

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 14, 1969.

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

PETITIONS: ABORTION LEGISLATION

Mr. EVANS presented a petition signed by 201 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 right 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. BROOMHILL presented a similar petition signed by 248 persons.

Mr. FERGUSON presented a similar petition signed by 263 persons.

Mr. VIRGO presented a similar petition signed by 48 persons.

Mr. CORCORAN presented a similar petition signed by 521 persons.

Mr. LANGLEY presented a petition signed by 178 persons, being 18 years of age or older, stating that, because it was impossible to be certain that the fertilized ovum was not a human being at least from the time of implantation in its mother's womb six to eight days after conception, they were deeply convinced that it was worthy of the greatest respect from that time. The signatories stated that they realized that abortions were performed in public hospitals in this State to preserve the woman from serious danger to life or physical or mental health; that, where social reasons appeared to exist for termination of pregnancy, the social condition should

be treated rather than terminating the pregnancy; and that, furthermore, the experience in countries where abortion was permitted on social or economic grounds indicated that such practice created many new problems without solving existing problems. The petitioners prayed that the House of Assembly would suspend action on the Bill pending a detailed study of the British experience following the introduction of its abortion legislation, and that if the law was amended such amendment should definitely not extend beyond a codification that might permit current practice.

Petitions received.

PETITION: AGED COTTAGE HOMES

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN presented a petition, signed by 97 occupants of cottages owned and controlled by Aged Cottage Homes Incorporated who had signed agreements of occupancy, stating that Aged Cottage Homes Incorporated had increased rentals contrary in many instances to an agreement to life tenancy and in other instances had increased rentals far in excess of the means of the occupants to pay. The petitioners prayed that the House of Assembly would urgently appoint a commission to inquire into the validity of the agreements and the reasonableness of increasing the rents.

Petition received and read.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: MINISTRY

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I think all members are aware that, regrettably, the Minister of Works has suffered a serious heart attack and will be absent from the House for some few weeks. Pending his return the Minister of Lands will look after the responsibilities of the Engineering and Water Supply Department and Public Buildings Department, the Treasurer will look after the responsibilities of the Marine and Harbors Department, and the Attorney-General will look after the responsibilities of the Labour and Industry portfolio in this House.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I ask the Premier and his Ministers to convey to the Minister of Works the wishes of all members on this side for his speedy recovery.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

The SPEAKER: I notice in the gallery Sir Harmar Nicholls, member of the House of Commons for Northamptonshire and Soke of Peterborough, Peterborough Division. I know

it is the unanimous wish of honourable members that Sir Harmar be accommodated with a seat on the floor of the House, and I invite the honourable Premier and the honourable Leader of the Opposition to introduce our distinguished visitor.

Sir Harmar Nicholls was escorted by the Hon. R. S. Hall and the Hon. D. A. Dunstan to a seat on the floor of the House.

QUESTIONS

UNIVERSITY FEES

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Can the Premier say whether the State Government has requested the Universities of Adelaide and Flinders to increase their fees for students by 20 per cent?

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

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Don't you know?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. CORCORAN: As the Premier is not only the senior Minister in this State but also heads Cabinet, surely he would know whether Cabinet had discussed the matter and be able to give us a report without first having to refer to some other authority. Will he say whether this matter has been discussed in Cabinet and, if it has, what is the outcome of those discussions?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am concerned to get a full and comprehensive report for the honourable member, and I have promised to get that report. It will deal with all the ramifications of the matter, including the percentage increase referred to by the Leader. If the honourable member can contain himself until tomorrow, I will bring down a reply then.

WHEAT STORAGE

Mr. VENNING: Recently much interest has been shown in the House in debate and at Question Time about the amount of storage to be made available for over-quota wheat throughout South Australia and in other States. It is imperative that the method of financing this storage be clarified. Last week the Minister of Lands replied to a question asked by the member for Yorke Peninsula (Mr. Ferguson) about certain aspects of this matter. Last Thursday evening I listened to the Leader of the Country Party (Rt. Hon. John McEwen) delivering his policy speech for the forth-

coming elections, and a report of the speech in last Friday's newspaper states:

The special funds which had been made available to build wheat storage would ensure that storage is available for all wheat, including over-quota wheat.

Because of the seriousness of this position, I ask the Minister of Lands to request the Minister of Agriculture (and I also draw the Premier's attention to the situation) to get something definite for the House about how the 20,000,000-bushel storage in South Australia will be financed.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As I said last week, I find it essential to refer a question of this kind to the Minister of Agriculture. I will do that and get a reply as soon as possible.

Mr. CASEY: Most of the information sought by the member for Rocky River is contained in a reply to a question on notice I asked last week, the questions and answers appearing in *Hansard* as follows:

Mr. CASEY (on notice):

1. How much wheat was held in storage in this State by the Australian Wheat Board at September 30, 1969?

2. What is it expected will be the total permanent and temporary wheat storage available to South Australian farmers at March 31, 1970?

3. What is the estimated wheat harvest for the 1969-70 season?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The replies are as follows:

1. 50,775,000 bushels (including bagged wheat).

2. 90,000,000 bushels.

3. The preliminary estimate is 75,000,000 bushels.

Can the Minister of Lands say whether the reply to be given to the question asked by the member for Rocky River is likely to conflict with the reply given to me last week?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will examine the question asked by the member for Rocky River and get a reply to it. Believing that all members should be able to expect a reply to any question they ask, I cannot say whether anything contained in the reply to the question asked by the member for Frome is in common with what will be in the reply to the question asked by the member for Rocky River. I will examine the matter, and I am sure the member for Rocky River will get the information he wants.

Mr. VENNING: I am confused: I cannot see any similarity between the question I asked and that asked by the member for Frome. The honourable member's question and reply concerned the quantity of grain expected to be delivered to the co-operative and estimated

carry-over of old stocks in this State, whereas my question concerns the financing of storages required for over-quota wheat. I am further concerned that the Minister is unable to receive any satisfaction from the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry: in replying to a recent question the Minister of Agriculture said that, although he had sent telegrams to the Commonwealth Minister, he had not received a reply. These important matters concern all members.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will ensure that this matter is considered by the Minister of Agriculture and that any misunderstanding on the part of the member for Frome is cleared up. It seems that different matters are dealt with by these questions, but I will ask my colleague to consider both matters.

ROSEWATER BRIDGE

Mr. RYAN: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my question about work to be done on what is known as the Red Hill bridge, at Rosewater?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I understand that the bridge referred to is that on Grand Junction Road at Rosewater. The maintenance of the bridge and its appurtenances is the responsibility of two separate bodies. The South Australian Railways is responsible for the maintenance of the bridge abutments and structure. The roadway, embankments and approaches, together with fences, are the responsibility of the corporation. Council was reminded of this division of responsibilities on August 29, 1958. Perhaps some misunderstanding has arisen because, on occasions, Highways Department forces have unwittingly undertaken minor works in respect of other than the bridge structure and abutments.

POTATOES

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to my question of October 1 about the recent Tariff Board inquiry that was held in Melbourne in regard to potatoes?

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

The Tariff Board inquiry on potatoes concerned the Australian potato industry as a whole, and evidence from South Australia was co-ordinated by the South Australian Potato Board, Agriculture Department, United Farmers and Graziers Potato Section, South Australian Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners

Association and two Federal bodies. At the request of the Tariff Board, the Agriculture Department and the Potato Board submitted evidence from their records, in accordance with the requirements of the inquiry that evidence was fully documented. It was ably presented in person by Dr. A. A. Dawson (Federal Secretary of the Australian Primary Producers Union), and I am assured by the Potato Board that the interests of the potato industry in this State were adequately protected and well represented at the inquiry.

PORT PIRIE LAND

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of August 19 about teacher accommodation at Port Pirie?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Tenders were called on Saturday for the erection of a house on land at the corner of Balmoral Road and The Terrace. These tenders will close in four weeks' time and, if a satisfactory one is received, work will commence as soon as possible thereafter. The balance of the land will be used in future housing programmes.

MARGARINE

Mr. McANANEY: As butter sales for September were considerably below those for August and for September last year, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture how much margarine is being consumed in South Australia at present and how this quantity compares with the margarine quota?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Yes.

CROP INSURANCE

Mr. CASEY: The Premier will realize that at about this time every year insurance company representatives travel throughout country areas and insure farmers' crops for the summer months and that it has always been the practice of the Underwriters' Association to protect crops until March 1, but for some unknown reason this year the representatives have been telling farmers, just prior to signing the application form, that the period of cover has been reduced by one month: the crop will be covered only until February 1. It should be realized that, even last year, February was a vital month (but not as vital as next February will be) for South Australian farmers to cover their wheat. I know that farmers in my district and in the Rocky River District are hostile that the association should reduce the cover at this time, especially as there has been no reduction in premiums. Farmers have expressed grave concern to me over the weekend as a result of this injustice to the State's farming community. Will the Premier ask the association why the period of cover has been

reduced from March 1 to February 1 and, if the reason is satisfactory, why premiums have not been reduced accordingly?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: In reply to the honourable member's speech, I will ask the association whether this situation applies throughout the State and, if it does, why.

QUARRYING

Mr. BROOMHILL: Yesterday, I had the pleasure of attending the Morphettville Race-course to see the running of the Labor Day Cup and, because industry had been closed for three days, I was pleased to see that the air was very clear, a condition that emphasized the fact that we have an air pollution problem in South Australia. However, from the grandstand I could see plainly the scarring of the hills face, as the white stretch of the scar across the hills was most evident. Recently, I asked the Premier a question about this problem, and as I understand that he now has information I should be grateful if he would give it to me.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I am grateful for the honourable member's rather lengthy reminder of his interest in this matter. Control is exercised over mining and quarrying in South Australia under both the Mining Act and the Mines and Works Inspection Act. Under the Mining Act and Regulations provision is made: (1) for the mining and quarrying of minerals on any land, whether freehold or otherwise, where the minerals belong to the Crown (with specified exemptions), and (2) for the mining and quarrying of minerals on freehold land in which minerals are alienated from the Crown, except in the case of sand, gravel, stone, or shell, which are specifically exempted under section 69aa of the Act. Section 69aa provides:

Nothing in this Act shall apply to any sand, gravel, stone or shell in or upon any private lands in any case where the sand, gravel, stone or shell has been alienated from the Crown, and no right of mining over such sand, gravel, stone or shell shall be conferred pursuant to this Act.

The latter provision means that the Mining Act does not apply to most quarries in the Adelaide Hills. For land to which the Act does apply, it would only be in the case of mineral leases that a condition could be included in the lease requiring restoration of the land. At present, there are no projects in the Adelaide Hills with such a title under the Mining Act.

All mining and quarrying operations, whether on Crown land or private land, are subject to the provisions of the Mines and Works Inspection Act and Regulations. This Act covers all matters connected with the safety and health of persons employed in a mine or quarry, or of the general public, and with mining operations which are creating or likely to create a nuisance, or are damaging or likely to damage property. There is no power under this Act to control quarrying except in relation to the matters listed above.

The Planning and Development Act enables planning regulations to be recommended by the State Planning Authority or a council on a wide variety of matters where an area is part of a planning area affected by an authorized development plan. Such regulations made under section 36(4)(o)—

regulate, restrict or prohibit either absolutely or subject to any conditions which may be imposed by the authority, the extraction from the soil of any turf, soil, sand, gravel, clay, rock, stone or similar minerals, the production of salt by the solar evaporation of sea water, the dressing or treatment of minerals or the manufacture of products therefrom.

Planning regulations under the Planning and Development Act have been made in the case of one council area, the City of Tea Tree Gully, which provides extractive industrial zones close to the foothills in which quarrying may be carried on subject to certain conditions. In the Rural A and Rural B zones and the special uses zone, the approval of the State Planning Authority would be required to carry out quarrying. In all other zones quarrying is precluded.

In the hills face zone, by virtue of interim development control powers proclaimed under section 41 of the Planning and Development Act, the approval of the State Planning Authority is required to a change of existing use of land or buildings or structures or the construction of a building or structure. In the case of the opening of a completely new quarry, the position is that the approval of the State Planning Authority would be required, as this would involve a change of use. In the case of the continuation of existing quarry operations, the position is not so clear. The Solicitor-General has informed the State Planning Authority that the lateral extension of a quarry excavation constitutes a change of use and would require the authority's permission. However, a summons has been taken out against the authority on behalf of Greenhill Quarries Proprietary Limited, the company

contending that it is not infringing section 41 of the Act by continuing its quarrying activities. It has sought declaratory orders from the Supreme Court as to the right of the parties. Any action relating to existing quarries has therefore had to remain in abeyance pending a decision of the Supreme Court.

FISHING SURVEYORS

Mr. FERGUSON: Has the Treasurer, representing the Minister of Marine, a reply to my recent question regarding fishing surveyors?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The Marine and Harbors Department at present employs three ship and engineer surveyors and two ship surveyors. Approval has recently been given for the appointment of an additional ship surveyor. Ship and engineer surveyors are required to hold a Ministry of Transport First Class Engineer's Certificate—Motor (Steam endorsement is an advantage, but not essential). Ship surveyors, before appointment, must have had 10 years' experience, including indentured period as a shipwright or boat builder engaged in building or repairing wooden vessels. I have a note here suggesting that, if the honourable member could supply details of the matter raised in his question of September 17 (that is to say, the names of the fishermen, the relevant dates, and the names of the vessels, etc.), it would help officers in investigating any specific inquiry.

TRANSPORT STUDY

Mr. VIRGO: I was rather concerned recently to read a statement of the Minister of Roads and Transport that the Government could not ask the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance towards the cost of the underground railway, because at this stage he did not know that the railway was a feasible proposition. In fact, he said the Government was only now considering the preliminary stages of conducting a feasibility study. I am concerned that a few months ago the House debated the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report fully (so I thought) whereas we now find we were debating something that might not even be feasible. Will the Premier say why he failed, either during or prior to the debate concerning the adoption of the M.A.T.S. Report, to tell Parliament that the whole of the M.A.T.S. Report might not be feasible?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member knows full well what were the implications of the M.A.T.S. plan debated in this House previously. In fact, these were stated in

a lengthy document that I read to the House in a most exhausting manner (I mean exhausting both mentally and physically, bearing in mind the extent of material made available in the explanation). I refer the honourable member to that explanation and, if he can bring himself to read it again, he will find fully outlined therein the proposals, the Government's attitude to those proposals, and any future action likely to be taken on them by the Government.

HEPATITIS

Mr. HURST: Has the Premier obtained from the Minister of Health a reply to my recent question about an outbreak of hepatitis at the Largs North Primary School?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Infective hepatitis is a disease that is occurring at present endemically throughout the community. It also tends to occur in small outbreaks. The cause of infective hepatitis is unknown. There is, however, evidence to support the assumption that it is a virus that is present in the bowels, blood and possibly in the nose and throat of an infected person. Available evidence seems to suggest that a person becomes infected by eating or drinking food or fluids that have been contaminated. Control of the disease is directed to the protection of food and drink from contamination. For this reason, universal routine washing of the hands after going to the toilet and before preparing and eating food or drink is urged by all health authorities in order to prevent the spread of infective hepatitis. A report of the outbreak at Largs North, submitted by the Medical Officer of Health for the Port Adelaide Local Board of Health, gives details of the outbreak and of steps taken to prevent further spread of the disease in this area. These steps seem to be adequate.

METALWORK CLASSES

Mr. VENNING: I understand that certain country high schools conduct metalwork classes. Can the Minister of Education say whether these high schools have to be of a certain size before such classes are established, or can she indicate the department's policy on the teaching of metalwork at country high schools?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

PORT PIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I recently asked about a shortage of staff at the Port Pirie High School?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The number of classes exceeding 40 has now dropped to five. In any case, class size and teaching groups have to be distinguished. A teaching group in English, social studies, mathematics, and science would usually represent the whole class. For Latin, French, history, and art and crafts, the class would be much smaller. It would be desirable, of course, for class sizes in general to be smaller than 40. On the other hand, with the new form of curriculum, classes much larger than 40 can often be organized and seated in a way that allows more individual attention to be given where it is needed than would have been thought possible in the past. I am informed that it cannot be said that the nine classes originally named by the honourable member are performing inefficiently.

I am also informed that all science classes are taught by teachers qualified in the subject. The reference to shortage of three mathematics teachers could mean only that some who take mathematics are not, in fact, mathematics specialists. The department does not follow a policy involving teacher specialism for every subject at every level. There are five teachers taking lower-school mathematics to offset what the staff letter apparently refers to as a shortage of three mathematics/science teachers. Four of these have university qualifications in mathematics at first-year level and the fifth has the teachers college subject, commercial mathematics. It is intended to provide a dual science block as soon as possible. Some old-style prefabricated buildings are still in use. Some of them have been left at the school's request to serve as storage or as additional free space.

MIL LEL SCHOOL

Mr. BURDON: My question has two aspects because it involves the departments of the Minister of Education and of the Minister of Works. About two or three weeks ago I was approached by members of the committee of the Mil Lel school in my district regarding the provision of a new classroom at that school. Following investigations that I made into the matter last week, I was able to ascertain that certain promises regarding this matter had been made, over two to three years, to the people associated with this school. Having conveyed to members of the school committee the information I had received, I inspected the school, with members of the committee, last Saturday afternoon, and saw the room that is sought to be replaced. Many

requests have been made to replace this room, which is an iron building that has been there for many years.

It was promised that a new classroom would be provided, first, last year, then early this year and, subsequently, in the middle of this year. The latest information is that the project may be commenced some time next year, possibly early in the year, but this means that the present unsatisfactory situation will continue until the following winter. Bearing in mind the urgency of the situation and the fact that the school has an enrolment of 85 students, 25 of whom are grade 3 and grade 4 students being taught in this old classroom, I have a suggestion to make to the Ministers concerned. As Mount Gambier High School children have transferred to a new school, I suggest that, if no other building is available, one of the many temporary buildings be transferred from the old school site to the Mil Lel school with a view to having it ready for use at the commencement of the 1970 school year. Will the appropriate Minister comment on this suggestion?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I do not recall being asked a question about this school, although I may have been.

Mr. Burdon: No. I have not asked you personally.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: As the honourable member has said that requests have been made on several occasions, I will take up the matter. I will call for an urgent report on it so that I can give a reply as soon as possible.

MARRABEL RODEO

Mr. GILES: At page 3 of this morning's *Advertiser* appear two photographs of a buckjumper scattering a crowd of people at Marrabel. The animal photographed was sired by Curio, which was a notorious buckjumper of many years ago. Apparently several people were injured in the incident. At one stage the horse was proceeding wildly up the steps of a grandstand; it careered on and damaged five cars. As this incident could have had disastrous results, will the Premier see whether action can be taken so that the public at rodeos is not endangered by horses in the event of any similar incident?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I feel sure that the organizers of the rodeo will take action following this incident to ensure that a similar incident does not occur. In any case, I will get a report for the honourable member on the procedures to be followed at such presentations.

MARINO QUARRY

Mr. HUDSON: About four years ago, and for a period prior to that, there was considerable local dissatisfaction in the Marino and Marino Rocks area concerning activities at the Marino quarry and the problems created by dust from that quarry and the noise of explosions. After much agitation by the Marino Progress Association, Quarry Industries Limited undertook certain activities of a dust-prevention nature at this particular quarry, and particularly through the good offices of the manager of the quarry most of the problems were brought under control. For about two years little nuisance was experienced by the residents of Marino and, in particular, Marino Rocks as a result either of dust or of noise from explosions. However, the problem has arisen again over the last three weeks and complaints have reached me concerning dust and noise from the quarry. The fact that for two years these matters were under control (and the Premier will remember that in one of those years the summer was one of the driest on record and if dust were to be a problem it should have been then) shows that the quarry can, with suitable management, avoid creating excessive nuisance to the local residents. Therefore, will the Premier ask the Minister of Mines what action can be taken by the Mines Department to try to restore the position that previously applied?

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

FALSE CAPER

Mr. WARDLE: My question concerns noxious weeds, particularly false caper, on that section of the railway line between Monarto and Sedan and more particularly on the section between Monarto and Apamurra. I have received a letter from the Mount Pleasant council informing me of the unpleasant situation and stating that the landholders and the council have gone to much expense and trouble to eradicate the false caper along this line on land that is their responsibility. The letter suggests that the Railways Department has stated that it does not have the proper equipment as yet to deal with the problem; presumably the department is referring to spray equipment. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to find out when the Railways Department will take action to eradicate false caper in this area?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will get a report.

RAILWAYS INSTITUTE

Mr. VIRGO: The Treasurer will recall that on numerous occasions in this House I have raised with the Premier the matter of the replacement of the railway facilities (the South Australian Railways Institute and other adjoining buildings) in association with the building of the festival hall. I have always been assured that, before the festival hall is proceeded with and before the buildings to which I have referred are demolished, the Government will provide alternative accommodation. I have now been informed that the Government has made an advance to the Railways Commissioner in lieu of the replacement of these buildings. Although I have searched both the Loan Estimates and the Budget presented by the Treasurer, I cannot find where any such sum has been made available and, if he will be good enough to do so, I should like the Treasurer to clarify the matter. Can he say whether the Government has made any financial contribution to the Railways Department for the specific purpose of replacing these railway facilities?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I do not know the source of the honourable member's information. The Government has not proposed any monetary advance to the Railways Commissioner in this form. In fact, I have with me now a comprehensive docket about the replacement of these buildings, the location and facilities to be provided, and other matters. The Government desires to make a decision as soon as possible, and I am at present considering such matters as cost, so it seems that the honourable member's information is not correct. The Railways Department and other Government departments involved are trying to get a speedy decision about the form the buildings will take and the facilities that will be provided.

KONGORONG FOREST

Mr. CORCORAN: The Minister of Lands will recall my asking a question last week about the purchase by the Woods and Forests Department of the property known as Karoona at Kongorong in the South-East and what the department intended to use the property for. The Minister said that the department had purchased the property and intended to plant pines on all of it except about 100 acres, so that pines would not be planted within half a mile of Kongorong township. Last Saturday I was requested to meet a deputation at Kongorong and to look at the area involved.

A petition signed by 114 residents of the Kongorong area, who protested against the planting of pines on this property, was presented to me. Members of the deputation told me that, despite the Minister's explanation about fire precautions, they were not convinced that the planting of pines would not lead to increased fire risk in the area, and they gave examples of what had occurred about 10 years ago in winds of up to 60 miles an hour. They also said that they considered the land to be more suited to other forms of agriculture and they thought that it should be used for that purpose. Although I realize the need to extend our forest areas in the South-East, at the same time it is my duty to represent the views of these people. They have requested me to ask the Minister of Forests to consider either establishing an agricultural college for the South-East in this area or subdividing the area into smaller allotments so that landholders could purchase the land from the Government to extend the existing property holdings in the area and so make them more economic. Therefore, if I give this petition to the Minister of Lands, will he tell the Minister of Forests what I have just said and ask him to consider these representations?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will do that, but I suggest that the honourable member also discuss the matter with the Minister, who will give a sympathetic hearing to any representations. Any alternative use of the land would have to be considered carefully. As the honourable member knows, the establishment of an agricultural college is extremely expensive, whereas forests are profitable. Everyone would acknowledge that the South-East forests were really the foundation of industrial development in the South-East, so I should have thought that the Minister would want to carefully consider any alternative project such as has been suggested. I think it would be best to discuss the matter personally with the Minister and see what happened after that.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. McANANEY: I have seen press reports of the greatly decreased number of unemployed in Australia, especially in South Australia, which has jumped ahead more quickly than any other State in reducing unemployment. Can the Attorney-General, on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Industry, give any further information on the creditable position that is developing in South Australia at present?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I shall be pleased to give the House details of this matter from a statement that I have prepared.

Mr. Virgo: What has the election to do with this matter?

The SPEAKER: Order! Only one question can be asked at a time.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The review of the employment situation as at the end of September, 1969, issued yesterday by the Minister for Labour and National Service revealed a marked tightening in the South Australian labour market. Not only has there been a substantial decrease in the number of persons seeking employment, but after adjustment for seasonal influences this was one of the two States in which there was a decrease in unemployment during the month. At the end of September the percentage of the South Australian work force registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service for employment (0.89 per cent) is closer to the Australian average figure (0.80 per cent) than it has been for some time. In South Australia the number of persons registered for employment at the end of September (4,530) represented a decrease of 739 persons on the number registered in August, and a decrease of 1,677 persons on the figure for September last year. Expressed as a percentage of the estimated South Australian work force, the number registered for employment was 0.89 per cent at the end of September, 1969, compared with 1.05 per cent in August, 1969, and 1.3 per cent in September last year. The percentage for last month is the lowest September figure since 1965. At the end of September there were 126 more job vacancies available than at the end of August. While the number of vacancies for female employees decreased by 37 for this period, the vacancies available for males increased by 163. Compared with the situation at the end of September, 1968, there were 1,018 more vacancies available at the end of September, 1969, comprising 757 more for males and 261 more for females. The number of persons receiving unemployment benefits was 1,235 at the end of last month. This figure compares with 1,457 recipients in August, 1969, and 2,427 recipients in September last year. A reduction in the number of recipients occurred for both males and females. The number of recipients at the end of September, 1969, is the lowest number since November, 1965. The tight situation in the South Australian labour market is reflected in the excess of vacancies available for skilled tradesmen over the number of tradesmen registered for employment. At the end of September, 1969, the number of vacancies for skilled building and construction workers was 188 compared

with 115 such workers registered for employment; whereas at this time last year there were more skilled building and construction workers registered than the number of vacancies available. The number of vacancies available for skilled metal and electrical workers and other skilled workers was about three times the number registered for employment as at the end of last month.

BRIGHTON INFANTS SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Lands, in the absence of the Minister of Works, a reply to my question of August 21 about suggested improvements to the Brighton Infants School?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Funds have been approved for improvements to the floors and lighting in the infants section at the Brighton school and the work is to be undertaken as a matter of priority.

TORRENS DUMP

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Has the Premier a reply to my question of October 7 about the Torrens River dump?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Investigations have been made by officers of the Public Health Department regarding the refuse depot on the Torrens River at Walkerville that is used for the disposal of trade and commercial waste. It is understood that a recent decision of the Supreme Court will enable the St. Peters council to acquire this property, which occupies about 12 acres, for recreational purposes. It seems that the cause for complaint, arising from the use of this property as a refuse depot, will shortly be resolved as a result of the recent decision.

PORT PIRIE FIRE

Mr. VENNING: I address my question to the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Agriculture, and, at the same time, apologize to the member for Port Pirie. Considerable publicity has been given to a fire that occurred in the Port Pirie district a few few days ago when two units from brigade headquarters at Port Pirie were called to a grass fire. When the units were within about 100 yards of the fire, it was discovered that it was outside the local fire brigade's boundary. The Emergency Fire Service was then called from Butler Bridge, about 10 miles away. A repetition of this occurrence could lead to disastrous consequences in our northern areas in a year such as this. I understand that Mr. Meaney has gone to Port Pirie and will furnish

a report which, I hope, will be made available to the House. Will the Minister of Lands ask his colleague to investigate this matter?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: When Mr. Meaney's report is available (and I know nothing more about it than that one will be made), I think it will be made available through the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary.

Mr. McKEE: I thought that the member for Rocky River was a reasonable man and had sufficient to look after in his own district without trying to play politics in the District of Stuart or in my district. He had to go through two Labor districts to get to his question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! This is not debating time.

Mr. McKEE: I could debate with the honourable member anywhere on any subject, and that also goes for the rest of his family. I understand that when the Port Pirie fire brigade arrived on the scene it was discovered that the fire was outside the Port Pirie fire brigade's district and the officers returned to the fire station and notified the Wandearah Emergency Fire Service. As a result of this incident, many people have called at my home to find out what would happen if a fire occurred in homes that are outside the Port Pirie district. I understand there is also some doubt whether the E.F.S. would have the proper equipment to deal with a house fire. Will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary what is the position in respect of property owners outside the fire brigade's district?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will ask my colleague for a report.

TORRENS RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. BROOMHILL: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to my recent question regarding the Torrens River and likely improvements to it?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The area of the Torrens River between Tapley Hill Road and the outlet is portion of the artificial outlet of the river constructed in the late 1930's. The land is vested in the Minister of Works and controlled under the Metropolitan Drainage Act, 1935. The Henley and Grange council applied for a subsidy in 1969-70 to plant trees on the lower reaches but there is the legal question as to whether the council can use some of its money on land vested in the Minister. On two sections, one at Henley Beach Road and the other upstream of Military

Road, trees and tree guards were supplied by the department to local progress associations on the understanding that they would plant the trees, erect the guards, and ensure that the trees were watered until they were firmly established. This method has been only partly successful and, despite replants, fewer than half the trees are now surviving. It is intended that further trees will be planted during the next planting season and cared for departmentally, but it is stressed that the criteria of keeping the floodway clear and having sufficient access for heavy plant for maintenance limits the amount of tree planting that can be done.

The Torrens River was cleared out and deepened from downstream of Taylor Road bridge under the Metropolitan Drainage Act, 1935, but any holes in the bed that were deeper than the new designed invert were not filled in; hence, there are sections of the river that contain water for the major portion of the year. Under the Act the Minister of Works is responsible for the maintenance of the floodwater works, and there is a permanent maintenance gang under the control of the Engineer for Irrigation and Drainage for such purposes as noxious weed control, bush fire protection, rubbish removal, etc. The removal of silt that has been carried down the river and deposited in the lower reaches is carried out periodically when it is considered that there is sufficient build-up to materially affect the capacity of the floodway. Some sections of the river will be treated this summer, but the work will start at the Taylor Road bridge end.

ST. PETERS LAND

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my question of September 17 about land at St. Peters?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Government has announced that it has not accepted the Hills Freeway proposal and that this will be deferred until the State Planning Authority completes its review of the Metropolitan Development Plan, which it is now undertaking. Until this is completed and a decision taken on this freeway, it is not practicable to consider amendments to the location of, and connection to, the Modbury Freeway in the St. Peters area. When review work can be undertaken, full consideration will be given to the requirements of the proposed recreation ground adjacent to the Tor-

rens River. In order to protect residents affected by the deferred sections of freeway, the Government has approved the continued acquisition of such properties on hardship grounds where the owner is unable to effect a satisfactory sale of his property.

TIMBER WORKMEN

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my question of October 7 about certain employees at Mount Burr who were stood down as a result of the breaking down of a log-loader?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In a report dated October 9, the Minister of Forests states:

The Conservator of Forests reports that the breakdown of a log-loader at Mount Burr has caused a temporary surplus of logs in the forests and that some contractors' employees were stood down by their employers. Some have since resumed work. A forklift has been brought in to replace the log-loader. It is anticipated that the log-loader will be repaired by Friday or, at the latest, during the weekend. Mill production has not been affected. Alternative work is usually available to contractors' employees when a lengthy breakdown occurs. In this case, none of the men concerned requested employment.

T.A.B. OPERATIONS

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Premier, representing the Chief Secretary, a reply to my recent question concerning the operations of the Totalizator Agency Board on racecourses?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: The honourable member will recall that off-course totalizator betting was introduced by his Party when in Government. Obviously, if it is to curb illegal starting price betting, facilities for off-course totalizator betting must be provided in sufficient locations and betting facilities must be provided on race meetings where it is economic for the board to operate. The establishment of new offices or agencies is subject to Government approval. Facilities are established only where warranted.

LAMBS

Mr. CASEY: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question regarding the slaughter of lambs?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Agriculture states that 3,468 lambs have been exported to the United Kingdom. This number includes 1,749 lambs from the Gepps Cross works and 1,719 from the Port Lincoln works which have been submitted by 11 producers. The scheme will remain operative for

all lambs that can be shipped on vessels which have taken on export lambs for the United Kingdom from any Australian port up to and including February 28, 1970. These shipments are covered by the Australian Meat Board's guaranteed minimum payment scheme.

GOLDEN GROVE SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Lands a reply to my recent question concerning the Golden Grove school property?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have been told that the Education Department property at Golden Grove is to be referred to the Lands Department for disposal, after appraisal of improvements by the Public Buildings Department. The normal procedure in cases of disposal of school properties is that tenders are called for purchase. I suggest that, if the honourable member has a point of view to put, she either refer it to me or see me about it and I will see that it is considered.

SUPERANNUATION

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question about the withdrawal of superannuation contributions by a contributor who has resigned on reaching the age of 60 years?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Following the Leader's question, I made representations to the South Australian Superannuation Fund Board. As a result of my representations, the board has now agreed that the provisions of the Act will allow a contributor resigning after reaching the age of 60 years or 55 years (according to the sex of the contributor) to receive a refund of contributions paid.

GERIATRICIAN

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Has the Premier a reply from the Minister of Health to my recent question about the appointment of a geriatrician?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Dr. Rollo Greenlees was appointed geriatrician in the Public Health Department on April 8, 1969. His salary is included in the general "Public Health" line in the department's estimates of expenditure. It was decided in discussions with the present Minister of Health, and earlier with the previous Minister, that certain experience and post-graduate qualifications would be necessary in a Director, but that an officer with appropriate experience in the absence of formal post-graduate training might effectively undertake the work as geriatrician. This Dr. Greenlees is doing. He has already studied geriatric

services in other States, made direct contact with every major organization in South Australia caring for the welfare of elderly people, convened meetings and a conference of the Advisory Committee on Domiciliary Services, which was recently set up by the Minister of Health, and initiated effective liaison by the Hospitals Department, the Social Welfare Department, and the Public Health Department in this area. The report of the advisory committee has not yet been presented to the Minister, but it is understood that it will contain detailed plans for the use of available Commonwealth funds.

HACKNEY REDEVELOPMENT

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: On August 19, when I asked a question about the re-development of Hackney, the Attorney-General said that a report had been received by the Government but, because it was subject to consultation with Treasury and Housing Trust officers, a further statement would be made within a few weeks. As no report has been published and as residents of the area have expressed concern about the future at several meetings, I ask the Attorney-General whether he has further information on this matter.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I do not have it; I would have informed the Leader if I had. However, I will follow this up as a matter of urgency.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report of the Standing Orders Committee.

Ordered that report be printed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: ABORTION LEGISLATION

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

Leave granted.

Mr. HUGHES: Last Thursday the Attorney-General called for a division when the vote was taken to have the Criminal Law Consolidation Act Amendment Bill restored to the Notice Paper. He saw fit the following day to make a statement to the press, part of which concerned me, as follows:

"Surprising Attempt to stop Debate—The Attorney-General (Mr. Millhouse) said yesterday he was surprised that anybody should try to prevent a Bill being discussed by Parliament no matter how they might feel about it. He was commenting on the abortion Bill being put to a division on the motion to have it restored to the Assembly Notice Paper on Thursday.

The Bill to amend the Criminal Law Consolidation Act and legalize abortion in certain circumstances reached the Committee stage in the Assembly last session. Mr. Millhouse had moved to have it restored to the Notice Paper. Mr. Millhouse said that there obviously had been a concerted attempt by certain Opposition members to prevent the Bill being discussed by Parliament.

I assure members, particularly the Attorney-General, that neither the Deputy Leader of the Opposition nor any other member told me a division might be called for on this important matter. Therefore, the Attorney-General was not justified in saying that "there obviously had been a concerted attempt by certain Opposition members to prevent the Bill being discussed by Parliament", and I take strong exception to the Attorney-General's making that statement, which referred to me.

CITRUS INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

OPTICIANS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

WEST LAKES DEVELOPMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 2. Page 1376.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of Opposition): I support the Bill. I believe some matters of administrative detail will have to be dealt with by the Select Committee that will be appointed because this is a hybrid Bill. However, in basis, the policy followed in the Bill is the same as that supported by the previous Government. As this is an extremely important and valuable development for the State, the Opposition considers that it should facilitate the passage of the Bill in every way, bearing in mind that certain inquiries will have to be made to ensure that all aspects are covered.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): In supporting the Bill I congratulate the Government on negotiating a successful agreement with the developmental firm. Discussions have been carried on for some years to get the plan under way, and now it seems that this development will proceed. There will be a substantial

growth in the area: a lake will be constructed in the upper reach of the Port River, which at present is unsightly. The river will be enlarged so that it can be used for boat-racing, and between 16,000 and 20,000 persons will live in the area.

It is estimated that in the third year 500 persons will move in, that 750 persons will move in during the fourth year, and that this number will continue to grow until the ninth year, when an additional 2,250 persons will move into the area. The number of additional people would then taper off so that at the end of the 14th year the scheme would be virtually completed. The scheme will constitute a sort of joint effort. At the northern end of the area the Housing Trust will build a certain number of houses that will possibly be needed by people employed nearby in Port Adelaide, and it is a good thing that these people will be living close to their employment.

Towards the other end of the area, more substantial and, it is hoped, expensive houses will be constructed. This can be made a good area, and residents living there will have a view of the lake. I was recently in an area near Goolwa similar to what is hoped will be developed at West Lakes. The owner of a block which I visited and which was alongside the water told me that he had recently been offered \$5,000 for the block, which is indeed a good price.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Where is this?

Mr. McANANEY: I was comparing West Lakes with the lovely spot near Goolwa that the Leader frequently visits.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Whereabouts was that?

Mr. McANANEY: It was on Riverside Drive, and \$5,000 had been offered for it. Although West Lakes may not necessarily be up to the standard of the development near Goolwa, I am sure that lovely houses will be built there and that it will be an attractive area as a result of the combined efforts of the Government, the Housing Trust and private enterprise. I congratulate those who had the initiative and drive to get this plan under way. I am sure that the scheme will be successful, in that it will cope with the growing need for houses in this State. Figures were given today by the Acting Minister of Labour and Industry regarding our unemployment position. As our percentage of unemployed has got right down to the practical minimum that can be achieved, there will be a bigger demand for housing, because more migrants

and others will have been attracted back into South Australia. If we can get our percentage of growth rate back to between 3 per cent and 4 per cent, as it has been previously, the demand for houses, particularly in this area, will be increased, and the scheme's success will be assured.

Mr. EVANS (Onkaparinga): I support the Bill. Ever since I have been in Parliament I have often heard complaints of cracking in houses built in certain suburbs. As I have said before, the main cause of this cracking has been the existence of Bay of Biscay soil in certain areas, in which possibly we should not have allowed development to take place. However, under this scheme we will be reclaiming land that is practically of no use at present. By developing this area for housing, we will be able to use the sediment deposited in the area to reclaim the land needed for house sites. This land, when consolidated, is a good type of soil on which to build houses. Indeed, it is better to build on sedimentary soil than on the Bay of Biscay soil existing in many of our other suburbs.

Had this scheme been commenced much earlier, as I believe it should have been, much wasteland could have been put to use, and we could have retained land in certain other areas for agricultural purposes. As it is, land in certain areas has been priced out of the primary-producing category, leaving areas such as the West Lakes area undeveloped. I am sure that those involved in the scheme will develop the area successfully, and the project has my full support.

Mr. HURST (Semaphore): In supporting the second reading, I congratulate our Leader, who initiated moves to have an indenture drawn up between the Government and the company to implement the West Lakes scheme. I have often wondered why greater attention has not been paid in the past to developing this area most of which is in my district. As it is only about seven miles from the General Post Office, it is most suitable for housing development. Indeed, by implementing this scheme, the Government and its instrumentalities will not have to spread their services to areas farther from the city, necessitating greater capital outlay.

Although the initial scheme has been somewhat modified, I believe that the present scheme will solve a problem that has confronted us now for some time, namely, pollution of the Port River, because the river will

be flushed more frequently, and this will greatly benefit local residents. I understand this Bill will be referred to a Select Committee, as it involves people other than parties to the indenture. I was a little surprised at the Premier's attitude to the Leader's suggestion that more copies of the indenture might have been printed and made available to interested persons. While I like to see progress being made, I do not like to see certain people denied an opportunity to express their points of view. When carried, this measure will legally bind people who may not have been consulted, and I think that consultations should therefore be held with the people concerned before the Bill is implemented. I hope that people likely to be affected by this scheme will receive ample opportunity to study the indenture fully, because the indenture is a comprehensive document and its conditions apply legally immediately the Bill is carried.

Although it gives me pleasure to support the second reading, I appeal to the Government to consider those concerned with this situation. One of the fundamental jobs of a Parliament is to ensure that we consider the rights of people whose properties may be affected by this sort of legislation.

Mr. GILES (Gumeracha): I support the Bill. This move is long overdue. Because this project was started by Mr. Sidney Crawford well before 1950, it is about time something concrete was done. I congratulate the Premier on introducing this Bill, because we can now make a move in the matter. In 1950 an Act was passed enabling the Government to acquire land between Grange and Semaphore in the Upper Port Reach so that this scheme could get under way. The active planning of the scheme started in 1962. The Upper Port Reach scheme, as it was then called, involved the purchase of 1,700 acres of land that did not already belong to the Government. Further, it involved making 4,000 building blocks available in the area.

There were to be two basins: one was to be a tidal basin of 68 acres with a depth of 8ft. of water at low tide; and the other was to have an area of 320 acres. It was to be two miles long and, at the narrowest part, 900ft. wide. This basin, too, was to have a depth of water of at least 8ft. at low tide. The idea of the tidal basins was that the tide would move freely in and out of the first basin of 68 acres but, in the second basin, water would move in at high tide from a lock and move out into the upper reaches of the Port River at

low tide. This would enable a free flow of water between the sea and the basins and the river, thereby keeping the basins clean.

One of the main problems was that a large sum had to be spent on drainage so that no drainage water entered the lakes, because if it did enter the lakes it would pollute them and there would be much trouble from growth in the lakes. This involved the planning of the expenditure of \$1,660,000 in 1962. Obviously, as a result of rising costs, the sum involved will now be much greater. It was also planned that 500 blocks would be available around the two basins and that facilities for boat ramps, etc. would be made available to the owners of the blocks. It is now planned that Development Finance Corporation Limited, instead of the Government, will finance the provision of these boat ramps.

One of the problems referred to by the member for Onkaparinga (Mr. Evans) was that we could have difficulty with building foundations in this area. Settlement tests have been completed for an area covering 65yds. x 65yds. and it seems that, after an 18-month period, there will be no further significant settlement in the area. The soil analysis suggests that, although there is only a small amount of silt and clay, the land will not sink very much (I think 1/32in. a month after an 18-month period was mentioned). Provided proper foundations are laid for buildings in this area, there should not be any problems connected with cracking of buildings.

The changes made in the indenture, compared with the indenture prepared by the Labor Government, relate, first, to the acquisition of land. The previous Government gave far more powers to Development Finance Corporation Limited to acquire land than existed for the rest of the State. This has now been changed to conform to the normal practice throughout the State. One of the most welcome changes for people interested in sport is that a rowing course of 2,000 metres has been included in the second basin of 320 acres. This rowing course was omitted in the previous Government's plan, and its inclusion in the present plan will be a great attraction to rowing enthusiasts.

In all, 1,250 acres will be used for building and recreation areas and for servicing areas for the community, and there will possibly be an additional 1,000 building allotments on the eastern and northern fringes of this proposed scheme. Hotels, motels,

petrol stations and other services for the public have been included in the scheme and, when it is finished, I am quite sure that South Australia will be very proud of the result.

On February 7, 1968, a half-page article in the *Advertiser* stated that the then Premier (Hon. D. A. Dunstan) had announced the West Lakes Development Scheme as an \$80,000,000 housing and lakes plan. The article amused me, because this scheme was first planned way back in 1950, and the report of the Public Works Committee was printed on May 19, 1965. Yet, because the name of the scheme was changed to "West Lakes Development Scheme", it suddenly turned out to be a completely new scheme announced by the then Premier. Actually, the scheme was first thought up by Mr. Sidney Crawford well before 1950. I do not know whether the then Premier was looking for some publicity (it looks as though he was), but the scheme was quite old at the time he made his announcement.

I congratulate the Premier on introducing this scheme. In 1968 the then Premier stated that it would be only a matter of weeks before the first houses would be available under the scheme. South Australia badly needs extra houses in a good area. The setting on the banks of the proposed basins will be absolutely ideal, and the area will be within easy reach of the city of Adelaide. There are many major factories nearby. The scheme will provide for an ideal improvement to South Australia's housing position.

Mr. BROOMHILL (West Torrens): I, too, support the second reading. The scheme we are now considering will develop what has been swamp land into a very attractive housing area near the city, and it will have the added advantage of being close to the sea front. It is good that the opportunity has been provided to develop land such as this. Obviously, the honourable member who has just resumed his seat has not closely considered the history of this matter. He gave what he considered to be the background of the development of this scheme by saying that it had been promoted by the Government at that time led by Sir Thomas Playford.

Mr. Giles: I did not mention his name.

Mr. Rodda: I think you're putting words into his mouth.

Mr. BROOMHILL: If I could do that I would, for I am sure that that would improve his speech. What the member for Gumeracha

did not realize was that the scheme originally proposed by the Government led by Sir Thomas Playford to develop this area was, in fact, quite different from the scheme we are now considering and the scheme taken up by the Dunstan Government. The original scheme was to be built entirely by the Housing Trust. When a Select Committee was established to consider that proposal it was revealed that the Housing Trust had not properly costed the scheme and had not taken into account many features. As a result, that scheme would not have been practical at all. It was only after the Labor Government came into office in 1965 and after the matter was tackled on a practical basis and finance was sought to promote it in a proper and workable way that it really got off the ground.

Now we have reached the present stage with the scheme, which will be a good thing for the State. I believe the Bill was brought into the House sooner than it should have been, for some councils involved in drainage works were not properly informed of their responsibilities in connection with the scheme. However, the fact that a Select Committee will be appointed to look into these matters means that these councils will have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with all the problems with which they are likely to be confronted. They will be able to place these problems before the Select Committee, which will consider them. I refer particularly to the Henley and Grange council, which was visited by a Government officer and informed of some of the details included in the indenture. Unfortunately, however, full details were not provided. This council has some drainage problems connected with this scheme, because the upper reaches of the Port River run into the council's area. Water is drained from the West Torrens area into the upper reaches of the Port River, and as a result something must be done with these floodwaters.

I understand that several suggestions have been made about ponding the water that runs from the Henley and Grange council area towards this scheme. However, until the council is aware of exactly what is intended it cannot be at all sure of what its costs are likely to be. This council will not enjoy any financial gain from rates charged in the new area, as all rates will be collected by the Woodville council. Therefore, it is necessary that the Henley and Grange council be informed of what storm drainage works are involved as a result of this scheme. I repeat

that the council should have been told about these things before now. Had it not been for the appointment of a Select Committee, which will enable the council to have made clear its responsibilities, I should have been outspoken in my criticisms on this score. I hope that when the scheme is completed houses and land will be available at a price within the means of the average family. On the understanding that reasonably priced housing is to be provided, as well as the higher priced houses that must be expected in a scheme of this type, I am pleased to support the second reading.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Minister of Housing): I should like to say a word or two about the Bill, for it is a matter with which I have had some close association for a long time both during the term of office of the Playford Government, when I was Minister of Works and Minister of Marine, and since my Party has resumed office, as Minister of Housing. The member for Gumeracha (Mr. Giles) recited some of the early history associated with the matter, and I do not intend to repeat what he said except to join with him in paying a tribute to the late Sidney Crawford, who was a visionary in many respects. I am sure it is a satisfaction to his family that his vision in regard to this matter has now come to fruition. Another gentleman closely associated with this project during the formative stages was the late Mr. Jack Cartledge who, as Chairman of the Housing Trust, had much to do with the discussions associated with and the formulation of the early plans.

Of course, the making of the indenture has entailed much detailed work. I do not intend to enter into the controversy about who is and who is not responsible for this scheme. Suffice to say that I think all members are gratified that the matter has at last come to a point where it looks as though it can be firmly established and become something on which physical activity can shortly commence. This is an example of what can be done by free enterprise in co-operation with the Government. Back in the early days when the matter was considered and reported on by the Public Works Committee, two reasons were given why progress was not made. Members will recall that at that stage the project had been intended to be carried through largely under the aegis of the Housing Trust. The scheme was designed, costed and researched in detail, with the probable or possible recoupments resulting from sale of land to private individuals or groups being exhaustively examined. I think all of the blocks were separately costed

as to their likely sale value, and the proposed receipts and probable expenditure were brought together in the report of the Public Works Committee.

As the Government of the day was heavily committed at that time to developmental works, obviously finance of the order required was something that the Government could not easily provide, certainly not without taking from other projects funds that probably were more urgently needed in other ways. Also, I think it is fair to say that there was some residual doubt in the minds of the members of Cabinet and the Government of that time whether the realizations that had been suggested as being probable from the sale of land would indeed be achieved. It was thought that perhaps it would be essential for the land to be placed on the market in smaller parcels so as not to flood the market with high-price developmental housing land at one time. In addition, of course, there is the constant escalation of costs that takes place during the progress of any large undertaking which would tend certainly to inflate the costs. Therefore, unless the land values continued to move upwards consonant with these increasing costs, the project would result in a heavy deficit for the taxpayers of this State to bear.

Secondly, we were so heavily committed with other works that were urgently needed and planned that developmental finance did not appear to be available for the scheme. I need not develop this point now. Those members who were present at the time and who remember those circumstances know that we were hard pressed for developmental finance.

It appears now that the scheme is, to use an Australian colloquialism, a goer. I should like to pay a tribute to some people who have played a leading part in the development of this indenture, and I refer first to the chairman of the consortium, Mr. John Marks of Development Finance Corporation Limited of Sydney. He is obviously a man who has great vision and appreciation of developmental possibilities, who is in touch with a significant financial group and who is one of the keenest analysts of financial situations and possibilities that it has been my pleasure to speak to. He has been very ably represented here in much of the detail work by Mr. Laurie Curtis of the consultant firm who, together with the solicitor (Mr. Roder) and the engineer (Mr. Kinnaird), have proved an able and efficient team in

working out the mass of detail required in bringing an indenture together. I pay a tribute to those gentlemen for the work they have done on behalf of the consortium and for the way in which they have always met me in their discussions. I congratulate them on the way in which, after careful consideration, we have been able to iron out the problems, of which there have been many, some of depth and others merely of ordinary details. I couple with that group a member of the Crown Solicitor's Department, Mr. L. K. Gordon, who has exhibited infinite patience and understanding as well as much ability in representing the Government's legal concern in this matter.

I should like to make one comment regarding the matters raised by the members for Semaphore and West Torrens in respect of consultation with local government bodies amongst whom I am concerned to know there is some feeling that they have not been fully consulted; I thought I took much pain to see that everyone concerned was fully consulted by one means or another. I believe that when the Select Committee gets down to work it will find that the two areas mentioned will have little difficulty resolving what they consider to be difficulties facing them. The problem of drainage and disposal of floodwaters from an area as large as this one is substantial. It would have been very easy, had it been possible, simply to drain the area to the lowest point, namely, the internal lake that is to be created. However, the problems of pollution, algae growth and the movement of water through the lake in order to maintain its cleanliness and purity (which in itself was a complex and technical problem) also have to be faced.

By the agreement of all parties concerned, the Government set up a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Harry Hodgson, who was for many years the Engineer for Water and Sewage Treatment in the Engineering and Water Supply Department and who is a renowned world authority on these matters. This committee was able to lay down criteria to be adopted in order to ensure that the internal lake would remain clean and wholesome and would not cause any problems. In order to ensure this, it became necessary for at least the large bulk, if not all, of the internal drainage water (and some that is presently involved) to be taken away from that area and disposed of elsewhere. This has involved much planning and not a little cost, the latter of which is always a matter

for consideration and apportionment between the various people involved in the project. I believe that the matter has been happily resolved and that the adjoining councils that may be concerned at the moment will find that the problems are minimal and capable of solution. I believe also that they will derive benefit from the creation of this new estate, although it may not fall directly within their local government area.

The appreciation of property values in the whole of this area will be substantial. Not only those councils directly within the boundaries of the scheme but also the neighbouring councils on the border must certainly receive substantial benefits from a general appreciation of property values in their areas. However, it is not for me to judge these matters, which will be discussed in due time.

The member for West Torrens said he hoped that housing which would be within the range of, as he put it, the average family would be established. All those matters have been carefully considered. Obviously, there are areas which the consortium will not wish to develop as housing estates and which it will be happy to dispose of to the Housing Trust and to other groups of builders who might want to build modest houses at reasonable prices there. I think that this has been taken care of and that provision has been made in the terms of the indenture so that it can be done. At present, I cannot think of any matter of detail that has not been raised, discussed and determined during the long and sometimes tedious deliberations that have taken place to bring this matter to its present stage and before the House.

I express my appreciation to the Leader for his support of this project. I do not for one moment take from him any credit that is due for the idea that this scheme could be developed as a joint enterprise. When members of my Government considered the scheme after assuming office, we considered that much work had to be done, and I think the Leader would admit that it had to be. This work has been begun and we have reached this point. I hope that the Select Committee will get down to work and that, to keep faith with Development Finance Corporation Limited in this matter, we will reach an early conclusion so that the corporation will know it has the green light from Parliament to go ahead.

Mr. HUDSON (Glenelg): I support the second reading with much pleasure, for several reasons. First, during the latter years of his life Mr. Sidney Crawford was well known to

me, as also were the members of his family. I know that he was extremely keen on this overall scheme and greatly upset because the financial problems facing State Governments in general meant that our State Government could not go ahead and finance the scheme off its own bat, and that in order to do this the State Government inevitably would have been short of money for other purposes. There was, however, one approach to the scheme bound up with an initial investment of some magnitude that had to be arranged from some source.

I think that the original concept of the scheme was good and that the promotion of it by the South Australian Harbors Board (as it was at that time) stands to its credit and to the credit of Mr. Crawford. I was personally able to tell Mr. Crawford of the previous Government's proposal to go ahead with the scheme and of the way in which that would be done, and he was certainly pleased to hear that news. I was pleased to hear the Treasurer give credit to the Leader for the part he had played in this overall scheme. I think the Treasurer knows very well the financial difficulties that would be involved in the State Government's attempting to undertake the initial investment in the scheme and to provide the necessary capital funds for the scheme to go ahead.

Of course, the Treasurer also recognizes that the Leader of the Opposition, when he was Premier, made the initial arrangements to get Development Finance Corporation Limited interested in the scheme and willing to undertake the very considerable investment in South Australia. This required the Leader, first, to have the necessary vision to see the scheme as a possible joint enterprise, involving both the Government and a private company. Having had that approach and adopting it, the Government found it necessary to get someone interested and willing to provide the funds. Mr. Dunstan, as Premier, was able to do this, and it will always stand to his great credit. When this scheme was adopted, I think it affected the overall climate of opinion in South Australia about our future.

The scheme involves important changes in an area of metropolitan Adelaide that will do much to improve the general beauty and attractiveness of the area, and its adoption represented a general affirmation by both the Government and the corporation of faith in its future. Although it is true that certain changes have been made in the indenture subsequent to the present Government's coming to

power, I want it recorded that we recognize that the credit for the approach to the corporation and for getting that firm interested and getting its agreement to go ahead with such a scheme as this rightly belongs to Mr. Dunstan.

I am familiar with the details of the scheme. I am pleased that the Housing Trust will participate in it and that there will be areas that will provide housing for people on lower incomes. In recent years we have seen a decline in the trust's role in the overall building industry in South Australia. Until about two or three years ago the trust was building regularly about 3,000 units a year, and about 10 years ago this rate of building by the trust represented about 50 per cent of the total building undertaken in South Australia. The trust then played a significant role in our overall development.

More recently of course (and this trend has continued during the present Government's term of office), the trust's role has been minimized, and at present the rate of building, instead of being 3,000 units a year, has been reduced to fewer than 2,000, and it seems that the trust is now building only about 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the total number of houses or flats built in South Australia. Further, within the trust itself the proportion of the houses and flats that it is building is higher outside the metropolitan area than it has ever been. As a consequence, the influence of the trust in the metropolitan area is less than it has ever been in current buildings. I hope that this scheme, to the extent that it involves the trust, will not mean that the trust's role will be further reduced within the metropolitan area.

I am always being reminded in my own district of the tremendous shortage of rental accommodation in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. As I have told the Treasurer previously, the waiting list for rental accommodation in the immediate southern suburbs requires the average person to wait for three and a half years or more to get a house. The waiting time in the northern suburbs of Adelaide is less than that, and in the Elizabeth area a rental house can be obtained very quickly. Therefore, I hope that the Government will see that the provision of rental accommodation is not neglected by the trust in the work that the trust undertakes in this area as part of the West Lakes scheme.

Because of the tremendous shortage of Housing Trust accommodation in the southern suburbs of Adelaide, I hope that the Govern-

ment will ensure that nothing that the trust does as part of the West Lakes development will in any way detract from the expansion of its activities in the O'Sullivan Beach area. Only through a rapid extension of rental accommodation in the area to the south of Darlington can some of this waiting list be removed. When dealing with Housing Trust accommodation it is important to recognize that an extensive waiting list represents the existence of hardship and the existence of families within our community who are paying \$15, \$20, \$25 a week or more for rental accommodation while they wait for some sort of Housing Trust accommodation to be made available to them. The fact that these high rentals have to be paid privately means that there are families who are facing great difficulty in saving towards a deposit for a rental-purchase house or a purchase house, and this is something that needs to be considered more by the Government.

Someone who rents a Housing Trust house, having previously been paying a rental privately of, say, \$16 to \$20 a week, is suddenly placed in the position where his potential rate of saving can increase. Many people who gain rental accommodation with the South Australian Housing Trust, as a result of the significantly lower rentals, will be able to build up a deposit to enable them later to buy a house or to have the deposit necessary for a rental-purchase house, and this is important. The fact that we have long waiting lists, particularly in my area and in the area of the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo), is indicative of the hardship that many families are experiencing, particularly younger families, when waiting for a Housing Trust rental house and while having to pay private rents.

I do not think the Government at this stage or the trust has given any consideration to the percentage of Housing Trust houses to be constructed in the West Lakes development that will be available for rental. It seems to me, however, that we are in danger of placing too great an emphasis on the purchase of a house as against making available houses for rent. After all, there are many young families who need rental accommodation because they cannot definitely say that they want to live in a particular area for the rest of their lives or for a considerable length of time. If they have to be tied down to the purchase of a house or if, because of the shortage of rental accommodation, they are pushed into buying a house, their overall mobility and ability to enhance their own position is adversely affected.

This is a point which is not generally made but I think it should be recognized.

Many young families who are in the process of gaining promotion are not in a position to say that they can expect confidently to be in Adelaide for the next 10 years or that they will be in a particular area for the next 10 years, 15 years or 20 years. If they are pushed into buying a house their ability to improve their job by moving elsewhere, to the country or another State, is lessened, and there have been cases in recent years where families who have been pushed into buying their own house as a result of the shortage of rental accommodation have been forced to take a capital loss on the sale of their house when job commitments have caused them to move to country areas or to another State. Particularly for this category of person it is necessary that both flat and house rental accommodation be available.

I hope the Government will take the opportunity presented by the West Lakes Development Scheme to encourage the Housing Trust to remedy to some significant extent the shortage of cheap rental accommodation, both flat and house, in Adelaide. I hope, too, that the Select Committee will be able to get on with its job quickly and that the overall passage of this legislation through Parliament will not be delayed, because this project is important. It is a sad commentary on the Government that it was not able to bring down this legislation last session. The commencement of this project would have been a valuable asset to the building industry in South Australia if it could have been proceeded with towards the end of last year or early this year.

I know there have been differences of opinion about the indenture. My comment is simply that it is a pity that the amendments to the original indenture that have been negotiated have delayed the whole project for as long as they have. I conclude by saying that, in my way of thinking, the South Australian Harbors Board (as it then was), which initially promoted the scheme under Mr. Sidney Crawford, and the present Leader of the Opposition, who resurrected the scheme and thought of it in a new way so that it could be proceeded with without involving the Government in the expenditure of any significant sums of money and who successfully negotiated with the Development Finance Corporation to get it interested in the whole project, deserve the credit for the whole thing. I am pleased that members opposite, including the Treasurer,

have given Mr. Crawford the credit he deserves, but members opposite, excluding the Treasurer, have not given the Leader the credit he deserves in this matter. I hope the Premier, when he replies to this debate, will give the Leader some credit for the actions he has taken in promoting this whole scheme.

The SPEAKER: Under Joint Standing Order (Private Bills) No. 2, I rule that this Bill must be referred to a Select Committee.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I wish to say little except to thank honourable members for their contribution to the debate and to say that the time is fast approaching when this legislation should be passed if we are to satisfy the time table that the developers have outlined for this project. I am pleased that the Bill is being put through this House and hope that, after it has been studied by the Select Committee, it will be approved. I am glad it is going through at a time when this sort of development is urgently required for the economy of both South Australia and Australia. Our present-day requirements for our migrant intake include an adequate number of jobs in the community, as outlined in the recent statistics that have become available; and we can look forward to a consistent demand for housing of all types. This scheme will provide just that. Its emphasis will be on the development of houses in realms which so far we are not used to—the balanced development of high rise buildings of high standard and also of a lower standard in a most desirable location.

It is unique that a capital city in Australia can find that amount of land that will be involved in this development scheme so close to the city centre and desirable recreation areas, as are the beaches near Adelaide. Again, I thank honourable members for their contribution to this debate and express the hope that the Bill will soon pass through all its stages.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. D. A. Dunstan, Messrs. Giles, Hurst and Rodda, and the Hon. R. S. Hall; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on Thursday, October 23.

LAND VALUERS LICENSING BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 3. Page 1437.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): The proposal of the Bill is that a system of licensing be established for land

valuers in South Australia. This is a commendable scheme, which will give some protection to the public in respect of valuations. There are certain trades, professions and callings that require the oversight of some licensing authority, and the proposal for licensing in this Bill gives the necessary protections both to the public and to the calling. I see nothing in the Bill to which I would take exception or which I find worrying. It is sensibly drafted and covers all the needs, on both scores. In consequence, I support it.

Mr. VENNING (Rocky River): I have examined this Bill. Although I think it has some merit, there are one or two aspects of it which, as a primary producer representing broad acres, so to speak, I find a little different from what the Leader of the Opposition said about land values.

Mr. Hudson: Do you represent sheep or broad acres?

Mr. VENNING: I represent an area where broad acres come into consideration in respect of land values. The position is quite different when one comes to value broad acres compared with valuing house properties. In the case of a house property, one says, "The value of this house is what it is expected to sell for." However, in the case of broad acres there are two different lines of thought. One is the production value of the property concerned and the other is the price it can be expected to sell for, and this is a very debatable aspect of land values.

I appreciate that the idea behind this Bill has some merit, in that something is laid down for the issuing of licences and in respect of the ability and integrity of land valuers, about which the board should be concerned. If one stands over an individual and controls him, it deprives him of his ability to value as he thinks fit. I have conferred with the managers of stock firms, and it is generally agreed that there is some merit in the assessing by the board of the integrity of land valuers. I hope that those honourable gentlemen who are now licensed to value land will be permitted to continue to do so and that they will not, at the drop of a hat, be delicensed.

There is merit in the Bill, inasmuch as the board will endeavour to educate people engaged in land valuation. In rural areas it is a sore point with primary producers that land values are not based on the productivity of the land, but I recognize that there are difficulties in valuing land in this way. For instance, one farmer may be more competent than his

neighbour and therefore produce more from his land. Nevertheless, rural land values are based on sale prices in the area and it is well known that the Land Board's inspectors watch sales like a hawk watches a mouse, and that they base their valuations on the top prices. With those comments, at this stage I reserve my judgment on this Bill.

Mr. WARDLE (Murray): I am happy to support the Bill because there is no control in this field at present and the public is, to some degree, at the mercy of people who are prepared to engage in sharp practices. The measure will not unnecessarily restrict the liberties and freedoms of people engaged in land valuation and those employed in real estate agencies. The system of valuations, as mentioned by the member for Rocky River, is an entirely different subject. All land valuers operating under the control of the board at present will have an equal opportunity to become licensed valuers. There are no prohibitions with regard to those people in practice now and, provided that all valuers take the appropriate action, they will not be barred from becoming licensed valuers.

Mr. Freebairn: Provided they have the necessary experience.

Mr. WARDLE: The Bill provides that, where a man has not had sufficient experience, he must pass certain tests and that a certain time must elapse until he has had a certain amount of experience. I appreciate that the Bill provides for an upgrading of more qualified people in the occupation of land valuation, which involves much detail. The Bill will upgrade certain land valuers by stipulating additional educational qualifications and other requirements he must attain. The Bill, which allows for the board to license land valuers and real estate agents, also provides for certain disciplinary action the board may take against those people who do not measure up to the standards it sets. In time past one heard of some amazing instances regarding the transfer of land. The public is, to some degree, gullible in many things, and it is amazing what people will purchase without examining the salesman's credentials or making proper investigation into what he is purchasing.

There is nothing in the Bill that will in any way impede the honest salesman or real estate agent, but it will tend to bring more honesty into this field where, perhaps, agents will be much more communicative to intending purchasers and where they, in competition with

one another, will perhaps advertise or describe properties with more clarity and truthfulness than at present.

Mr. FREEBAIRN (Light): I support the Bill in principle. It is disappointing that Opposition members have not thought the Bill important enough to make a contribution, even a brief one.

Mr. Broomhill: We are still waiting for you to make a contribution.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The whole idea of a Bill to license land valuers may have no real meaning to the idealistic, socialistic society that members opposite aim at.

The Hon. Robin Millhouse: The Leader has supported it.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: I know that, but I thought that his back-bench colleagues might also contribute. One can only assume that, in the idealistic, socialistic society—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is getting away from the Bill.

Mr. FREEBAIRN: The only other point I wish to make is that the requirements the Minister has written into the Bill for holding a licence are, in some cases, too stringent. Clause 10 provides that, even though a candidate for a licence has passed his examinations and received a diploma or some other qualifying certificate for a licence, he is required to have four years' practical experience in the valuation of land before the board will consider his application for a licence. It seems to me that that length of service is too long. Indeed, when a lawyer finishes his academic course he is able to practise his profession very much before he has chalked up four years' practical experience. Perhaps the Minister, when drafting the Bill, should have considered a shorter qualifying period but, apart from that small point, I have no quarrel with it.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 11 passed.

Clause 12—"Expiry and surrender of licence."

Mr. McANANEY: Can the Minister say whether people who have held a licence for some years can continue to do so if they have had the necessary experience?

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

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will managers of stock firms, who carry out valuations and who are listed as valuers, be able to continue to be licensed or will it be necessary for them to

have had five years' experience as a licensed valuer? Also, will they have to be approved by the board before continuing their present duties?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It is intended that anyone who is now acting as a valuer shall be able to continue but those who apply for licences will have to be approved by the board. New applications will have to be approved by the board.

Clause passed.

Clauses 13 to 24 passed.

Clause 25—"Regulations."

Mr. NANKIVELL: I understand that it is difficult to fix a fair and reasonable maximum rate for a service rendered, because the service may vary considerably, depending on what is required. It has been suggested to me that in fixing a maximum rate everything that may be necessary to be done may have to be considered, so that the rate may not be fair in cases where the valuer is not required to do much work. Can the Minister say on what basis maximum charges will be fixed?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Parliament will be able to scrutinize any regulations that are made. Although a regulation-making power is desirable, all regulations made should be carefully scrutinized by Parliament, and I suggest that that would be the better time to do it rather than now.

Clause passed.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 24. Page 1742.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): I support this Bill, which will provide some improvement to the Law Society's legal assistance scheme and will provide certain protections to members of the public. In due course, it can provide some moneys towards legal education. I hope that the major benefit from the scheme will be to improve the Law Society's scheme for legal assistance. When I was in office, I undertook negotiations with the Law Society aimed at getting some benefit towards the scheme from the moneys held by banks as solicitors' trust accounts. These can be large sums of money indeed, and it is in some cases quite possible for a bank to have considerable sums of money in trust accounts. Although these are technically at call, in many cases solicitors' trust accounts remain at a

fairly steady figure and the bank, in consequence, looking at these accounts over a period, is aware that it will have a considerable sum of money to call on regularly.

But no interest has been paid on these sums, and this has been a benefit that has gone entirely to the banking calling in South Australia and has not in any way assisted the people whose money it is; nor has it gone to any public purpose. It is not possible, of course, to do the necessary accounting to obtain interest on all trust moneys for the benefit of people for whom the money is held in trust. What is more, since the money is necessarily at call, it is not possible to get interest paid on all the trust moneys at any time. Therefore, some compromise has to be reached, and this Bill seems to offer a reasonable enough proposition. I know there was some debate in the Law Society concerning the propriety of this, but I was fully on the side of those who believed that money should be devoted to public purposes and, particularly, to helping all those who would benefit from the legal assistance scheme.

I may say that I was in favour not only of having this done in relation to legal practitioners' trust funds. I believe that there are trust accounts of other professions where money is held in considerable sums over periods and where interest ought to be paid by the banks; and it ought to go to public purposes. In addition, the society has insisted in its negotiations on having a provision that the moneys be held in a bank of the solicitors' choosing. I appreciate the reasons for this; the solicitors have close arrangements with the banks with which they operate, and there are advantages in a solicitor's getting some sort of *quid pro quo*, in instructions, trade or consideration of his own trading accounts from the fact that his trust account is held in a particular bank. Therefore, I appreciate the material reasons why solicitors should want to continue to be able to nominate the bank to which the deposit goes which will be interest bearing.

On the other hand, I hope the prescribed rate will be prescribed at a sufficiently high level to ensure that we get the full benefit of interest payable and that the highest possible interest rates are prescribed, so that the banks that do accept deposits on this basis will be required at least to pay what State banking institutions would pay. There was another factor which arose in negotiations at one stage and which has been abandoned (I did not insist on it, although I raised it at the time):

I thought there were quite real advantages in having the deposit in a bank where we could ensure that the money would go for some purpose; that is, the capital would be lent for some purpose, which would be of benefit to the development of this State, and it would not be left to the discretion of the individual banks. This was not something with which the Law Society was prepared to agree, but I believe that, when some overall provision in relation to trust accounts is made, that should be insisted on. These are trust moneys, and it is not only the interest that should go to the benefit of the public: we should be able to ensure that the trust funds are used for the benefit of the development of the State.

In consequence, there should be prescribed directions of investment which could be guaranteed by the State in South Australia and which could lead to greater liquid funds for development in certain areas, rather than leaving it at large, as is the proposal here. However, while there were other things which I hoped we might be able to accomplish by this particular procedure, I agree that much work has been done to arrive at a scheme which is acceptable to the Law Society and to the Government and which will give quite real public benefits. I have been through the scheme in detail; I think it has been carefully drafted, and I give it my support.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

PRICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 9. Page 2131.)

Mr. HUDSON (Glenelg): I support the Bill. Some significant matters connected with this Bill have already been dealt with during the Budget debate. This Bill extends the power to control prices for another year and it does so in circumstances of some inflationary pressure. Recently, when there were significant price increases throughout South Australia, the Government relaxed price control on a whole series of items. In the areas where price control was relaxed, particularly the building industry, there have been significant increases in the overall level of prices. Opposition members view this position with alarm. We recognize that State price control is effective only in certain limited areas; nevertheless, where it is effective, it can be used to prevent exploitation and excessive profits, and it has been so used in the past.

State price control can be effective in certain areas. It is particularly effective where a service is being provided, rather than an actual commodity that can be wrapped in brown paper and tied with string. Where a service can be provided, such as that provided by a hairdresser or some other specialist, the price charged can be subjected to effective price control within a State; the service that is provided cannot be shipped to some other State without the physical transportation of the person providing the service.

The general lack of mobility of, say, hairdressers between States permits the Prices Commissioner in South Australia, so long as the Government gives him the necessary power and the go-ahead, to control the price of that service without fear that the operation of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution will make that control ineffective. However, for many actual commodities that can be transported freely from one State to another, State price control has only a very marginal influence, because the provisions of section 92, which requires that trade, commerce and intercourse between the States shall be absolutely free, mean that the State Government cannot prevent an article produced in South Australia (say, a humble potato) from being transported to and sold in another State. Should the price of potatoes rise in Melbourne, the South Australian Prices Commissioner cannot prevent an increase in price in South Australia. Should he keep the old price in South Australia, no potatoes will be supplied to the South Australian market: they will all go to Melbourne, and there is nothing that the South Australian Prices Commissioner can do to prevent it.

The only price differential that the Prices Commissioner can enforce is that imposed by the transport costs that apply between the South Australian market and the Melbourne market. Of course, for those potatoes produced in the South-East the transport cost differential is non-existent anyway; South-East producers, who are equi-distant between Adelaide and Melbourne, will respond to any price differential between the two markets. For goods that can be traded in other States effective price control can apply only where transport costs are a significant element in total costs. For many years effective price control has been exercised over the production of bricks, because of the heavy cost involved in shipping bricks from South Australia to another State.

Where the transport cost element in the total value of a product is relatively low, all the State Prices Commissioner can do is to follow the prices established by the market in other States, perhaps with some lower margin in South Australia (taking advantage of any transport costs involved). Since the defeat of the Commonwealth prices referendum in 1948, there has been no effective price control over the whole range of goods and services in Australia, and there can be no such control again while price control remains within the province of the States.

Mr. Virgo: You are asserting that the referendum should have been carried and that the Liberals should not have gone out and openly opposed it.

Mr. HUDSON: Yes; they were so hide-bound by their doctrinaire approach to these matters that they opposed the referendum and, by taking advantage of the fears of the ordinary man and woman, they were able to get it defeated. I do not wish to be interpreted as saying that, because State price control is not very effective for many products, it should therefore be abandoned altogether. Profiteering cannot be completely prevented in relation to many products that are traded between States, but that does not mean that the State Government should not wherever possible try to prevent profiteering within the State. The fact that excessive profits or excessive prices cannot be avoided in some areas does not absolve the State Government from responsibility in those areas where control can be exercised.

The Treasurer, when explaining the Bill, has pointed out that the Prices Commissioner performs a valuable service for the public by investigating specific complaints of overcharging. Even where he does not have the legal power to vet a transaction, apply a price, and order a price reduction, the fact that he investigates nevertheless normally has some impact on the person being investigated. The Prices Commissioner is often successful in negotiating some form of adjustment to the contract or to the price of the product or service as a result. The fact that everyone in the community is aware that prices may be subject to investigation by the Prices Commissioner acts as a sort of safeguard against excessive prices, albeit to only a limited extent. Nevertheless, it is an extent that makes the Commissioner's investigatory power valuable.

The Opposition recognizes that State price control can be effective only in certain limited areas and in certain limited cases, namely,

in the field of the provision of services and in the area of the provision of goods, where transport costs are a significant element in the price of goods. We recognize also that the Prices Commissioner, through his investigatory powers, exerts a valuable influence on the general trading practices throughout the State. Although we do not say that State price control can do the full job or even the job that many people in South Australia expect it to do, we support its continuation, recognizing that it can provide a valuable service to the people of South Australia. The only thing we view with alarm is the attitude of this Government in removing so many items from price control and consequently permitting a significant increase in building costs.

This most serious rise in building costs, in particular, that the State has experienced for many years, coupled with the rise in interest, makes the position of the house buyer so much more difficult. These are things that have occurred under the current Government. They are not things that the member for Stirling gets up and proudly beats his breast about, although he is willing to take credit for many of the things that have nothing to do with this Government. The honourable member likes to indulge in an inordinate beating of the breast, particularly in relation to the employment position, which has nothing to do with this Government at all but which is subject very much to the influence of policies in Canberra.

Mr. McAnaney: Aren't you making something up?

Mr. HUDSON: I thought I would arouse the honourable member from his stupor.

Mr. McAnaney: I don't accuse people of telling untruths.

Mr. HUDSON: The honourable member is fond of accusing me of that. Most of the time it is impossible to assess what the honourable member says either from his speeches or his interjections, so he gets away with a lot that he would not get away with if he were able to express himself more clearly. However, I compliment the *Hansard* staff on the very good job they do with his speeches, which always read better than they sound. One certainly would not want to bring the salaries of members of the *Hansard* staff under price control, for the job they do in certain circumstances in this House is an admirable one.

The member for Stirling having gone on record in this place as an opponent of price control in any circumstances, I hope he will take credit for the price increase promoted by his Government as a result of the relaxation of

price control. I particularly hope he takes credit for the extra costs that have been imposed by his Government on the house buyer as a result of the inflation of prices within the building industry. However, I expect that he will not do this, as I am aware that he is fully consistent: he takes credit only for those things for which the Government is not responsible and is therefore most unlikely to take credit for something for which the Government is fully responsible.

Members on this side have often sharply criticized the Government, both this session and last session, for its record in the administration of the Prices Branch, and we do this again. However, we realize that the ordinary people in the community will not get the kind of protection they deserve from this Government. We also realize that the Government has lost the influence of Sir Thomas Playford who, at least on this issue, was a good Socialist. He was determined to see that price control in this State was as effective as it could be but, unfortunately, instead of having a good Socialist, as Sir Thomas was in certain respects, we now have these private enterprise doctrinaires in control of things—members such as the Attorney-General and the member for Stirling. These and other Government members have thrown out the Playford tradition with respect to price control in South Australia, and their current administration of the Prices Branch is deserving of the strongest possible criticism, because all they have done is to help support the profit-taking by institutions and organizations that are supporters of the Liberal and Country League in South Australia. Consequently, they have adversely affected the real standards of living of the ordinary man in the street. I support the Bill because it involves an extension of price control that we must have, but I condemn in the strongest possible way the inept and incompetent administration of the Government in this matter, and I deplore the attitude of those members of the Government Party who have permitted their Ministers to take the steps they have taken in relation to price control.

Mr. VENNING (Rocky River): I am pleased that the Treasurer has seen fit once again to introduce legislation to enable price control to operate in this State for another 12 months. I remind members opposite, as I reminded them the other day, that L.C.L. policy is to have price control in this State.

Mr. Virgo: When do you ever make policy?

Mr. VENNING: The last time this appeared on the agenda at our conference it was carried

as a decision of that conference. I am pleased the Treasurer has seen fit to provide for the continuation of price control for another period. As has been said, this is an effective organization in controlling the price of certain commodities. After the war, we got away from pooled petroleum. When an oil company representative called on me at that time I asked him, "Why don't we continue with pooled petroleum, for it must be most economic for the user of petroleum?" He said, "For instance in Port Pirie, where a certain company has its installation, it can afford to sell petroleum at 9d. a gallon less than the opposition's price. At Port Lincoln, the company with an installation there can do the same. What happens is that they do not differentiate as to price, but are able to sell at 9d. a gallon less and still meet the cost charged by the opposition; so a higher cost is involved in fuel than should really be the case in many instances."

Mr. Casey: Does that apply today?

Mr. VENNING: No, I think price control in this State has had some effect on this situation. A few years ago resellers of petrol, the men on the bowsers, offered drinking glasses free and had similar gimmicks to encourage people to pull into their pump. This was a lot of rubbish and rot, and I consider that the Prices Branch has put stability into the oil industry.

Mr. Casey: The Prices Commissioner had nothing to do with the sale of glasses.

Mr. VENNING: No, but the branch had some effect on the situation. It is surprising how effective the Prices Branch can be in investigating matters, and that is one of the benefits of the branch at present. We know that it is difficult for the branch to take action when such action would conflict with section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution. However, the branch can investigate many matters and these investigations have an effect on those people who wish to flout the wellbeing of the public.

I think we all agree that the Prices Branch has put stability into the wine industry. It has been very effective in this section of primary production. Indirect aspects of the activities of the branch involve supervision of unfair trading practices, including misleading advertising, but, as I have said, the branch has a general effect. I am pleased that the Treasurer has introduced this measure. I trust that the branch will have sufficient funds to carry out

its work effectively and that, if sufficient money has not been provided already, the Treasurer will provide it.

Mr. HUGHES (Walleroo): I was pleased to hear the member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning) say that it was the policy of the Liberal and Country League to retain price control in this State. However, the honourable member was not very vocal last year when the Government decontrolled many items. I would have liked to hear him say last year, when the Government decontrolled the long list of items that I had recorded in *Hansard*, that the L.C.L. policy was to retain price control. I would have liked him to admonish his Government for decontrolling so many items that had a vital effect on the very industry in which the honourable member takes a prominent part, namely, the primary production of this State. Since price control has been removed from items affecting primary production, the cost of many of these items has increased considerably.

The honourable member has also said that price control has put stability into the oil industry. I sincerely hope that he and all other members will be vocal when the price of petrol is increased, because the price of petrol vitally affects the man on the land today. All members should be well aware of the increasing cost structure that is facing the primary producer today. I suppose that never before in the history of primary production have those engaged in that industry been faced with such spiralling costs as they face today.

I realize that in some cases, perhaps because of guaranteed prices, primary producers are able to meet the situation better now than they have been able to in the past, but I hope members will continue to retain the policy of price control and so enable not only primary producers but also all other members of the community to benefit. I am pleased to support the Treasurer on this Bill, even though the measure provides for the extension of price control for only a limited period. I have always been against extending price control only from year to year. It seems to me that last year, when either the Loan Estimates or the Budget were presented, most drastic action was taken when the Government decontrolled many items that vitally affected all members of the community.

I should like the Government to take more drastic steps in the administration of price control rather than to extend it from year to year and so give itself a chance to decontrol many

items. Nevertheless, I support the Treasurer in his move to extend price control. Sir Thomas Playford, Premier of this State for many years, realized the value of price control, despite the objections of many members of his Party, the most vocal among them being the present Attorney-General, who was always at loggerheads with Sir Thomas over this matter. Nevertheless, Sir Thomas always won.

Mr. Casey: With the support of the Labor Party.

Mr. HUGHES: Yes, with the support of the Labor Party, he retained price control on the Statute Book. I hope that this Government continues to control prices in this State. In my opinion the decontrolling of prices immediately leaves an opening for people to be charged higher prices. I repeat the statement I made last year: the people most affected are those in the lower income groups. If I wanted to take the time this afternoon, I could cite many items which, although vitally affecting people on lower incomes, were decontrolled by this Government last year to no good purpose. If those items had remained under control, such control would have benefited all the people. In explaining the Bill, the Treasurer stated:

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.

I doubt the correctness of that statement. Only about 10 days ago I paid 14c for an article in a shop. I went to another shop only six miles away and the very same type of article cost me 18c. There was too big a discrepancy between those two prices.

Mr. Hurst: Was the extra 4c for freight?

Mr. HUGHES: It should not cost 4c for freight. These are the things that the Prices Commissioner should be examining because, if one shop can sell an article for 14c, there is no reason why a shop six miles away cannot sell it at the same price, as there would be very little difference in freight cost for that article.

Mr. Hurst: Was it a luxury line?

Mr. HUGHES: It was far from being a luxury line; it was an essential line.

Mr. Hurst: Was this one of the items decontrolled?

Mr. HUGHES: This was one of the items decontrolled under the Liberal Government last year. I was so disturbed last year that I

spoke at length on this matter because of the large number of items that had been decontrolled for no good reason. They could have remained on the list and if at any time it had been thought by producers that they deserved a price increase—perhaps because of rising costs in the industry—they could easily have made representations to the Prices Commissioner to have their case investigated and, if after investigation he had found their case justified, I do not think anyone would have taken exception to a price increase for the items concerned.

Mr. Hurst: The Prices Commissioner has always been very reasonable.

Mr. HUGHES: I have always found him to be fair when representations have been made to him. Both he and his officers have gone to great lengths to examine every facet of the industry and to ensure that justice is meted out. I want it plainly understood that I have no fault to find with the Prices Commissioner. In the past he has done a good job and I am confident that if a case is placed before him he will examine it thoroughly before coming to a decision. My complaint is that these items were not causing any concern to anyone in particular: it is just that this Government does not like price control. Because of the releasing from price control of this large number of items last year, the primary producers and the men working in secondary industry in South Australia (and those who notice it most are the people on lower incomes) have had to pay more for their goods. A little later in his second reading explanation the Treasurer said:

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.

I emphasize "covering a wide field". The Treasurer has admitted that there has been trouble in States where price control has been lifted, and this strengthens the argument in favour of retaining control. It would be wrong for this State to try to emulate other States. It is all right sometimes to try to have uniformity but it does a State no good merely to follow the leader when it knows that its own people will have to pay the price for removing price control. Therefore, I support the Treasurer in his move to retain what is left of price control in South Australia. I emphasize "what is left of price control". I do not spare the Government for the steps it took last year to decontrol a large number of

listed items. It has done a great injustice to our people and I sincerely hope that it will be, as the member for Rocky River has said, the policy of the Liberal Government to retain price control in South Australia.

Mr. McKee: It is a joke; it is lip service for political reasons.

Mr. HUGHES: That may be. I did not hear the member for Rocky River being vocal last year when this long list of items to be decontrolled was submitted. Nevertheless, I give him credit for saying this afternoon that it is the policy of the Liberal Government to retain price control.

Mr. McKee: You are not fair dinkum, are you?

Mr. HUGHES: I am, because I hope he will bring pressure to bear on his Party to have decontrolled items brought back under control. At least he can be a man of his word and try.

Mr. Casey: He wouldn't be in the race.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Frome is out of order.

Mr. HUGHES: Whether or not he would be in the race does not concern me. I want the honourable member to live up to what he said this afternoon and use every influence he can upon his fellow members in an endeavour to retain price control and ensure that a number of the items that have been decontrolled will once again come under price control. I support the Bill.

Mr. ARNOLD (Chaffey): The particular reason I have for supporting this Bill is, basically, the stability the Prices Act has brought to the wine grapegrowing industry for some time. Originally, the Prices Commissioner was brought into this field in an advisory capacity to assist the wine industry to solve the problem of price-fixing; eventually, the findings of the Prices Commissioner were made statutory.

Mr. Hurst: Who first brought that industry under price control?

Mr. ARNOLD: It came under price control and statutory prices were fixed during the period of the Labor Government. I am the first to admit that; I am not small-minded enough not to admit it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Only one speech at a time.

Mr. ARNOLD: Not only the wine grape-growers but also the winemakers have benefited considerably from the fixing of wine grape prices. The reputable winemaker, who pays a realistic price, is now no longer at a disadvantage compared with the less reputable

winemaker who may have been purchasing grapes at a considerably lower price. The reputable person is safeguarded by this Bill. Prices legislation has given him the stability that the wine grapegrower has received.

Contracts are being entered into by certain winemakers and grapegrowers for the purchase of grapes over a period, and these contracts will be based on the Prices Commissioner's ruling in respect of grape prices. The Treasurer has assured me (I point this out for the benefit of members opposite) that price-fixing in regard to grapes will continue indefinitely. I support the Bill.

Mr. McANANEY (Stirling): I support what the member for Chaffey has said about the legislation as it applies to wine grapes. I think this provision should have been contained in a separate measure and should never have been included in the Prices Act. However, that is not the case, and we must acknowledge that, so far, the provision has afforded an effective protection to the grape-growers.

Mr. Arnold: And the winemakers.

Mr. McANANEY: Yes, it has protected everyone concerned in the wine industry. An increased demand for wine has caused a greater demand for grapes and, despite the fact that a couple of dry years have been experienced, ever since we have had this legislation there has, except perhaps for the first year, always been a shortage of grapes. The actual price paid for a certain variety of grapes has often been above the fixed price. In the circumstances that have existed it has been easy to maintain prices but, if by fixing grape prices the legislation encourages excessive plantings to take place, we will run into difficulties.

I do not wish to belittle the scheme, because it has worked well over the relevant period. However, I issue a warning here similar to the one I issued about five years ago when I said in the House that the wheat industry would run into trouble. If we increase the price of a commodity and thereby encourage excessive plantings, we have a surplus that must be exported at a big loss, and we then run into trouble. As long as we realize what can occur, we cannot deny that the legislation has been beneficial, and we must give credit to the people responsible for introducing it. I think I am correct in saying that the Prices Commissioner first dealt with this matter in Sir Thomas Playford's time, although a Labor Government implemented the relevant legislation.

Mr. Clark: I think on this occasion you would be right.

Mr. McANANEY: I think so. I have always opposed price control and I still believe that, in a properly-run society where free competition exists, there is no need for it. However, we do not have sufficient freedom in this respect. I would deal with price control under restrictive trade practices legislation and, when firms got together to fix prices among themselves, I would immediately bring their commodities under control. However, when there is free competition among persons engaged in a particular industry, there should be no need for price control.

The member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) made a sweeping statement about how prices had gone up, other members on his side saying that prices had run amok since price control had been lifted in respect of certain commodities. No-one on the other side worries about checking figures; they merely like to make sweeping statements that sound good, and they try to convince the public that something is occurring when, in fact, it is not occurring. In 1966-67 the Australian weighted average price increase was 3.5 per cent.

Mr. Virgo: Where are these figures coming from?

Mr. McANANEY: If the honourable member were a good politician and did his homework, he would look up these figures and not make sweeping statements. The South Australian increase in 1966-67 was 3.9 per cent, as compared with the Australian average increase of 3.5 per cent. Whereas the other States did not have extensive price control, there was considerable price control in this State under a Labor Government, and our figure was .4 per cent above the Australian average increase. In 1967-68, the percentage increase for South Australia was 1.6 per cent, and the Australian average increase was 1.5 per cent. But what happened in 1968-69, in this terrible period of rising prices, when the Liberal Government supposedly destroyed the people's confidence? The Australian average increase in that year was 2.6 per cent whereas it was 2.2 per cent for South Australia. This was the first time in that three-year period that our figure had not exceeded the Australian average.

Mr. Clark: Are these your figures, or whose?

Mr. McANANEY: They are available to anyone who cares to get them from the library. I decided first of all to be a banker, then a farmer and then, accidentally, I became a

statesman, although we do not have many statesmen in this House.

Mr. Clark: Jack of all trades!

Mr. Virgo: There are none on your side.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Nankivell): Order!

Mr. McANANEY: We have only politicians on the other side. I never expected to have to act as a schoolteacher, to tell the Opposition the facts of life and to do its homework by looking up the various figures.

Mr. Clark: You still haven't told us the source of the figures, except that they come from the library. I don't think you're game.

Mr. McANANEY: Although I believe that the Prices Commissioner, who acts as an arbitrator in respect of certain people, deals in a field where he has no legal authority really, I think that in one or two cases lately his actions have resulted in a satisfactory conclusion, and perhaps he serves a useful purpose to this extent.

Mr. Casey: Are you comparing him with the member for Glenelg?

Mr. McANANEY: I would not put a price or a value on him at all, judging from the way he repeats himself in this House in order to waste time. Although I believe that in certain cases some good is done by fixing prices, I point out the real problem in Australia is that rising costs will not be controlled in this way, whether or not the Commonwealth or State Parliament controls prices. As long as there is an arbitration tribunal, to which a person goes and states a case to show that there have been increased profits and greater productivity, and as long as wages are increased accordingly, while at the same time tariffs are increased so that manufacturers can maintain their existing rates of profit, it is an endless circle and no-one benefits. If tariffs were reduced, prices would come down, and manufacturers would still have the chance of competing with imports. This position can never be reached through price control. If there is more productivity prices will fall, but at present there is so much pressure regarding costs that primary producers are being forced out of business.

The Municipal Tramways Trust has to increase fares every time there is a wage increase because, generally speaking, productivity cannot be increased in the M.T.T. There may have been an increase in efficiency when bus services replaced trams on most routes. If M.T.T. losses increase, taxation must be increased. The railways are not becoming more efficient; the last increase in efficiency

occurred when the change was made to diesel locomotives. When there was Commonwealth price control it was possible to control only the essentials—not every item. However, the people voted out the Commonwealth Labor Government because many articles were unavailable: the essentials of life were restricted because more profit could be made from the lines not under price control. If the price of every item was controlled many additional officers would be required to keep a check on the prices, there would be a decrease in production, and prices would automatically increase.

Mr. Broomhill: What about cool drinks, ice cream and building materials?

Mr. McANANEY: In 1968-69 the average increase in building material prices in Australia was 4.9 per cent. Although the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) said that they had shot up to glory in Adelaide, the prices here increased by 3.6 per cent. The lowest percentage increase in prices of building materials was in Brisbane, where it was 2.1 per cent; for Adelaide the figure was 3.6 per cent; Melbourne, 3.9 per cent; Hobart, 4.8 per cent; Perth, 5.4 per cent; and Sydney, 6 per cent.

Mr. Broomhill: For what year?

Mr. McANANEY: These figures relate to the period from June, 1968, to June, 1969.

Mr. Broomhill: What about the previous year?

Mr. McANANEY: The smallest increase in the previous year was in Adelaide. The increase in 1968-69 was greater than in the previous year.

Mr. Clark: Which Liberal journal gave these figures?

Mr. McANANEY: The source of the figures is the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics. If the member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) is not prepared to accept these figures, he will probably say that the Liberal Government is cooking them up.

Mr. Virgo: I am satisfied now you have cited the authority.

Mr. McANANEY: Because the Prices Commissioner is acting only to a limited extent nowadays, I can probably stretch my conscience and support this Bill. If overall price control was proposed I would have to vote against it, as I have done in the past. The Treasurer has lifted control from various articles, and the Prices Commissioner ensures that those prices do not get out of hand. The week after the Prices Commissioner refused to increase the price of cool drinks the balance sheet of George Hall and Sons Limited showed

that that company had made a loss. I do not know how he justified refusing to grant an increase. I have noticed that some firms whose products have been under price control have made 25 per cent on their capital, so I do not think price control has been as effective as some people would like it to be. We should not interfere with prices unless there is evidence of restrictive trade practices. I give qualified support to this Bill.

Mr. VIRGO (Edwardstown): It was refreshing to hear the honourable member who has just resumed his seat do a complete somersault to the extent that he is giving at least qualified support to this Bill. I amused myself by reading the comments he made on July 12, 1967; if ever there has been a case of the worm turning this is it. The honourable member has raised a doubt in my mind on whether the Opposition should support this Bill, because he has given it his qualified support on the basis that the present Government has watered it down sufficiently by decontrol.

Mr. Jennings: How can he give qualified support if there is a division? Will he lie in the middle of the Chamber?

Mr. VIRGO: I do not know. The honourable member, like all Government members, fails to remember that there would not be a State Prices Act had it not been for the gross stupidity of Liberal Party members throughout Australia in 1948. There is only one effective way of controlling prices of goods on a national level: as the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) has said, while section 92 of the Constitution permits freedom of intercourse and trade between the States, it is impossible to control prices effectively.

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

Mr. VIRGO: It will be most interesting, when the final vote is taken, to see whether the Attorney-General, with the member for Stirling, has had his arm twisted and will also support the Bill.

Mr. Burdon: I think you're tempting providence there.

Mr. VIRGO: Time alone will tell. It was most gratifying to hear the member for Chaffey, supported by the member for Stirling, eulogize the former Labor Government for introducing price fixation in respect of grapes.

Mr. Edwards: We always give credit where it is due.

Mr. VIRGO: This is the first time I have ever heard a Government back-bencher prepared to be honest. Actions speak far louder

than words, and there are only two instances of this I have seen, and both happened this afternoon. First, the member for Chaffey said he agreed to price control, and it may be that he shamed his colleague, the member for Stirling, into agreeing, too. The member for Stirling used the old red herring when he said that the problem in Australia was the ever-spiralling costs that are forcing up prices. He went on to try to explain to the gullible how wages force up prices. In following this line, he adequately displayed his complete ignorance of the whole arbitration structure. If he makes any study of this question at all, he will realize that the arbitration tribunal has had placed before it over many years a watertight case that prices have increased since the last wage fixing, and hence to give back the purchasing power to the wage previously fixed it is necessary to increase wages. Wages always chase prices, but that is what members of the L.C.L. will never accept. Since the war-time era wages have chased prices, but our friends opposite delight in completely misleading the public. I am not sure whether this is deliberate.

Mr. Edwards: We never mislead the public.

Mr. VIRGO: Then apparently it is through complete and utter ignorance, because prices are not forced up as a result of increased wages: the opposite is the case. A national wage case is before the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and, although I have not seen any of the evidence or material being placed before the tribunal, I am sure that on this occasion, as in the past, statistical information will be submitted to show that, since wages were last fixed, prices have so increased that wages must also now be increased to restore the relative purchasing power. This is what people fail miserably to accept when they follow the philosophies of the Liberal Party as espoused by the member for Stirling (Mr. McAnaney). It was most interesting to hear the member for Rocky River say that L.C.L. policy supported price control. If it does, members opposite are even greater hypocrites than I thought. It was the L.C.L. that defeated the prices referendum in 1948 with its filthy misleading propaganda. If the member for Rocky River was interested in politics then, he would have to acknowledge the truth of my statement.

Mr. Lawn: They could not be greater hypocrites than you have given them credit for.

Mr. VIRGO: I think they are, because I do not think I will ever forget the four-page

advertisement in the *Advertiser* a few days before the referendum, with Sir Thomas Playford (he had not been knighted then) saying, "We can and will control prices in South Australia. Defeat the referendum. Don't give power to the bureaucracy in Canberra." However, he knew better than anyone else in South Australia that no State by itself could adequately control prices. The other aspect is that, while wages are tied to a fixation method as they are at present, prices must also be tied to the same method. When we get in Australia a system whereby wages and prices are fixed by a common tribunal, we will stabilize our cost structure for the benefit of the people, particularly those on fixed incomes.

I must support this Bill, although I regret that the Prices Act in South Australia is not doing what is required of it. I should like to see adopted a completely different structure from the present one. However, we have this measure and, for what little use it is, it must be retained, but I sincerely hope that, in the extended life of the Act provided for by this Bill, the Government will not continue on its rampage of decontrolling item after item as it has done during its 18 months in office. The Government has made a complete mockery of the whole Prices Act and has reduced the status of the Prices Commissioner to that of an office boy. He has no power: the cartels determine the prices to be charged. That this is so is shown by the present negotiations by the oil companies for an increase in the price of petrol. I support the second reading.

Mr. EVANS (Onkaparinga): I do not really support the second reading of this Bill, for I do not believe in price control. I do not believe the member for Edwardstown when he says that wages are fixed in the same way as prices are fixed by the Prices Commissioner. Minimum wages are fixed and it is the minimum wage that can be paid to a person; but it is the maximum price that is fixed for an article. Many people in trades are paid more than the minimum wage that is fixed. In relation to the grapegrowers, it is one of the most dishonest statements that the member for Edwardstown has made that it is the only honest statement that we on this side have made, because, if the Australian Labor Party has in the past done anything that was justified, we will praise it.

Mr. Virgo: Be honest and give credit where it is due.

Mr. EVANS: One does not have to make such a statement only in this Chamber, and

there is no need to make such a dishonest statement with the idea of provoking an interjection from this side. However, that is typical of the honourable member, who rides with spurs at all times. The grapegrowers have gained the benefit of having a fixed price and control over prices but, if they ever overplant and have an over-supply of grapes, price control will not operate; it will not work effectively. The only time price control works effectively is when supply approximately matches demand. If there is an under-supply, as happened in the time of the Commonwealth Labor Government, and there is price control, there will be a black market. It will happen in time of an under-supply when price control tries to control prices. The main thing controlling price in our world is supply.

Mr. Virgo: Where were you during the last war?

Mr. EVANS: I may have been in a place where one saw a much worse type of black market than ever the member for Edwardstown saw; and I may have been old enough to understand what was going on. For people to say that price control can control prices effectively at all times is wrong, and my argument has been proved in many industries. Members opposite have used petrol prices as an example. The petrol price goes before the Prices Commissioner and, even if he recommends an increase, it is still condemned. At no time do I support cartels or restrictive trade practices of any kind. This is the area in which we should be operating to stop this type of thing happening.

Mr. Virgo: Why don't you do something about it?

Mr. EVANS: The honourable member has been in this place as long as I have. He has spoken a lot more and done a lot less.

Mr. Virgo: That is only your opinion.

Mr. EVANS: And I am here to express it. The man who moves quickly often makes the most mistakes. I shall be happy to look at this matter and support any action that will bring about control in this field, but we cannot do that through price control. Referring to central control, the member for Edwardstown said that Mr. Thomas Playford (as he then was) at the time authorized advertisements. Whether that is true or false does not matter, but the member for Edwardstown and his colleagues, both Commonwealth and State, want central control: they want it all in Canberra. If we have one vote one value, people will find out just how far South Australia will slip back: a State with a small population will have less say

than the more heavily populated States. When the honourable member advocates price control under a Commonwealth scheme, he means the central control of prices from Canberra.

Mr. Virgo: You don't really mean that?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Edwardstown cannot speak all night. He is out of order.

Mr. EVANS: The member for Glenelg, too, used the same dishonest and accusing tactics in saying that the only reason why we on this side speak against price control is that, if we do not control prices, those supporting our Party will benefit; but I assure him that this is not the case, and he knows it is not the case. However, that is typical of the tactics the member for Glenelg has tended to use over the last few months. In the earlier stages, I respected the member for Glenelg for his attitude to this type of thing, but the longer I am here the more I realize that he will go as low as he can to make attacks in connection with this matter. Although I do not like saying it, I point out that, if members who have the intelligence to know better revert to this sort of thing, this is the only way to attack them.

The statement by the member for Glenelg, that the action of our Government in releasing certain items from price control was designed to help those who support us, was untrue and dishonest. The honourable member said the increased cost of building materials was a direct result of their being released from price control, but he knows that that is not true. He will realize, if he thinks back to 1960, that the cost of building materials has not increased as much as wages have increased and as much as the cost of other items has increased. Being an economist, if he cares to make an effective check on this matter he will find that what I have said is true. The honourable member usually does his homework in these matters. Prices in the building industry have increased suddenly in the last 12 months because many people in the trade found that the only thing they could do was turn their money over and tread water while the trade was in the doldrums. Many people in this industry have lost money, and they cannot go on in this way for too long without becoming insolvent. There have been more than enough bankrupts in the building industry in the last 12 years, involving suppliers, manufacturers and contractors.

Mr. Clark: That was happening when you were previously in Government.

Mr. EVANS: I said it was over the last 10 or 12 years. I do not agree to price control, and I pay it no lip service whatsoever at this stage. I do not think we can be proud of the type of statement being made by members of the Opposition and others, accusing the Government of releasing certain items from price control.

Mr. McKEE (Port Pirie): We have had Liberal politics at its hypocritical best in this debate.

Mr. Hurst: At its lowest!

Mr. McKEE: Yes. The member for Onkaparinga at least had the courage to get up and quote L.C.L. policy on price control. However, he has been the only Government member who has said in this debate he is opposed to price control. Of course, he has to be opposed to price control.

Mr. Ryan: Because he's a Lib.

Mr. McKEE: Yes; because of that, it is his duty to protect the people who support him financially. The Government's attitude to this measure is just a joke. It amazes me to hear members opposite getting up in this debate, one after the other, and supporting this legislation when they have no more concern for price control than has the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn), although I do not know whether he has made a contribution to this debate yet.

Mr. Broomhill: The Premier said a few weeks ago he couldn't wait to see the end of price control.

Mr. McKEE: He said that on a couple of occasions in reply to questions I asked. He said price control was virtually non-existent now. I think the member for Adelaide previously pointed out that most of the staff of the Prices Branch had been transferred to the Treasury. I do not know what their duties are now, but they certainly do not have much to do with price control. The member for Edwardstown (Mr. Virgo) pointed out that the only control in which the Liberal Government was now interested and actively participated was in the form of opposing wage increases before the courts. Wage control is the prime concern of Government members. They are most active when opposing any increases for the working people. The member for Rocky River (Mr. Venning), who, as a primary producer, uses much fuel, said this afternoon that he had been protected by the Prices Branch and therefore supported the continuation of price control.

Mr. Venning: I didn't say that.

Mr. McKEE: The honourable member said that he had had discussions with a representative of a fuel company about the price of oil or petrol; he had said that he thought the price should be controlled and, if it was not controlled, he would see about getting it controlled. The only person the honourable member is interested in protecting is himself: he is not concerned about his constituents, nor is he concerned how decontrolling prices affects the working people. Not once did he criticize the Government when it decontrolled one price after another—in connection with cool drinks, ice cream, children's needs, clothing, etc.

Mr. Lawn: But he can ask questions about other members' districts, can't he?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Adelaide is out of order.

Mr. McKEE: As a Government member, the member for Rocky River should be well aware of the Government's attitude to price control and, if he is sincere about supporting price control, he has already had opportunities to show his sincerity, yet he has not done so. I support the retention of price control, such as it is, and I look forward to the day when price control will be brought into full effect by a Labor Government—after the next election.

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

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 3. Page 1441.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): This Bill makes some useful amendments to the Act, bringing up to date certain parts, and in addition it provides for the service by post of proceedings. This is a subject which I discussed with the Chief Summary Magistrate and on which we were having negotiations for some time. I am pleased to see that this has now come to some fruition. As the amendments seem to be most useful, I entirely support the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

OATHS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from September 16. Page 1503.)

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Leader of the Opposition): As this is a useful amendment to the principal Act, I support it.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 9. Page 2132.)

Mr. CASEY (Frome): This is a simple Bill. The Act is comprehensive, having been amended many times over the years. The principal amendment in the Bill provides at last a new definition of "milk", which is now defined as the lacteal fluid product of a cow or goat. An adequate definition of "milk" has been most difficult, the result being that much adulteration of milk through colouring and so on has taken place over the years. I support the new definition. The Bill also changes certain references in the Act from "Chief Dairy Adviser" to "Chief Dairy Officer".

Clause 4, which amends section 19 of the principal Act, needs explanation by the Minister. This provision could lead to repercussions within the industry, because the Act now provides clearly that anyone who supplies milk and cream to a depot must have it weighed and the butterfat content sampled. The supplier is paid according to that weight. This has always applied, but I understand that in certain isolated areas, particularly in the river districts, a person who delivers milk to a depot for distribution in a small town sometimes runs short of whole milk and purchases a quantity of milk from a neighbour, who may be running a small herd for household use, not for commercial production. The supplier and the neighbour agree that the neighbour will supply a quantity of milk each day, and the supplier takes this to the depot, from where it is distributed.

The amendment provides that, in these circumstances, where only one person is concerned, he will not be obliged to have measured the butter content of the milk so delivered, and so he will be exempt from the Act. I think we are treading on dangerous ground here, because an exception in one case could snowball in many other cases. If the Minister convinces me of the reason for this amendment and satisfies me that everything pertaining to the amendment will be adhered to and that the exemption will not snowball, I will support the Bill. I find the other provision to be in order and, with the reservations I have mentioned, I support the second reading.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 3 passed.

Clause 4—"Payment for milk."

Mr. CASEY: This clause provides that any one purchasing milk from one other person is exempt from having the milk tested or the butterfat content recorded, but if he purchases from two or more people he must have the milk tested. He has to go to considerable expense in purchasing instruments to test the milk and record the butterfat content, and he is obliged to record the butterfat content and pay the person from whom he is purchasing the milk according to the butterfat content. This provision is creating a precedent. I know it occurs only in isolated cases but, even so, we are treading on dangerous ground here because we should not make laws for one section of the community and other laws for another section. Can the Minister explain to me the reasons for this clause?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Minister of Lands): In my second reading explanation I said:

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.

This matter was raised in another place, and the Minister of Agriculture said:

We have in this State several instances of people who produce quite an amount of milk on their properties but who at times need to supplement that milk in order to supply their customers. This entails a great deal of running about by inspectors for the purpose of checking that the purchaser of the milk is actually conforming to the provisions of section 19.

If by agreement the person who is purchasing the milk from this one other person is agreeable to being paid on a gallonage basis at the ruling rate, that can now be done. It is not thought expedient to take it beyond one supplier for two reasons: first, if there are two suppliers there are likely to be disputes and, secondly, the gallonage that that person is buying would in all probability lift him above the permissible limit at which, under another section of the Act, he is allowed to operate.

I believe that this amendment will not only assist three or four not very large suppliers but also make the job of the board very much easier. It will save considerable expenditure by the three or four people involved. By and large, I think the amendment is a good one.

That explanation was accepted. The honourable member says that we are making a rule for one supplier and another rule for a group of

suppliers. However, I think in the circumstances there will be increased efficiency in reducing the amount of unnecessary work done by boards and inspectors, and costs of administration will also be reduced. I am certain without actually being able to quote an authority that the dairying industry has raised no objection to this clause. I think the industry will fully support it, although I have no documentary evidence to back up that statement. However, being loosely in touch with the industry, I think that if any real difficulty had arisen I would have heard of it. If the honourable member is not satisfied with that explanation, I can have it developed more fully by the Minister.

Mr. CASEY: Can we start to make laws for one section and other laws for another section of the industry? Although I know that only a few people may be concerned, from what I can learn about the matter I believe some of the people who will benefit from the clause have already been prosecuted several times for not adhering to the Act. That is a little ludicrous; we are passing an amendment to protect people who have been breaking the law and who are not prepared in any circumstances to purchase equipment with which they can test cream or butterfat content. I realize it is expensive. However, if two people are supplying milk or cream, it must be tested. Who is to say that such a person may not purchase some milk from one of his neighbours and a small amount from another? In this case two people are supplying milk to the wholesaler, and he is not likely to inform the board. The Minister's explanation is not good enough. It is wrong, and it becomes very complicated, if we make a law for three or four people. Everyone should be treated on the same basis.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Who has been breaking the law? I do not know.

Mr. Casey: I was informed that this was so.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have not heard of it. Obviously, if milk or cream is being supplied by two people, the law is being broken and the offender will be liable to prosecution. I see no reason why a provision to eliminate red tape should lead to law-breaking but, if it does, surely it can be detected in the same way as any other breach of the legislation. The honourable member's argument cannot be sustained because he has not given one specific example. I have never heard of any objection to this provision and I

think it is fully in accordance with the industry's wishes. This is the first objection that I have heard, and I think it is getting too theoretical to worry about.

Mr. CASEY: I assure the Minister that what I have told him is not theoretical. Although I do not know the name of the person concerned, the case to which I referred was mentioned to me by the Minister of Agriculture when I discussed the matter with him privately a few weeks ago. I told the Minister then that I was not happy with the situation and that I would examine it closely when the Bill came to this Chamber. I understand that one person refused to test the butterfat content of the milk or cream that he was purchasing from his neighbour. Admittedly, I do not think the neighbour asked that this be done.

What I said earlier was not theoretical: it was an actual case based on fact. Probably the reason why the person concerned was breaking the law was that he would not go to the expense of purchasing testing equipment. If he was prosecuted and fined he would probably find that is cost him as much in the end as it would have cost him originally to purchase it.

The officers of the board have to inspect these single-unit places, which may be widely scattered. Although I do not think this is necessary, I consider that strict supervision has to be kept on an amendment of this kind, otherwise it could lead to all sorts of anomalies that could be detrimental to the industry. I will be satisfied if the Minister can assure me that this amendment will cut out unnecessary work by officers of the board.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will discuss the matter with the Minister of Agriculture to see that there will be no cause for the kind of fear the honourable member has expressed. It seems that the honourable member got his information from the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister, having known a case, must have decided that this was so trivial that he could not in all conscience go ahead and prosecute the man.

Mr. Casey: I think he was more frustrated than anything else.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Frankly, no-one in Parliament wants to perpetuate provisions in respect of minor offences that we acknowledge are perhaps unnecessary and should not have been put there in the first place. Evidently it is that kind of case in question. If I interpret the honourable member's fear correctly, it is that this could lead

to some more serious breach. He wants to be assured that the provision will be policed to see that breaches of a more serious nature do not take place. If we abolish the need for this provision to apply in the case of single suppliers, he wants those concerned to be alert to see that single suppliers do not become agents for their neighbours. I agree that that should be prevented, and I will see that the

Minister of Agriculture gets a first-hand account of the honourable member's objection.

Clause passed.

Clause 5 and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment. Committee's report adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.33 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 15, at 2 p.m.