opened in 1966, has badly cracked walls in nearly every room. The Minister of Works will be aware that, although the Holden Hill police station is not situated in the Barossa District but is in the Enfield District, it is on the fringe of my district and serves my area. When I inspected this building this morning, I found that the allegations in the report were certainly not exaggerated. I am sure that if the Minister or his officers inspected the building they would realize that the matter was serious. As I consider that attention is urgently required, can the Minister say what action his department contemplates taking?

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE: I, too, saw the report and photograph in this morning's newspaper, and inquiries are being made by my department into the matter. As soon as I have the report, I will tell the honourable member what is intended.

MOSQUITOES

Mr. RYAN: On August 20, I asked the Minister of Marine a question about the mosquito nuisance in my district. Although it has not been really hot recently, the few warm days that we have had have again created a problem in this regard.

Mr. Broomhill: They're like jet aeroplanes.

Mr. RYAN: Yes, they are big whoppers, too.

Mr. Hudson: Do they attack only Liberals?

Mr. RYAN: I do not think so, because they have been biting me. In reply to my previous question, the Minister said that a meeting had been held on this matter, and *Hansard* reports as follows:

representatives of the local boards of health of Port Adelaide, Enfield and Salisbury met with officers of the Marine and Harbors Department, the Lands Department, the Public Health Department, the Commonwealth Health Department, and the Electricity Trust. The meeting was held so that they could consider the report which has now been presented by the Public Health Department and which has been compiled over the last year. The report recommends a method of treating the mosquito infestation. However, it is careful to point out certain strict procedures that must be adopted because, if premature treatment is undertaken or the problem is handled indiscriminately, the infestation will not be overcome. I have now approved certain funds being made available by the Government and authorized further discussions to be undertaken with the other statutory authorities concerned, including those

local boards of health to which I have referred, so that a final decision can now be made on the commencement date of this eradication programme bearing in mind the correct time of the year to begin it.

Although it is early in the season, it seems that mosquitoes will be out in full force again this year. Can the Minister comment further on what will be done in this matter? Has the eradication programme commenced, and can he hold out any hope of its being effective?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE: I know of the honourable member's interest in this subject; in fact, I would describe these mosquitoes as dive-bombers. However, I am pleased to see that the mosquitoes show no discrimination and that they bite the honourable member also. I will certainly see what latest moves have been made in this matter, because it is one that is important to the area not only on the honourable member's side of the river, involving people who live and work on LeFevre Peninsula, but also to the area that the Marine and Harbors Department is striving at the moment to develop as a future lovely playground for water sports. The presence of mosquitoes could have some effect on this aspect.

GLENELG SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: On Sunday, for at least part of the afternoon, I had the pleasure of being at the Glenelg Primary School.

Mr. Clark: I thought you were going to say the Glenelg football clubrooms.

Mr. HUDSON: The Glenelg Primary School is next-door to the site on which the wake had been held the previous evening. The school held a reunion for its old scholars to commemorate the opening of the new building and the demolition of the old buildings. The Minister of Education is, I think, aware that the new building has been sited in the north-eastern corner of the school-grounds, first to ensure its remoteness from the traffic on Brighton and Diagonal Roads and, secondly, to try to provide a playing area of a reasonable size that can be grassed. First, will the Minister ascertain what are the department's plans for the demolition of buildings and the provision of a grassed area? Secondly, will she ascertain the size of the grassed area to be provided and how much land belonging to the school will be required by the Highways Department for widening Brighton and Diagonal Roads?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Yes.

APCEL LIMITED

Mr. CORCORAN: I have been receiving reports in my district over a considerable period that Apcel Limited intends to expand its paper-manufacturing operations at Snuggery (near Millicent) or, alternatively, that this will be undertaken at Lane Cove in Sydney. I am concerned that every effort be made to persuade this company to expand in my district, because of the tremendous benefit such an industry gives the local community. Will the Premier, as Minister of Industrial Development, say whether he has had any contact with this company and, if he has, can he tell the House about the developments likely to result from its plans for expansion?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I have had contact with this company and certain information is now being gathered concerning its future in South Australia. At the moment, I can only say that there is close contact with the company and that we are putting our best foot forward in this matter.

LOBETHAL SCHOOL

Mr. GILES: This morning I visited the Lobethal school and, on inspecting the school-grounds, I noticed that the asphalt paving was badly holed. As this is sloping ground, it makes it extremely dangerous for young children who run about on it. Indeed, I am sure that under present conditions many of them will finish up with sprained ankles. The Headmaster tells me that he has over a considerable period applied to have the yard resurfaced, but as yet no such work has been undertaken. Will the Minister of Education have this matter treated as one of urgency to see if the school cannot have this yard paved as soon as possible?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I shall be happy to oblige the honourable member and to get a report on the matter.

BRAEVIEW SHOPPING CENTRE

Mr. EVANS: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question about the traffic conditions at the Braeview shopping centre?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Commissioner of Police has supplied the following information on the traffic situation near the Braeview shopping centre:

The Secretary, Braeview Progress Association, made recent representations to the Police Department concerning traffic conditions at the shopping centre at O'Halloran Hill. Our

inquiries reveal that mobile patrols from the Christies Beach police station pay attention to this locality in the normal course of their duties and consistent with other police commitments in the area. Traffic movements could cause problems at busy periods but no more than at similar shopping centres. Reportable offences under the Road Traffic Act on the service road have been almost non-existent. Any accidents or reportable offences have resulted mainly from motorists entering or leaving the main South Road, and speeding along the 55 miles an hour zone.

WHEAT INSURANCE

Mr. EDWARDS: I view with concern the low insurance cover on wheat of 80c a bushel. On the first advance, farmers get about \$1.10 a bushel and, less expenses, the farmer usually clears about \$1 a bushel. In the circumstances, I believe 80c a bushel is rather low. This year it appears that farmers will have to hold at least portion of their grain a particularly long time on their farms. I understand that the time of the insurance cover has been shortened to February 1 in lieu of March 1, which applied in previous years. One reason given to me for this shortening in time was that when farmers had reached their wheat quota they would not bother to reap the rest of their wheat. I believe that is an affront to farmers, for I am sure most farmers will reap all their grain and store it; I do not think there is any likelihood of their leaving wheat in the field to be spoiled by thunder and hail storms. Will the Treasurer have this problem investigated, because most farmers will have over-quota wheat this year and will want extra insurance cover on the grain until it can be delivered to the silos?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: From his explanation, I assume the honourable member is referring to the seasonal cover, which is usually the system under which a farmer insures his crop. This commences from the time of risk of damage to the crop by hail or fire and continues until the crop can, in normal circumstances, be safely housed. Notwithstanding the conditions of seasonal cover, it has always been competent (and I imagine it still is) for the farmer to insure for whatever period he desires but if, as I understand from the honourable member's explanation, it is proposed that the cover under the seasonal policy should end earlier (and if there is no rebate of the rate charged), the honourable member would be correct in saying that the insurance companies were, in effect, shortening the time and charging the same premium. I have contacts with the insurance organizations through the Treasury and I will inquire

to ascertain the position. I do not know what attitude the companies adopt regarding insurance cover on grain stored in bulk, either in heaps in the field or in some other way, but I will inquire and give the honourable member the information as soon as I obtain it.

MOUNT GAMBIER INDUSTRY

Mr. BURDON: I have received the following letter from the proprietors of Mount Gambier Batteries:

We are a battery manufacturing business in Mount Gambier trying to build up our business and so employ more local labour. However, we find we are lacking support from local councils and Government departments; there is only one council, Port MacDonnell, which purchases a few batteries from us. We have been told that it is Government, local and departmental policy to purchase from local manufacturers, that is, if the quality of the article is the same or better and the price is about the same, and feel that we are being sadly let down. The quality of our batteries is good, equal to the best in the district, and better than most. Our price is cheaper than any other first-grade battery sold in the district; our service is second to none, as we have a full repair service (there are only two in the area), and we can and do repair any battery that is repairable. The cry is for local industry, but how can it exist if it does not get the support it should. If it is Government policy, local and/or departmental, to buy from local manufacturers, could you please look into it for us? Any advice or help you can give us would be appreciated.

The member for Millicent, who has received a similar letter, shares my concern for the future of small industries in the country that must be promoted to further the development of country areas. Will the Premier, as Minister of Industrial Development, say what is the Government's policy in relation to small industries in country areas such as the one I have mentioned, and what steps he will take to promote such industries, and this one in particular?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will obtain a report on the Government's purchasing arrangements in relation to the facilities offered by the firm. I am sure that small country industries would, along with other firms, be able to tender on supply matters to the Government. I think the honourable member would be aware of the Government's attitude to country industries, both large and small, and that very active assistance is available to companies wishing to expand that have markets on which to base expansion. If the honourable member would like a detailed report to take to the firm he has mentioned, I can provide it. I know of no country industry having a future based on the

market for its products that has been refused Government assistance and, in this regard, Government assistance has been very practical in the expansion of the honourable member's district. I refer, for example, to Softwood Holdings Limited and Panelboard Proprietary Limited, which have been involved in Government negotiations that resulted in successful expansion of these industries. A more recent one has been Pict Limited, a frozen food company in the Millicent District, which was the result of swift but, nevertheless, detailed negotiations between the company and the Government. The Department of Industrial Development pays strict attention to these matters.

MORGAN ROAD

Mr. CASEY: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my question of October 2 about the Morgan-Burra road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The member for Burra has shown considerable interest in this road over a long period of time and his efforts have culminated in the Morgan-Burra road being up-graded to a good gravel surface road, on an improved alignment. This is essentially a long-term project to be progressively carried out over a period of years by the councils concerned. Work has already commenced. There is no intention at this stage of providing a sealed surface. The use of the road by east-west traffic, including water skiers as mentioned by the member for Frome, provides justification for the work proposed, but at present does not provide justification for the heavy expenditure involved in bituminous sealing. Total traffic counts on the road are low, and it is considered desirable that the limited funds available for construction be spent on other roads already carrying heavier traffic volumes. Traffic trends will be kept under review to determine when the relative priority of the road is such as to warrant sealing. In the meantime, the work immediately proposed is a prerequisite to sealing and will not be wasted.

TEACHERS INSTITUTE

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: Yesterday the member for Millicent asked a question of the member for Victoria in relation to an article appearing

in the current issue of the *South Australian Teachers Journal*, and I quote from page 5 of that publication:

Channel 2, ABC-TV, asked Mr. Freebairn and Mr. Rodda to appear on the *Today Tonight* programme with Mr. Harris, following personal attacks on Mr. Harris in the House of Assembly. Both M.P.s declined.

At no time have I been invited to appear on a television programme with Mr. Harris and, if I were invited, I would decline. As a member of Parliament, my contact with the institute is through the President (Mr. White) and I very much appreciate the representations he has made. I am not interested in having discussions with Mr. Harris, who is only a stooge for the Australian Labor Party using the Institute of Teachers for his own political advantage.

Mr. Casey: You wouldn't debate the matter with anyone: you're not competent to debate it.

The SPEAKER: It is not competent to have a debate at present, either.

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Is the honourable member prepared to repeat his statement outside this Chamber?

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I am delighted to reply. My understanding of Mr. Harris's political involvement stems from evidence presented to me as recently as today: Mr. Harris is pictured in an A.L.P. publication, distributed in the seat of Kingston, in which he is referred to as one of the highly qualified young candidates who are part of the A.L.P. team working towards the Commonwealth election in Kingston.

The SPEAKER: Order! This is not an election campaign in here.

Mr. CORCORAN: The honourable member for Light was asked whether he was prepared to make outside this House the statement he has made here under privilege about Mr. Harris. I, too, ask that question.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I am always ready to answer questions eliciting information. I have made various charges against Mr. Harris in the House of Assembly, and every one of them can be verified by fact.

Mr. Corcoran: Answer the question. Will you say it outside the House?

ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question about the purchase of land for a school site at St. Agnes?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Agreement to purchase the P.G.H. property has been entered into. However, settlement has been delayed because the property had been subdivided to include the provision of roads. Action is being taken by the company to have these roads closed so that a consolidated title can be given.

TIGER COUNTRY

Mr. CORCORAN: Will the Minister of Lands find out for me the acreage of undeveloped Crown land in the counties of Buckingham and Chandos (the Pinnaroo-Bordertown area) commonly referred to as the tiger country? Will the Minister find out the acreage of national park at present dedicated in the area and proposed to be established?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will do that, but I can give some substantially accurate information now. A large national park comprising about 100,000 acres (although I would have to check that for the honourable member) is near this country. The unallotted Crown land in the counties of Buckingham and Chandos, which forms one large area, is about 500,000 acres in area. It is proposed to offer about 50,000 (one-tenth) of that land for allotment. This action follows the amendment to the Crown Lands Act introduced by the honourable member, when he was Minister of Lands, to make it possible to settle this country under proper conditions. That action followed a Land Settlement Committee recommendation for limited development under strict control. This legislation has been regarded by the department as, in effect, an instruction by Parliament to take action, and I have done nothing to change that. About 50,000 acres has been surveyed into 10 units, which will be offered. The result of those offers will determine the future attitude.

Mr. Corcoran: And how they get on with development?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes. Certainly, land in that type of country would not be offered to anyone who had insufficient finance. No arbitrary rule about the size of the block or conditions has been laid down. Those matters will be decided after inquiry. Persons interested in conservation have been concerned about the breaking up of new country. In fact, I pointed out to a deputation that saw me about this matter some time ago that, whilst development of 50,000 acres in this area was proposed, it was also proposed to dedicate about 75,000 acres as a national park. About 375,000 acres remains

in the area and, although an arbitrary decision should not be made at present, I think eventually much of that area will become national park.

MODBURY SOUTH SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of September 24 about the development of the oval at the Modbury South Primary School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Modbury South Primary School was opened in February, 1967, and therefore qualifies for a grassed and reticulated oval at Government expense. Approval of funds is now being sought by the Public Buildings Department, which is programming the project for seeding in autumn of 1970.

SOUTH-EASTERN RENTS

Mr. BURDON: Some months ago I presented a petition from public servants and other people occupying houses at Mount Gambier and Myora and Caroline forests about rent increases. My request, and that of the petitioners, was that the suggested increases be investigated with a view to reducing the rents to the previous amounts. Will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Forests whether this investigation has been carried out and, if it has, what the result has been?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will do that.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. CORCORAN: I ask this question on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition. On September 24, in the absence of the Attorney-General, the Leader asked the Premier a question about legal assistance being provided by the Law Society to pensioners who were involved in difficulties with Aged Cottage Homes Incorporated. The Leader asked whether the Attorney-General would ask the Law Society, when deciding whether to provide legal assistance, not to take into account money set aside by pensioners for funeral expenses, etc. Has the Attorney-General a reply?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I have had a discussion with Mr. Brian Magarey, President of the Law Society, who assures me that the society has no rule, or rule of thumb, that assets of any description or size are automatically a bar to the provision of assistance. Mr. Magarey is at a loss to understand how the statement about the bank balance of \$199, which was mentioned to

me by members of the committee when they called on me, could have arisen. The society has no such rule. The fact that people have sufficient money in the bank to cover their funeral expenses is also irrelevant, and the President has promised to ensure that representation is arranged in appropriate cases. I wrote to Mr. Pearce, Secretary of the committee, a few days ago informing him of this fact and recommending to him that individual occupiers should apply to the Law Society for assistance. I think it would not be appropriate for the Law Society to give assistance in every case at this stage, but there should be one or two test cases. As I think that one couple who came with members of the committee to see me would be the appropriate test case, I have also written to them. I think that assistance will now be arranged through the Law Society in this case and, having examined all the papers and all the facts put to me by members of the committee and others, I am confident that this is primarily a private legal matter between the occupiers and Aged Cottage Homes Incorporated. I think the best help I could have been I have been, by arranging for the society to give assistance.

KITE FLYING

Mr. HURST: When driving past the west park lands this morning I saw a large sign stating that the *News* intended to conduct a mighty kite-flying competition on Monday, October 13. Because of the many unsuccessful attempts of the Premier to fly his kite in this Chamber, will he say whether he intends to go to the park lands and participate in the open kite-flying competition on Monday?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am the first to admit that I am not as good at flying kites as is the honourable member or any of his colleagues, and if he could take me to the competition and give me some tuition I should be pleased to learn his procedure. It is evident from the performance of the honourable member and his Party colleagues in the House that they are experts at kite flying, and I should like to learn their technique.

ABORIGINAL PROJECT

Mr. CORCORAN: An article appearing in the *Chronicle* on October 3, under the heading "Project", states:

A new role for Aborigines in the Australian tourist industry was outlined in Commonwealth Parliament last week. In a joint statement, the Minister in Charge of Tourist Activities (Senator Wright) and the Minister

in Charge of Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Wentworth) said the Government would assist Aborigines to play a big part in the industry. The Ministers said the Government proposed that Aborigines should:

Work as rangers and guides in national parks and established tourist areas.

Help restore and maintain Aboriginal art works.

Give dance performances professionally.

Produce arts and crafts work.

Become involved in service industries such as motels and shops.

The Ministers said money to establish Aboriginal business enterprises would come from established Commonwealth funds.

"It is not the intention of the Government to permit or encourage the presentation of Aboriginal Australians as 'tourist attractions' to be looked at and photographed as if they existed to satisfy the curiosity of other people," they said.

During my term as Minister of Immigration and Tourism I considered this matter, but I intended that Aborigines should develop in an environment in which they originated so that people from overseas and Australians could see how they lived in the early days. Has the Minister of Immigration and Tourism discussed this matter with the Commonwealth Government, and can he comment on this development?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I am interested in this matter, because I saw a brief reference to what the Commonwealth Minister had said some time ago, and I have been trying to find out details of this scheme. I have not yet approached the Minister, but I have received information in accordance with the views that I placed before members of the Aboriginal Lands Trust some months ago. I believe that Aborigines should take an intense interest in the future of the tourist industry, which is a growing industry with an assured future and one in which Aborigines can share. A similar interest would not be available to anyone else. At present, we cannot introduce organized schemes to employ them as rangers, although they are not debarred from such employment. I am pleased to know that the Commonwealth Minister is thinking on the same lines as I am. He makes it clear that he is not interested in the type of display that would degrade the Aborigines in any way, a sentiment with which we would all agree. Either the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs or I will be writing to the Commonwealth Minister to obtain full details of this scheme, because we believe that not only Aborigines but also the State can gain much from this kind of development of the tourist trade.

FOUNDRY

Mr. RYAN: As the Minister of Works is aware, the reference to build a new foundry for the Engineering and Water Supply Department was submitted to the Public Works Committee, which unanimously recommended that the project should proceed. Recently, I was informed by a union official, who is concerned in this industry, that last week he was told by someone interested in the industry in Sydney that this Government was not proceeding with the foundry and that from October this year Perry Engineering Company was taking over much of the work that the foundry used to do. Because many people are greatly concerned in this matter, will the Minister say whether the statement is correct?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I did not see the article and this is the first time I have heard this suggestion.

Mr. Ryan: It was not an article: it was a statement.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: It is completely unknown to me. To put the honourable member's mind at rest, I point out that only yesterday morning I discussed with the Director and Engineer-in-Chief the forward planning of this project, plans necessary for its design and implementation, and its funding. Perhaps that reply is sufficient for the honourable member.

FISHING INDUSTRY

Mr. CORCORAN: About a fortnight ago I asked the Minister of Marine a question dealing, in part, with the issuing of certificates of competency, which previously had been certificates of service. The Minister subsequently replied that the committee concerned in this matter had not yet actively policed the manning regulations, in the sense of carrying out spot checks on craft that had been put to sea, in order to ascertain that their crews were adequately certified, but that this would be carried out in due course. I received a telephone call this morning from Kingston concerning this matter, and evidently some concern is being expressed that people who should have obtained their certificates of competency by now but who have not obtained them are anxious to have the opportunity to sit for the examination, involving oral, written and practical tests, that is necessary to qualify for this certificate. In view of this situation, can the Minister say whether his department intends, prior to the commencement of the fishing season on November 1, to send to the

various South-East ports officers with the necessary qualifications, so that those people desiring to sit for this examination may be able to do so?

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I know that the honourable member shares my concern that the appropriate examination be undertaken and the correct certificate awarded to those to whom it should apply, because this is in the interests of safety generally. I will take up this matter with the department. Everything is being done in the department to help those people who require to have the survey undertaken by the relevant date. Although I imagine that this work is being undertaken at present, I will check on the matter for him.

Mr. CORCORAN: Also about a fortnight ago I asked the Minister of Marine a question about the alarm expressed by some people engaged in the fishing industry concerning survey regulations and the fact that, because they were the owners of small vessels, the situation could lead to their having to leave the industry. In fact, some people held the view that the regulations were designed to put them out of the industry. At the time, I asked the Minister whether anything could be done to help these people. I think it has been suggested in the past that some time be given them so that they may convert their operations to those of a vessel sufficiently large to comply with the survey regulations and to carry the equipment required by the regulations. As this is a matter of some interest and importance in my district, I ask the Minister whether he will inquire and obtain a report for me.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: Following the honourable member's question, I recall discussing this matter with the Director of Marine and Harbors with a view to dealing with it sympathetically, so that the scheme could be phased in correctly. Although I cannot recall the outcome, I think a report was being prepared. Nevertheless, I will expedite the matter, particularly bearing in mind that the season opens on November 1. I recall the honourable member's postulating that small boats should be surveyed first.

GAS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Gas Act, 1924-1965. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUNBE: I move:
That this Bill be now read a second time.
The most urgent and main purpose of the Bill is to make some amendments to the

Gas Act so as to make provision to facilitate the reticulation of natural gas to consumers in the metropolitan area. The opportunity is also taken to make some other necessary and desirable amendments to the principal Act which I shall explain as I deal with the clauses of the Bill. Clause 2 inserts the definition of "gas supplier" in section 5 of the principal Act in its proper alphabetical place. It also strikes out the definitions of "President" and "standard price" which have been obsolete since the Prices Commissioner became the price fixing authority for gas. Clause 3 makes a formal amendment to section 7 of the principal Act. Clause 4 recognizes that gas is now reticulated not only in the suburbs of Adelaide and in Port Pirie and makes provision accordingly.

Clause 5 provides for the intervals between the testing of meters to be prescribed by regulation. At present the Act provides for all meters to be tested at least once in seven years. With the advent of natural gas and improved methods of meter construction, the South Australian Gas Company claims that the testing of meters every seven years is unnecessary. The Director of Chemistry agrees with this view. However, until sufficient information is available to decide on a definite period between testing, provision is made for the interval between the testing of meters to be prescribed by regulation. Clause 6 confers on an employee of the company power to enter premises accompanied by a member of the Police Force for the purpose of interrupting a supply of gas to a building or rendering it safe during the period when gas appliances are being converted to the use of natural gas. This is only a safety precaution, and the power will be rarely used. A similar power exists in Victorian legislation and in practice has been found useful.

Clause 7 fixes the standard rate of dividend payable by the company to its members as 7 per cent or such higher rate not exceeding 8 per cent as is approved by the Treasurer. For a number of years the approved dividend has been 7 per cent. The clause also provides that the interest paid by the company on money borrowed by it on security is to be at such rate as is approved by the Treasurer. This is a provision similar to one that applies to the Electricity Trust of South Australia. Clause 8 strikes out some obsolete provisions of section 29a of the principal Act. Clause 9 repeals certain sections of the Act that have become obsolete by reason of the fixing of the price of gas by the

Prices Commissioner. Clause 10 clarifies section 36 of the principal Act to apply its provisions to all gas supplies and not only to the South Australian Gas Company. Clause 11 repeals section 37 of the principal Act which is no longer necessary. Clause 12 enables the South Australian Gas Company to invest its funds at the discretion of the directors of the company. Section 38 (2) of the Act at present limits the types of funds in which its depreciation and reserve accounts may be invested. It seems unnecessary for the directors to be restricted in the way in which specific portions of its funds may be invested, and as there is no need for statutory direction in this manner clause 12 deletes this subsection.

Clause 13 repeals section 41 of the principal Act because the half-yearly statement which the company is required to publish under that section would now serve no purpose. Clause 14 prescribes in the first schedule to the Act the calorific value of various types of gas and makes provision for the testing of gas for purity in accordance with the regulations and by a method approved by the Director of Chemistry. As natural gas is odourless, it is necessary, in the interests of safety, that it should contain an additive which gives it a distinctive smell, and clause 14 (c) adds a new Part to the First Schedule providing accordingly. This Bill is in the nature of a hybrid Bill and it is recommended that it be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. CORCORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General) moved:

That the Criminal Law Consolidation Act Amendment Bill, 1968, be restored to the Notice Paper as a lapsed Bill, pursuant to section 57 of the Constitution Act, 1934-1965.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (25)—Messrs. Allen, Arnold, Brookman, and Broomhill, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Coumbe, Edwards, Evans, Ferguson, Freebairn, Hall, Hudson, Hutchens, Jennings, Langley, Lawn, McAnaney, McKee, Millhouse (teller), Nankivell, Pearson, and Rodda, Mrs. Steele, Messrs. Venning and Wardle.

Noes (7)—Messrs. Burdon, Casey, Clark, Corcoran (teller), Hughes, Hurst, and Ryan.

Majority of 18 for the Ayes.
Motion thus carried.

PRICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Prices Act, 1948-1968. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its object is to continue the operation of the Prices Act for another year. By the Prices Act Amendment Act, 1968, the principal Act was extended for 12 months and made to apply to transactions taking place before January 1, 1970. Therefore, if no action is taken during this session, the Act will cease to have any force and effect after that date. The Prices Act has been continued by successive enactments since its commencement in 1948. At this period in post-war history, strong inflationary pressures were already apparent, with the demand for goods rapidly outreaching supply, and a consequent strong upward movement in prices for most goods. These pressures continued and indeed were accentuated during the following several years, during which period most State Governments in Australia enacted and maintained in operation prices control legislation in their respective States.

With the growth and expansion of industry which occurred during the late 1950's and early 1960's the supply of goods was materially improved, to a point where, in respect of many categories, the market turned through a period of equality of supply and demand to a strongly competitive situation in buyers' favour. During this latter period, State Governments progressively abandoned their legislation, and for several years now South Australia has been the only State to retain it. The present Government has recognized and assessed the competitive situation as it has developed in various categories, and has therefore revised the schedule of items under control. As a result, many of the items previously controlled have been removed from control. In respect of another group, the Government has instructed the Commissioner not to fix prices, but to retain them under surveillance. A third group, mainly consisting of essential food and clothing items of importance to families and lower-income earners, as well as basic and essential items used in rural industries, has remained under orders fixing maximum retail prices.

In the Government's opinion, movements in prices in the exempt and surveillance groups have not increased at a rate above the rate of

their upward movement while they remained under control, because, while under control, the Commissioner had been obliged to approve successive increases because of rising costs. Therefore, the Government will continue to keep the list of controlled items under review. However, there are other important reasons for retaining the services of the prices organization, and therefore the Government intends in this Bill to extend the Act for another year.

With regard to petrol prices, determinations by the Prices Commissioner in South Australia are applied by the oil industry throughout Australia. The effect of the higher cost Bass Strait oil on the price structure, when production commences in December, will need to be closely examined to ensure that unwarranted price increases do not occur. The oil industry has already intimated that it desires to increase prices from the end of the year. In addition to the fixing of maximum prices of declared items, the Prices Commissioner also keeps a watch on price movements on non-controlled items, and a number of arrangements exists with industries with regard to advice and discussions in some cases before prices are increased.

Other important functions carried out by the Prices Commissioner include the fixing of minimum prices for wine grapes, which is of considerable benefit to winegrape growers, the supervision of the unfair trade practices provisions of the Prices Act, including misleading advertising, and the investigation of complaints of excessive charges. For the year ended June 30, over 700 complaints were investigated. In the last two years the number of complaints from members of the public concerning either excessive charges or unfair or misleading trade practices has grown. The Prices Commissioner provides an avenue through which complaints can be investigated and, where found justified, remedial action can be taken.

In some other States where control has been entirely removed the respective Governments have considered it desirable to set up machinery to receive representations, to hear complaints and to intervene in disputes between parties to various transactions covering a wide field. These functions, as I have indicated, are presently carried out very successfully by the Commissioner and will be continued under this Bill.

Mr. HUDSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Lands): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It makes a number of miscellaneous amendments to the principal Act. It removes certain difficulties that have been experienced in prosecutions, under section 22a of the principal Act, for the offence of manufacturing or selling a colourable imitation of milk. It removes an obsolete title from the principal Act. It confines the operation of section 19 of the principal Act, which requires the owner of a factory, milk depot or creamery to pay the supplier according to the grade of the milk or cream, to factories, milk depots or creameries which are supplied by two or more suppliers. The provisions of the Bill are as follows:

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 inserts a new definition of "milk". At present milk is defined as including anything that is represented to be milk. This causes difficulty under section 22a of the principal Act which makes it an offence to manufacture or sell a colourable imitation of milk. If "milk" includes anything that is represented to be milk, it is difficult to see how it can be possible to have a colourable imitation of milk. The amendment overcomes this difficulty.

Clause 3 changes certain references in section 7 of the principal Act from "Chief Dairy Adviser" to "Chief Dairy Officer", which is now the correct title. Clause 4 amends section 19 of the principal Act. This section requires the owner of a factory, milk depot or creamery to grade milk and cream and to pay the supplier according to the grade of the milk or cream and the weight of the butterfat. This provision is not thought to be necessary where there is only one supplier and the section is amended accordingly. Clause 5 amends section 22a of the principal Act to extend its provisions to imitations of goat's milk.

Mr. CASEY secured the adjournment of the debate.

GOODS (TRADE DESCRIPTIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 3. Page 1434.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I support the Bill, which is necessary because other States have similar legislation. The Act has not been amended since 1935 and, in addition, it has

been necessary to amend it to enable Australia to become a party to the Lisbon Revision of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. The Act is virtually in accord with Acts in other States, except for a minor difference, which is covered by clause 3 of the Bill, which merely adds the word "characteristics" to trade descriptions. Opportunity has been taken in the remaining clauses of the Bill to alter the amounts of penalties to decimal currency and to increase them to bring them into line with current money values.

Mr. GILES (Gumeracha): I, too, support the Bill. Many undesirable trade practices are being carried on throughout the State and any move to control them should be acceptable to all members. Recently, I had the experience of a trade description being used misleadingly, and anything that misleads the public upsets me and, I am sure, every other member. I went into a furniture store to buy a dressing table and wardrobe combination on which was the sign "Installed Free". After inspecting the unit, I decided to buy it and, as a joke, I said to the salesman, "I will have it installed at Padthaway." He said, "It will cost you something to have it installed at your place at Lenswood." I said, "The ad. stated that it would be installed free. I don't care whether it is installed at Darwin. The ad. states it will be installed free."

After discussion, it turned out that the description on the advertisement was incorrect and that the manager was supposed to have written on it "Assembled Free", which is different from "Installed Free". To the unsuspecting public, "Installed Free" could be misleading, as it was to me. The manager kindly installed it for me free of charge but this shows that, unless these things are watched closely, the public can be sadly misled. There have been other cases of misrepresentation in advertising the sale of secondhand cars and the way credit is extended to prospective purchasers. One often sees where such cars are said to be in A1 condition, showroom condition, or first-class mechanical condition whereas, on examination by an expert mechanic, this is often found to be not the case. This, again, is misleading the public. Many words used in advertising various groceries and cigarettes are misleading, for example, "giant size", "enormous", and "king size", which are not accurate descriptions.

Mr. Corcoran: That's the packaging legislation.

Mr. GILES: I know that. This shows that, in certain circumstances, the public is sadly misled and that we should do everything we can to prevent misleading advertising by resellers.

Mr. HURST (Semaphore): I support the Bill, which has been introduced to ratify an International Labor Organization convention on goods trade protection. I thought that the Minister might have explained an I.L.O. convention to members. I will explain what it is and show that insufficient cognizance has been taken of these conventions, to which we, as part of Australia, are a party. The I.L.O., which is the only successful wing of the United Nations, is currently celebrating its fiftieth birthday. That body does much good but, unfortunately, many Governments and member nations are paying only lip service to its conventions.

The I.L.O. conventions are not arrived at haphazardly. I and other members have had the privilege of representing Australia at I.L.O. meetings, and I think the House should be aware that between 1,200 and 1,500 delegates of all nationalities, colour and political beliefs throughout the world, representing government, employees, and trade unions, attend these meetings. Items are listed by the governing body and committees are appointed to discuss recommendations to be made to the general assembly and voted on. The conventions adopted become recommendations to the member nations and it is expected that the member nations will carry out their functions properly by giving effect to the conventions through the various legislative channels in their countries.

I am pleased that the Minister has introduced this Bill to ratify an important convention. Because of our federal system, similar legislation must be passed by the various States and, as the Minister has explained, the Ministers of Labour and Industry have agreed to introduce such measures. It is also necessary, because of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, for the Commonwealth to have some say in this matter, and it is pleasing to note that the Commonwealth Government has regulations on the aspect for which it is responsible, namely, the importation of goods from other countries. The intent of the Bill is not revolutionary. Rather, the measure is designed to provide the minimum requirements and the minimum protection necessary, even in underdeveloped countries.

Mr. WARDLE (Murray): It seems that in any society some business people will take advantage of other persons, and we hear of the amazing salesmanship and advertising that some people accept without wanting to know more about the things they are buying. This applies particularly to the purchase of motor cars. They do tremendous injustice to themselves by accepting too much at face value. I cannot see anything in the Bill that will harm or restrict the person who does business in an honest, direct and truthful manner, and I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

TEXTILE PRODUCTS DESCRIPTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 3. Page 1436.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I support this Bill, which is similar to legislation in all other States and which is related to Commonwealth legislation regarding imports. State Ministers have discussed this matter at their last three conferences, and lengthy discussions have taken place among the various State Ministers and representatives of the Textile Council of Australia and the Dry Cleaners Association of Australia to arrive at a satisfactory method of describing synthetic and artificial fibres. Much thought has been given to the matter and, although views differed originally, in July the Ministers agreed on the way in which synthetic fibres should be described. The main object of this legislation is to ensure that purchasers obtain what they think they are buying; that they are not misled about the fibre content of the article by use of a false trade description applied to a product, or by absence of any trade description. Whilst this object is the major consideration, it has been pointed out that this also assists dry cleaners and consumers to know how to care for a garment, because various processes are applied in cleaning. If the content of the textile is not shown, damage could be caused to the material when it was being cleaned.

No doubt the wool sign will be one of the things controlled by this legislation, because I understand that, while we see the sign "pure wool", some synthetics are included in the material. However, I believe that, to be branded in this way, an article must contain a specified percentage of wool. True, in these days there is a large increase in the number of

synthetics being produced, and under this legislation it is intended to describe them by regulation rather than by amending the Act each time a new synthetic appears. This is a commonsense provision. I subscribe to the principle of the legislation, because I believe consumers should be given every possible protection when purchasing materials. They should know what they are buying and, from using it or from reports about the material, they should know what life it has and what wear they will obtain. This information will assist purchasers.

Concerning filling substances, the example given in the second reading explanation showed that in some cases attention had been drawn to cotton products imported into Australia which, after washing, had been found to contain 20 per cent or more filling substance. This situation is not desirable, and this legislation will deal with it. Inspections are to be permitted of places where materials are produced or where inspectors believe they may have been produced, and inspectors have been given fairly wide powers. However, I do not think that they are different from or more far-reaching than the powers contained in other legislation. If the inspector is to do his job and provide protection needed by the public, he must be given sufficient powers to enable him to carry out his duties. Clause 5 (3) provides:

Any textile products or articles seized and detained pursuant to paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of this section shall, if proceedings for an offence against this Act in relation to which they were so seized and detained have not been commenced within one month after they were so seized, be returned to the premises or place from which they were so seized otherwise those textile products or articles shall be disposed of in the manner ordered by the court before which those proceedings were commenced.

This gives a fair and reasonable protection to the producer. If the inspector had power to confiscate and take away any textile product and there was no requirement for him to act swiftly, hardship and inconvenience could be caused to the producer who perhaps would suffer loss of revenue. Certain legislation requires that, where articles are seized, they must be purchased, but it is difficult to do that in this case because the article may have been half completed when seized. However, if proceedings must be commenced within one month the producer knows that there will not be undue delay in returning the product that was seized, if the case cannot be proved against him. The inspector has the normal

protections that he needs to carry out his duties. The Opposition does not object to the Bill, because it will give adequate protection to the consumer and will make people more aware of the number of synthetics that are being produced. Perhaps they will consider using the articles produced in Australia, and use more wool.

Mr. ALLEN (Burra): I, too, support the Bill, and agree with what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said. With so many different synthetic fibres now on the market it is necessary that we take this action to ensure that garments are labelled according to the material they contain, particularly the dominance by weight. Dry cleaners have had difficulties when handling garments of this nature, and the wearer should be aware of the garment's contents so that he can properly care for it. When doing research on this subject I was amazed to read of the many different types of synthetics, some of which are highly flammable.

Recently, a child was severely burnt when wearing a flammable nightdress. If the public can be educated about these various fibres, these accidents will not happen. Many people will find it difficult to become acquainted with the various generic terms. Toyo Rayon, which I presume is a Japanese firm, is expanding its production of Toyoflon, a fluorocarbon fibre made from Polytetrafluorethylene. It would be difficult for the public to become familiar with names like that, just as it was difficult for me when, as Chairman of the local council, I conducted a naturalization ceremony at which the surname of the person being naturalized was Saffchiversdchivershoffen.

In the United Kingdom almost 75 per cent of consumption of nylon is in the apparel industry. About half the United Kingdom's consumption of polyester (Terylene) is used in woven apparel garments. More than half the carpets made in the United Kingdom contain 15 to 20 per cent of nylon. I understand that under the provisions of this legislation any materials containing 95 per cent wool can be labelled "pure wool"; those containing less must be labelled. Any garment containing paper must be labelled to show that, and any apparel containing wool or fibre must be labelled to stipulate the percentages of the materials used. Clause 5 provides power for inspectors to enter shops and factories and to take samples that are not labelled or are incorrectly labelled;

whereas I understand that inspectors previously did not have power to take such samples, although they could enter premises.

Mr. Hurst: Do you agree that inspectors should not be harassed in carrying out these duties?

Mr. ALLEN: Yes. As I think these provisions will improve the Act, I support the Bill.

Mr. BURDON (Mount Gambier): I support the Bill, three clauses of which are particularly important. Clause 3 deals with filling substances, clause 4 with the labelling of textile products, and another with the right of inspectors to enter premises and take samples. One of the most important things about the measure is that its object is to ensure that the buyer of a textile product is not misled. Unfortunately, people have been misled in the past about the fibre content of the article purchased, as a false description has sometimes been used and, in some instances, there has been no description at all. Ministers of the various States have agreed that certain generic terms be used concerning textile products to be marketed, and I will not deal with the various descriptions as did the member for Burra.

However, out of this legislation I hope will come a term, plainly understood by the layman, that is used to describe the article concerned. This is of prime importance to the people purchasing these articles and to those who may be dry-cleaning them. Dry-cleaners will now know of the contents of a garment and will be able to treat it accordingly. In the past, many people have been misled about the amount of filling used in certain articles. Many housewives, after washing an article for the first time, have found that about 20 per cent of it has disappeared in filling. This matter will now be controlled, and not more than 5 per cent filling will be permitted in any article. This is important to the purchasing public.

Mrs. BYRNE (Barossa): I, too, support the Bill, which seeks to ensure that buyers of textile products will not be misled as they may have been in the past. Since I have been elected to Parliament, many housewives have constantly complained to me about this matter, pointing out that the contents of garments they have bought have not been as stated. Consequently, many people have paid more for a garment than should have been paid. It has been pointed out also that difficulties have been

experienced in having certain garments dry-cleaned. In fact, some dry-cleaners are reluctant to treat certain garments, not wishing to take any responsibility for what may happen to them in the process. On the other hand, housewives who launder the garments in question often find that the cloth has shrunk because it has not contained the stated constituents. The labelling of these products generally will benefit the public.

Mr. FERGUSON (Yorke Peninsula): I support the Bill, and I believe that not one member in this House would not agree to its contents. Other members having already referred in detail to the measure, I cannot see that any great purpose would be served by my repeating what they have said. I am pleased that the Bill has been introduced, because as a result of its passing people will know exactly what is contained in the textile products they buy. In the past, garments have often been presented to dry-cleaners who, not knowing the composition of the garments, have been in some doubt about treating them; indeed, they have not known whether the garments might be destroyed if dry-cleaned. However, I believe this measure will be of great benefit to the dry-cleaning industry, and it will protect members of the general public who purchase textile products.

As most families have to budget and take care of their personal belongings, particularly their clothes, it is important that garments be made to last as long as possible. However, people can treat garments properly only if they know their composition. This Bill will also be of great assistance to the wool industry, which is one of Australia's greatest primary-producing activities but which in the last year or two has not been as prosperous as it might have been.

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): I support the Bill.

Mr. Hurst: That's enough!

Mr. RODDA: It is amazing how easily some people are pleased. Although the member for Yorke Peninsula suggested that we were all saying the same thing, I suggest that this Bill points to the shortcomings of any material that is not of wool. It is proper that we should legislate to tell the manufacturer to tell the retailer and the consumer what is contained in an article so that, when a consumer takes an article home, the filling in it will not wash down the plug-hole. I commend the Minister for introducing the Bill.

Mr. Broomhill: This would be a good time for you to apologize to Mr. Harris.

Mr. RODDA: He will keep, and in a couple of years' time it may give me pleasure to deal with him.

Mr. Broomhill: You won't be here then.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RODDA: I do not know how much of Mr. Harris would wash down the plughole if he was not correctly labelled.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think the honourable member had better get back to the subject.

Mr. RODDA: I have not been off the Bill, Sir, although interjectors have tried to divert my attention. The Bill underlines the value of wool. The member for Frome is looking pleased, as he likes to hear me talk about this wonderful commodity. He has spoken to me about an ensign that the member for Albert and I have on our ties, and he said some very nice things about this brand of tie. There is a growing organization in this country whose distinguished members are charged to wear at least one article of wool each day. Such people do not need legislation of this type to protect them in regard to the articles they buy.

All the things that are necessary to protect consumers in this connection are contained in the Bill. Severe penalties are provided for breaches of the Bill and, when legislation has teeth as long as those in this Bill, I think it indicates that the Minister means business. Certain articles on the market today must have specific treatment if they are to have the qualities claimed for them. I hope this legislation will do what the Minister hopes it will do, and gives the protection that it is desired to give to the South Australian consumers.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE (Minister of Labour and Industry): I thank members for the support they have given this important measure. I was asked about the effect of the moves being made in regard to the flammability of children's clothing. Action in South Australia in this connection is going ahead fairly well. We are embarking on a publicity campaign, and the passing of this legislation will enable that campaign to be more effective, because the trade descriptions set out in the Bill in relation to fibres will enable the campaign to be more easily identifiable and effective.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

FOOTWEAR REGULATION BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 3. Page 1438.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I support this Bill, too, and this proves that the Opposition is not here only to oppose everything introduced by the Government but that at times it agrees with the Government's actions. I am sure the Minister will appreciate the Opposition's co-operation this afternoon. The Bill's provisions are necessary and desirable. It repeals the Footwear Regulation Act, 1920-1949. Whilst that Act has been amended only once since 1920, it now requires so much alteration that it is more convenient to repeal it and replace it with this Bill.

For many years practically all good-quality footwear had leather soles, but synthetic soles have recently been introduced, and this Bill provides for these new types of sole. For example, all shoes must carry a brand stating the materials comprising the sole. Because present-day materials comprising soles are often chemical synthetic products, often with long unpronounceable names, the practice has grown up of using a trade name instead of the name of the material. Representations have been made by the footwear manufacturers section of the South Australian Chamber of Manufacturers for amendments to the legislation, and the problems that have been faced throughout Australia have been discussed at several conferences of State Ministers of Labour. As a result, agreement was reached at the 1968 Ministerial conference to introduce uniform amending legislation. This is desirable, because products manufactured in another State will be marked the same as products manufactured in this State.

The Bill provides that the manufacturer must show his name and the type of sole in each pair of footwear. In the case of leather soles, the words "all leather sole" must be used. Possibly this is a weakness, because marking a shoe in this way or with the words "non-leather sole" does not give much protection to buyers, because of the various types and grades of leather. The leather could be cut from split belly leather or split pigskin and it could be lining leather, as distinct from good butt leather. So, the Bill does not give to the buyer the protection they may appear at first sight. However, I realize that it would be extremely difficult to define the different types of leather. I realize, too, that the statement of the material comprising the sole is an indication of composition, not quality.

Clause 6 increases from \$40 to \$500 the maximum penalty for non-compliance with the provisions of clause 5. Of course, if people disobey these provisions they deserve to be punished. Probably \$500 today has the same purchasing power as \$40 had in 1920, when the original Act came into force. Clause 7, dealing with the weighting substances that can be used, prohibits improper practices in relation to the weighting of soles. Of course, it is necessary to use some weighting substances in the manufacture of leather, including fixing salt; it is necessary to use glucose to help prevent leather soles from cracking in hot weather. The regulations will specify the maximum amount of weighting substances that may be used. This is a necessary protection for the consumer.

In clause 8 there is no provision that an inspector must show proof of identity before he exercises his powers, but a contingent notice of motion is on the Notice Paper to remedy this anomaly. Although the Bill provides that the composition of the sole must be stated, there is no provision that the composition of the upper must be stated. Can the Minister say whether this is an omission? I point out that it is easy to repair a sole but it not so easy to repair an upper. I support the Bill.

Mr. EDWARDS (Eyre): I, too, support the Bill. The provision that all footwear must be clearly marked is a valuable protection for the general public, because it will enable people to see whether they are buying footwear with leather or synthetic soles. The maximum penalty for non-compliance with the Bill's provisions has been increased to \$500. This is good, because it prevents people from being taken down. It is also necessary to watch closely the procedure adopted in shoe manufacture, because many inferior products can be put in a shoe and covered up so that the buyer does not know about it unless he takes the shoe to pieces. Inspectors will guard against these actions and so help the general public. I commend the Government for being so concerned about the people by looking after them from head to foot. Whilst most shoes are clearly marked, some are not marked at all and one has difficulty knowing what material they are made from. I would not buy a shoe that was not clearly marked, because to buy it would be a waste of money. These unmarked shoes are not attractive and would not be bought by a person who had a knowledge of shoes. If members look at some of the shoes displayed in stores, they will soon realize the poor quality of the shoes. I

commend the Minister for introducing this Bill, which is similar to legislation in other States and which will enable people to keep things in proper perspective.

Mr. HURST (Semaphore): I support the principles of the Bill, which regulates the sale and manufacture of footwear. There has been only one amendment to the principal Act since 1920, and we all know the change that has taken place since then. At present a big percentage of shoes is made from synthetics, not from leather. One of the principles of this measure conforms to the socialization ideals of our Party and I am pleased that the member for Eyre is tending towards our outlook. At one time anything that would give satisfaction and service to the public was frowned on. However, these measures are now considered to be essential. Many provisions in the Bill could be strengthened considerably but I give the Minister credit for at least trying to tidy up the situation. It is pleasing that, although some provisions do not come up to what we all require, the Bill will be workable because all States have agreed about it.

Mr. Lawn: Do you believe in uniformity?

Mr. HURST: Most decidedly, I do.

Mr. Lawn: The Minister of Lands doesn't, yet his Government has introduced this Bill.

Mr. HURST: I think Government members ultimately will come around to our point of view. As I have said before, at one time the member for Eyre was opposed to members on this side because we were all Socialists. However, that honourable member is intelligent and can realize value. He has had experience, has worked hard during his life, and has done a good job. I think that, particularly as he is living in the city now, he will favour having the right shoe larger than the left, because he is tending towards the left. Ultimately, he will be on this side. If he remains in the Liberal Party, he will be on this side, and then he will do an about turn and come with us.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no reference to the member for Eyre in the Bill.

Mr. HURST: No, Mr. Speaker, but footwear is referred to. It is pleasing that the Commonwealth Government and the Ministers of six States can agree on something that will benefit the public. It is acknowledged that people are exploited today, and this Bill is a step in the right direction. As time passes, members will appreciate the need to strengthen the legislation so that it will give more benefit.

Mr. EVANS (Onkaparinga): I, too, support the Bill. However, one or two matters concern me, one of which is clause 6, which deals with shoes manufactured outside Australia and imported into Australia. The Minister in his second reading explanation said:

In the case of imported footwear the Commerce (Imports) Regulations of the Commonwealth require the country of origin, but not the name of the manufacturer, to be shown on all imported footwear.

This implies that all that is needed is a mark showing the country of origin and not the name of the manufacturer or the type of sole on the shoe. On checking this point, however, I have found that the Commonwealth regulations cover the same aspects that this Bill does, except that they require not the name of the manufacturer but the country of origin to be stated. Clause 8 deals with powers of inspectors. Subclause (2) provides:

In the exercise and performance of the powers and functions vested in him by this Act an inspector may use the services of an interpreter

The interpreter's word is taken as being as acceptable as that of the inspector. Many people in this country do not understand our language, so perhaps we should consider employing a linguist as an inspector. We could do so for this purpose because the Department of Labour and Industry covers many fields of activity, and an interpreter-inspector would be better than an inspector in dealing with many cases. Subclause (3) concerns me somewhat. It states:

Any shoes or other articles seized and detained pursuant to paragraph (d)—

and paragraph (d) gives the inspector power to confiscate shoes to be used as evidence—

of subsection (1) of this section shall, if proceedings for an offence against this Act in relation to which they were so seized and detained have not been commenced within one month after they were so seized, be returned to the premises or place from which they were so seized—

to this point I agree, but I am not happy about the next part—

otherwise those shoes or other articles shall be disposed of in the manner ordered by the court before which those proceedings were commenced.

Can the Minister say, in the case of a person or company found innocent of a charge, why the shoes should not then be returned just as though the case had not been proceeded with? I think that, if the person is found to be innocent, the court has the power to say, "They can

stop here and the manufacturer or the person selling them can come back for them at his own expense." If he is found guilty, this clause is all right but, if he is found innocent, I think the Department of Labour and Industry should return the goods from where they were collected, because the defendant is not guilty and he should not have to be encumbered with this action.

I also agree that this Bill is necessary to protect the community from shoddy footwear or footwear that is not properly branded. I do not entirely agree with the member for Millicent (Mr. Corcoran) when he says that branding shoes "all leather" does not help to bring about a better article, because many types of leather that we speak of—for instance, butt leather or belly leather—can be judged by its thickness; the average person or housewife gauges it in that way, so to some extent it distinguishes the quality of the shoe.

This Bill is a move in the right direction—I do not say it is a move in the direction of Socialism. The member for Semaphore (Mr. Hurst) had his tongue in his cheek when he made this comment, and I think he was only trying to incite the member for Eyre. If it was a measure towards Socialism, I would use my boot to kick it out—that is, if I was a heel—but I have a soul, and I believe the Bill will benefit the community. Can the Minister say whether he believes that the shoes should be returned at no expense to a person found innocent?

Mr. CASEY (Frome): I support the Bill, but I do not think it goes nearly far enough. Over the years we have seen the footwear products of Australia deteriorate to such an extent that the whole footwear business in Australia does not show up in a very good light. Everybody should be concerned about it, because the product we are getting today is not as good as the pre-war product. During the last 12 months I was talking to some boot-makers, who said they were concerned at the type of shoddy materials going into the footwear sold throughout Australia today. They discover this when they resole shoes or boots. The inner soles are not always made of leather. This is a cheap way of putting footwear on to the market. In some children's shoes that I have seen, some of the material used is no better than pressed cardboard; the general public is not protected against this because it has no way of knowing exactly what lies between the upper part of the shoe and the sole.

Most shoes imported from England are the best shoes one can buy but, strangely enough, they are manufactured from Australian leather, which is recognized as the best leather in the world. Most of our top-grade leather goes overseas, only to be manufactured and sent back here. Why cannot our manufacturers purchase this top-grade leather, which is available in Australia, manufacture a top-grade shoe and call it an Australian-made shoe? We should not be paying high prices for English-made shoes when we should be able to get the same product here. These aspects should be looked at in a Bill of this nature. I know it has been introduced specifically to get uniformity throughout the Commonwealth. To go farther than this, it must be done on a Commonwealth basis; but to disregard the manufacture of footwear in Australia today is a shame, because the general public is being fleeced right and left, particularly in respect of children's school shoes and kiddies' shoes. Look at the price people have to pay in any retail store in South Australia for a toddler's leather shoe! It is almost staggering, but once the thin leather sole becomes worn nothing is left. Many shoes sold to juveniles are made in the same way, and I have seen these shoes when they are brought to a bootmaker for repairs. If we are to do something about footwear in Australia in order to have a product that compares with that manufactured overseas, local manufacturers should do something about producing a good product, for which people are prepared to pay. Generally, as the Bill is at present, I support it.

Mr. LAWN (Adelaide): Although supporting the Bill, I do not think it is perfect, but it is a start. This afternoon, after debating the Textile Products Description Act Amendment Bill and the Goods (Trade Descriptions) Act Amendment Bill, we are now debating this Bill, all of them resulting from Ministerial conferences at which uniform legislation on these matters was suggested. The member for Onkaparinga said that if he thought that this was a socialistic Bill he would kick it out: I challenge him to do that, because it is. I can remember members of the Liberal Party' similar to the members for Onkaparinga, Light and Victoria, and possibly one or two other Government members, who claimed that they did not like socialistic and uniform legislation.

I remember that when members of my Party spoke years ago on certain legislation the present Minister of Lands and the ex-member for Burnside, Mr. Clarke, would interject, "Do you

believe in uniformity?", because this was the catchcry of those members. It was the Socialist Labor Governments of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania that convinced earlier Ministerial conferences to introduce uniform legislation throughout Australia. I believe in uniformity, but the Minister of Lands and the ex-member for Burnside, who did not, had to sit and watch while the Playford Government introduced uniform legislation. I remember Sir Baden Pattinson introducing a uniform company law Bill, which pleased me because it was the result of a Socialist Labor Government's getting Ministers together and convincing them that uniform legislation would benefit the people. I remind the member for Onkaparinga of the following objective of the Australian Labor Party:

The democratic socialization of industry, production distribution and exchange—to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in those fields.

That is the object of this legislation. I commend the Bill although, like other Opposition members, I realize it is not perfect. However, the subsequent Labor Government, when it is in power in 18 months, will improve the three Bills that were debated today. I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

The Hon. J. W. H. CUMBE (Minister of Labour and Industry): I listened with interest to the member for Adelaide, but I point out to him that the three Bills passed today were the result of much unanimity and hard work by Liberal Ministers in various States, because for the first time all Ministers attending the conference were Liberal Ministers, who achieved results that have received the complete approbation of the House. I thank members for supporting this measure. The member for Millicent asked why the upper of the shoe was not marked or branded. This legislation was introduced some years ago to protect the purchaser of shoes against misrepresentation and shoddy footwear. It was then considered that the most common and lasting sole was made of leather and that it should be protected, because this was the basis of the shoe and the part that wore out most often. It is impossible to mark the upper of some shoes, particularly the women's evening slippers now worn. They have a thin strap across the top and this shoe would be impossible to brand in the way required under this legislation.

The marking is there as a guide to the buyer so that he will know what type of sole is on the shoe: he does not have to buy it.

We cannot say that people must buy leather or that they must buy rubber, and this is why this marking has been used. In reply to the member for Onkaparinga's question about clause 8 (2), this is the normal provision in this type of legislation and it was included in a Bill that we discussed earlier today. The provision of clause 8 (3) is the normal way to handle these matters. The product is taken to the court as evidence and, if the person charged is found innocent, I imagine that the Department of Labour and Industry would immediately return the article. I commend the Bill.

Bill read a second time.

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE moved:

That it be an instruction to the Committee of the whole House on the Bill that it have power to consider a new clause relating to certificates of identification of inspectors.

Motion carried.

In Committee.

Clause 1 to 13 and schedule passed.

New clause 9a—"Certificate of identification."

The Hon. J. W. H. COUMBE (Minister of Labour and Industry): I move to insert the following new clause:

9a. (1) The Minister shall provide for each inspector a certificate of identification.

(2) An inspector who is exercising or proposes to exercise any power or function con-

ferred on him by or under this Act shall, at the request of any person likely to be affected by the exercise of that power or function, produce to that person the certificate of identification provided for him pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

(3) For the purposes of this Act or of any proceedings under this Act, the production by a person of a certificate purporting to be a certificate provided pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be *prima facie* evidence that the person who so produced the certificate was at the time of that production an inspector.

It has been considered necessary to include this clause to deal in more detail with certificates of identification of inspectors. In its original form, the Bill provided that section 205 of the Industrial Code would apply in this regard. However, as some doubt was expressed regarding the clarity of that section, it was considered necessary to insert this new clause to cover the point. The member for Millicent, as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, has already indicated his support for this new clause.

New clause inserted.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.34 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 14, at 2 p.m.