

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, November 13, 1969.

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Justices Act Amendment (General),
Legal Practitioners Act Amendment,
Oaths Act Amendment,
Prices Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS**SOCIAL WORKERS**

The Hon. C. D. HUTCHENS: Recently, there has been much publicity in newspapers about supplying social workers in municipalities. I am honoured to say that in the area I represent three councils do much social work through Meals on Wheels, the Royal District and Bush Nursing Society, the Mothers and Babies Health Centre, and the Good Neighbour Council. To all of these organizations the Government (either State or Commonwealth) makes worthy contributions. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Local Government whether he has considered the need for and the advisability of appointing additional social workers and what is the Government's attitude to assisting to finance the appointment of these workers, if they are considered necessary?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will refer this matter to my colleague.

KANGAROO INN SCHOOL

Mr. CORCORAN: On August 5, the Minister of Works, in reply to a question I had asked about reconstructing tennis courts at the Kangaroo Inn Area School, said:

A comprehensive scheme for additional paving, maintenance of paving and storm-water drainage is proposed at the Kangaroo Inn Area School. It is intended that the reconstruction of the tennis courts will be undertaken in conjunction with that work. Tenders have been called on two occasions in an effort to obtain a satisfactory contractor for the work. The tenders received in response to the second call are currently under consideration and it is expected that the Public Buildings Department will shortly be in a position to make a recommendation for the acceptance of a tender.

As last Sunday evening the Chairman of the school committee informed me that no work had yet commenced and that he had heard nothing further from the department about

reconstructing the tennis courts, will the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, check this matter and tell me what progress has been made?

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

BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. HUDSON: I have asked questions in this House of both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Works about approving the provision of an assembly hall at Brighton High School. As I understand that the Minister of Education can give me information about this matter, I should be pleased if she would now give it to the House.

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Cabinet has approved the expenditure of \$111,000 to construct this hall, the Government to pay \$69,000 of this sum and the high school to pay \$42,000. I pay a tribute to those associated with this school who have done so much hard work over a considerable period in order to provide the school's share of the cost; in fact, the sum is in excess of the share they originally expected to contribute. I hope honourable members will appreciate the large contribution to the project made by the Government. It is because of special circumstances in this case that the Government's contribution is greater than allowed for in the policy at present governing the erection of school assembly halls under subsidy. Arrangements for such projects had evolved in November, 1967, following meetings between representatives of the Education and the Public Buildings Departments. The sum of \$200,000 was being made available this year from Loan money to provide for subsidies on assembly halls, canteens and swimming pools. If school councils use the standard plans, the costs of design, supervision and approved variations are met by the Government, but this does not apply to additional work requested by the school councils. If councils choose to engage a private architect they are required to meet the design costs. The subsidy policy relating to assembly halls, swimming pools and canteens is at present being reviewed.

CLARE ROAD

Mr. ALLEN: Many approaches have been made to the Minister of Roads and Transport over the last few years with a view to upgrading the Auburn-Clare section of the Main North Road. This is a narrow road that was sealed many years ago, and accidents

occur on it frequently because of poor visibility, usually when motorists are overtaking heavy transports. Two sections of this road add greatly to the inconvenience caused: they are the over-way bridge hill south of Penwortham and the steep hill north of Penwortham. On a Friday evening recently I counted 27 cars waiting to overtake a semi-trailer on one of these hills. When a semi-trailer reaches the top of the first hill it accelerates in order to gain speed to ascend the second hill. Through the village of Penwortham is a speed limit of 35 miles an hour, so that motorists cannot pass a semi-trailer. Therefore, at times a motorist may travel four or five miles before he can overtake a semi-trailer. I have been informed that work will commence on the road early in 1971. Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to confer with the Highways Department with a view to having a three-lane highway provided at these two points to enable traffic to overtake heavy semi-trailers on these two sections?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I know how frustrating the situation the honourable member has described can be when one is driving. I will certainly take up the matter with my colleague, hoping something can be done about it.

TERTIARY QUOTAS

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about tertiary quotas?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I called for reports from the two universities and from the South Australian Institute of Technology and have been informed as follows:

Adelaide University: The quotas which operated in 1969 and those which will operate in 1970 for the various faculties are shown in the following table:

	1969	1970
Agricultural Science	65	70
Architecture	35	35
Arts	500	500
Dentistry	65	65
Economics	140	160
Engineering	135	180
Law	100	130
Medicine	120	120
Music	35	35
Science	400	400

As the table indicates, the university intends to increase the quotas in Agricultural Science, Economics, Engineering and Law; other quotas will remain unchanged.

Flinders University: Quotas have been in operation for entry to all undergraduate degrees at Flinders University since 1967. In 1970, Flinders University will admit 550 new students in Arts, Economics and Science.

Of these, at least 365 will be admitted in Arts and Economics and 155 in Science; the remaining 30 places will be allocated to the next 30 students on the list in order of academic merit according to their preference. This represents 100 more places for new students than were available in 1969.

South Australian Institute of Technology: Quotas are proposed in all Diploma in Technology courses for 1970; the maximum intake determined in each course is shown in the following table:

	1969 Quotas	Proposed 1970 Quotas
Division of Applied Science.		
Applied Geology	15	15
Applied Chemistry	18	18
Applied Physics	14	14
Data Processing	50	50
Mineral Engineering	10	10
Primary Metallurgy	10	10
Secondary Metallurgy	15	15
Pharmacy	35	35
Physiotherapy	—	35
Chemistry/		
Microbiology	18	18
Medical Technology	15	15
Division of Business and Social Studies.		
Accountancy	160	160
Business Administration	40	40
Business Studies	50	50
Social Work	45	45
Valuation	20	20
Division of Engineering.		
Architecture	18	18
Building Technology	18	18
Civil Engineering	32	32
Electrical Engineering	20	20
Electronic Engineering	47	47
Mechanical Engineering	45	45
Surveying	35	35
Town planning	20	20

It will be seen that quotas for 1970 are fixed at the same level as applied in 1969, which were filled in all cases other than in Architecture, Building Technology, Surveying, and Town Planning. Several courses were slightly over-filled. A total of 226 qualified applicants could not be offered places but, in view of the high rate of rejection of offers actually made, it is unlikely that all of the 226 would have been genuine applicants. Larger numbers in Matriculation classes this year suggest that the 1970 demand for places may exceed that in 1969.

HORMONE SPRAYS

Mr. WARDLE: The Minister of Lands told me some weeks ago that the Minister of Agriculture had stated that legislation regarding hormone spraying might be introduced this session. Will the Minister ask his colleague whether this legislation is now likely to be introduced?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: There is really nothing I can add to the previous reply. My colleague has mentioned the matter briefly this week and I will find out the position.

SICK LEAVE

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Attorney-General, on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Industry, a reply to the question I asked yesterday consequent upon the presentation of a petition requesting improvements in the antiquated sick leave provisions applying to Government employees?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: In January, 1969, Cabinet considered a request from the United Trades and Labor Council of South Australia for an increased annual sick leave credit for weekly-paid employees in Government departments. After careful consideration it was unable to agree to any increase but it varied the maximum accumulation from 30 weeks to no limit, with a maximum leave with pay of 52 weeks in a continuous period. The sick leave granted to weekly-paid employees in Government departments is, therefore, five days per annum with unlimited accumulation. Although the annual credit is the same as that applying under most awards of industrial tribunals, the sick leave accumulation for Government employees is much greater than that applying under awards, for example, two years under the metal trades federal award, five years under the Caretakers and Cleaners State Award, and eight years under the Clerks (S.A.) Award. As I mentioned in my reply to the member for Light (Mr. Freebairn) on October 29, 1969, the request contained in the petition was considered on four occasions by the previous Government, which was unable to grant the request. The Government has again considered the matter but is unable to increase the annual credit. I hope that the Leader of the Opposition, who presented the petition, will also accept that reply.

PICCADILLY WATER SUPPLY

Mr. GILES: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to my recent question whether the pipeline intended to be used for the Piccadilly water supply scheme was considered adequate?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: A start will be made on extensions of water pipelines in the Piccadilly area in about two weeks' time. It is hoped that some services will be connected to properties before works close down for Christmas. The approved scheme consists of 4,640ft. of 6in. main, 3,970ft. of 4in. main, and a 50,000-gall. reinforced concrete storage tank. The scheme will serve 30 existing houses and the pipelines are of adequate size to serve much more development. The honourable member may be assured that future demands have been considered in determining the size of the pipelines to be laid.

DRUGS

Mr. BROOMHILL: My question follows the presentation to the House of the annual report of the Alcoholic and Drug Addicts (Treatment) Board. The member for Hindmarsh (Hon. C. D. Hutchens) has asked for a breakdown of the figures in the report as to types of addiction and he is awaiting a reply to his question. I have had discussions with medical practitioners and pharmacists about Relaxa Tabs and similar drugs being freely available over the counter and I am aware that fears have been expressed in this House about these types of drug being freely available. I ask the Premier whether he will take this matter up with the Director-General of Health to see whether the prevention of the free sale of this type of drug could be considered.

The Hon. R. S. HALL: This subject has come up from time to time in public discussions and it has been the subject of replies given in this House. However, I will get further information from my colleague and bring it down for the honourable member.

Mr. LANGLEY: It has been brought to my notice that sweets in small pellet form are being marketed in plastic containers resembling a hypodermic syringe. The container, labelled "Albert's Hippy Sippys", carries a removable badge with words that are likely (perhaps seriously) to influence children and to stimulate their curiosity regarding drug consumption. I understand that today's *News* publishes photographs of some of the containers and refers to objections raised to the sale of the sweets by the South Australian Housewives' Association. Will the Premier ask the Minister of Health what steps may be taken to prevent the sale of these sweets in their present form?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: Although I have not seen these sweets, I agree that it would be alarming if, as the honourable member has suggested, they had the effect of influencing children in terms of drug consumption. As the Minister of Health, who is extremely concerned about this matter, is keeping a close watch on the situation in South Australia and in other States, I will bring this question to his attention and get for the honourable member a reply on the seriousness, or otherwise, of the matter.

POLICE SIRENS

Mr. EVANS: It was reported in the press this week that a police patrol pursued a car that had no lights on at speeds up to 90 miles an hour at 1 a.m. It seems to me that it is dangerous for a police car not to

be fitted with a siren in such circumstances. I believe that police cars in most States are now fitted with sirens and it was at one time the practice in this State to have police patrol cars fitted with sirens. In view of the dangerous situation that could arise for pedestrians, cyclists and other motorists, will the Premier ask the Chief Secretary why police patrol cars are not fitted with sirens for emergencies and whether he will investigate the wisdom of having police cars fitted with sirens now?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I will get a reply from my colleague.

PLUMBING ACCOUNT

Mr. LAWN: Although it was only on Tuesday of this week that I asked the Attorney-General a question in connection with the plumbing account of a constituent of mine, I understand he has a reply already. I thank him for the speed with which he has supplied this reply.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I greatly appreciate the honourable member's statement and the compliment that he has paid me thereby. As all members know, I am only too happy to give speedy and efficient service at all time. The reply for the honourable member is not perhaps as helpful as I had hoped. It is as follows:

In the circumstances outlined, a tenant would probably be responsible for the debt incurred, although this could depend on the terms of the tenancy agreement (if any).

The honourable member could not tell me whether there was a written agreement and, if there was, what its terms were, but an occupier of the premises could well be liable in these circumstances. The prepared reply continues:

In the specific case mentioned, judgment has already been given against the defendant who is now required to attend the court on an unsatisfied judgment summons.

I think that the case is to be heard tomorrow and this is why the honourable member is getting his reply today. The prepared reply continues:

At such a hearing, he cannot dispute the debt. (He should have done this at the original hearing if he wished to.) To consider having the case re-opened, the person's only course is to seek legal advice.

This is the appropriate procedure. It may not be palatable to the person concerned but it is possible, even at this stage, to apply to have the judgment set aside. This is the only action that can be taken and, although the person could do it himself, it would be far more convenient and better if he had a legal representative do it for him.

RUBBER MILLS DISPUTE

Mr. NANKIVELL: On Tuesday, I asked the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Labour and Industry, a question about developments in the rubber strike. Will he now say what further progress has been made towards settling the dispute?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I only have a short piece of most disappointing news: I have just been informed that the mass meeting has rejected the recommendation to return to work and that those who are on strike are remaining out.

GOODWOOD BOYS TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to my question of October 30 regarding the new administration building, toilets and change room facilities at the Goodwood Boys Technical High School?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Public tenders are to be called on November 17, 1969, with a closing date on December 9, 1969, for the erection of a new administration building, toilets and change room facilities at the Goodwood Boys Technical High School. Subject to a satisfactory tender being received, work is expected to commence early in the new year. The remainder of the work involved in the redevelopment scheme is to be arranged departmentally and will be co-ordinated with the work to be undertaken by contract.

DARLING RIVER

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to my question of November 11 about the flow in the Darling River?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The discharge at Burtundy Rocks from July 1, 1969, to November 12, 1969, was 15,100 acre feet. Burtundy Rocks is the Darling River gauging station nearest the Murray River junction.

SECONDHAND MOTOR CARS

Mr. McKEE: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question of October 8 about the sale of secondhand cars?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I understand that it is the practice for some dealers to make a pre-delivery charge on secondhand motor vehicles. This charge is apparently to cover the work involved in effecting transfer, insurance, etc., and it would be more accurate to describe it as a documentation charge. In the particular contract referred to me by the honourable member the charge of \$20 is not

listed separately but is included in the amount charged for "registration, third party insurance, and stamp duty". This is certainly misleading. The purchaser could seek legal advice on taking proceedings to have the contract varied. This is purely a civil matter, and that is the only thing I can suggest.

KIMBA MAIN

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to my question of November 5 about the completion date of the Lock-Kimba main?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Lock-Kimba main is scheduled for completion early in 1973 and to achieve this an average monthly rate in excess of 1½ miles is planned with an annual expenditure of \$575,000. The Loan funds allocation to Eyre Peninsula this year is \$1,826,000 and the programme of works provides for an expenditure of more than \$2,000,000 a year for each of the next four years. Finance, plant and manpower resources will be fully extended to achieve the present programme.

PORT GILES

Mr. HURST: I have read in country newspapers distributed to farmers that considerable discontent has been expressed at meetings held at the southern end of Yorke Peninsula as a result of rumours that the Government intends to increase charges for grain handled over the facilities at the new port of Port Giles. As I have received many inquiries from people in that district, can the Treasurer, representing the Minister of Marine, say whether the Government has considered increasing these charges?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: When the port at Port Giles was first proposed, it was clear that only a comparatively small quantity of grain would pass over the installation and that the operation would be uneconomic. Therefore, farmers were asked whether they would pay a loading so that the port could be established. This suggestion was agreed to, but the farmers subsequently considered that circumstances had changed and wanted to discuss this matter so that they could be relieved of the undertaking which they had given when the establishment of the port was first proposed and which was in accordance with evidence they had tendered to the Public Works Committee when it inquired into the project. That is as far as I can take the matter today. The member for Yorke Peninsula, having had this matter well in

hand, has discussed it with me several times, as have his colleagues in another place. However, I have agreed to meet a deputation of farmers from that district one day next week so that we may discuss the whole matter.

MOUNT GAMBIER NORTH SCHOOL

Mr. BURDON: On July 2, in reply to a question I asked the Minister of Education concerning the Mount Gambier North Primary School, she said:

As a result of this investigation, a recommendation has been made, and funds have been approved for the provision of two additional standard ablution troughs, complete with shelter and concrete floor, to be attached to one of the portable rooms. Two drinking bubblers are included with these facilities. Arrangements are now being made for this work to be carried out as soon as possible.

As I have been told that this work has not been attended to, will the Minister ascertain whether these facilities can be provided as soon as possible?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: Usually, regarding several contracts for which money is available tenders are called and handled under a group tender, once they have been approved, and it could be that this contract is held up until a sufficient number of contracts is available to make a tender a practicable proposition. However, I will ask for a report on this matter and let the honourable member have it next week, if I can.

SAFETY NETS

Mr. RYAN: Since the unfortunate fatal accident at Port Giles every member has received a pamphlet from a firm advertising safety nets, together with a letter, part of which states:

From time to time we are called upon to supply these nets, usually immediately after lives have been lost on construction sites. Private contractors are never willing to spend money on this type of safety equipment until there has been a fatality. It would appear that we need some Government regulation that insists workmen are adequately protected when working (a) over water and (b) on construction sites above specified heights.

Can the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Labour and Industry, say whether there is any regulation requiring such safety nets (because in many industries the industry demands that safety nets shall be installed, and no-one will work in certain operations until they are) and, secondly, whether an instruction has been issued to Government departments that safety nets are to be provided on all jobs over water or on jobs where, work being done at some height, there could be danger

to workmen falling? If this instruction has been issued, do these nets conform to the safety requirements of the Labour and Industry Department?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will inquire.

STURT RIVER

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to my recent question about disposing of the huge mounds of earth that have been created by excavations for the new course of the Sturt River?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The mounds of earth, to which reference is made, are expected to be removed before Christmas by the contractors carrying out the work. However, the stockpiling of soil is a necessary adjunct to drainage works, and will occur again in further contract works shortly to be let in connection with widening and deepening the Sturt River. Every effort will be made to lessen any dust nuisance.

WALLAROO HOSPITAL

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, a reply to the question I asked last Tuesday about landscaping at the Wallaroo Hospital?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Tenders for earthmoving works and the formation of pathways at the Wallaroo Hospital closed on October 21, and the appraisal of these tenders is nearing completion. It is expected that a recommendation will be made next week for the acceptance of a tender. Subject to acceptance of a tender, negotiations will proceed for the second stage, involving water reticulation, planting of lawns, ground-cover plants and trees, to be undertaken as a variation to the contract.

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Minister any further information concerning temporary accommodation for nurses at the Wallaroo Hospital?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Several tenders were received for the erection of temporary accommodation for nursing staff at the Wallaroo Hospital. These tenders are being considered, but a decision has not been made at this stage.

MARGARINE

Mr. FREEBAIRN: In today's *Australian* there is an interesting article about the sale of margarine in which it is claimed that margarine is as nutritious as butter. The article has inspired me to examine the Margarine Act,

which I find was last amended in 1956, when the total quota of table margarine permitted to be manufactured in South Australia was set at 528 tons a year. I find also that whereas South Australia's population in 1956 was 862,000 it is now 1,140,000, representing an increase of about one-third. As the table margarine quota was set as long ago as 13 years, will the Minister of Lands ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he intends to introduce legislation to increase the quota to bring it into line with the increase in South Australia's population?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: As I know of no move to this effect, I will discuss the matter with the Minister of Agriculture and let the honourable member have a reply.

MILLICENT RAILWAY YARD

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about regrading and paving the Millicent railway yard?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Contract papers are at present being prepared, and tenders for the repair and regrading of the pavement in the Millicent station yard will be called shortly.

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. McKEE: The Premier will recall that some time ago he promised to obtain for me a copy of the report of the Senate Select Committee inquiring into air pollution. Has he obtained that report? If he has not will he say when it may be available?

The Hon. R. S. HALL: From memory, I think my secretary or I wrote to the honourable member informing him that as soon as the report became available he would receive a copy from us. As my department is extremely efficient in these matters, I think that the fact that he has not received a copy of the report means that it is not yet available. However, I will check once more for him.

PENSIONER COTTAGES

Mr. HUDSON: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my recent question about planned development of the construction of pensioner cottages as a result of grants now being made to the Housing Trust?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The General Manager of the Housing Trust states that, in order to comply with the provision of the Act, the trust has redesigned its single-person cottage flat making it self-contained, thus eliminating shared facilities previously provided. Site

plans covering seven projects have been prepared and issued. These plans cover 20 two-person cottage flats (which will be financed from the trust's funds) and 64 single-person cottages, most of which it is expected will be financed from Commonwealth funds. The honourable member will be aware that the Commonwealth fund is available only for single occupation. In addition, a further nine layout plans are being prepared providing, in total, 30 two-person and 98 one-person cottage flats. The first two projects have already been submitted to the Housing Department for the approval of the Minister as required by section 4 of the Act, and a further five will be forwarded within the next week or so. The programme arranged for the current financial year provides for a total of 262 cottage flats, of which 162 could be regarded as suitable for the Commonwealth scheme. The trust expects that its programme for 1969-70 will at least treble last year's output and that the use of the trust's funds will at least be equal to that spent in 1968-69. I have a note stating that the first project referred to will be implemented at Mitchell Park, and the second will include Elizabeth West, South Brighton, Mansfield Park, and Ferryden Park.

DRIVING LICENCES

Mr. RODDA: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I recently asked about restricted driving licences?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Years ago a standard type of restriction on drivers' licences was introduced, excluding some persons from driving within the four terraces bounding the city of Adelaide. This applied particularly to aged drivers in the days when it was more difficult and dangerous for them to drive within the city than in the suburbs. However, this is no longer the case. It is generally agreed that busy thoroughfares in the suburbs are as difficult to negotiate as, if not more difficult than, the city thoroughfares. Consequently, we no longer employ this out-of-date restriction. If the testing officer considers a person unsafe to drive on busy roads in suburban areas, it is a common practice to recommend that he be precluded from driving within 15 miles of the General Post Office. There is no question at all of restricting the licence of a person who is a competent driver. People are restricted to driving outside the 15-mile zone only if it is considered unsafe, in their interest and the interests of others, for them to enter it.

GOODWOOD ROAD

Mr. VIRGO: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about Goodwood Road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Plants for landscaping the median of Goodwood Road have been ordered, and it is intended to carry out planting during the coming autumn, which is the most appropriate time.

KANGARA RESERVE

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Lands obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my question about Kangara Reserve?

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

Should the landholders in question who border the Kangara Reserve near Lucindale apply to the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department for a permit to destroy kangaroos on their property their application will be considered sympathetically. The department is always prepared to consider applications from landowners who need to control fauna causing genuine damage to their pastures or crops. The department is similarly prepared to issue permits to the National Parks Commission for the destruction of protected fauna on its reserves should it wish to control fauna causing damage in these areas.

MAIN NORTH-EAST ROAD

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on November 6 about the continuation of work on widening the Main North-East Road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The work of widening the Main North-East Road is already being given high priority. However, the preconstruction activities of design and land acquisition necessarily occupy considerable time, and cannot be appreciably speeded up without detriment to other works of equal or higher priority.

PORT PIRIE LAND

Mr. McKEE: Last August the Minister of Education, in reply to a question, told me that the department was calling tenders to build departmental residences at the corner of Balmoral Road and The Terrace, Port Pirie, and said that tenders would be called in late September or early October. Can the Minister say whether the contract has been let and, if it has, when work is likely to commence?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: I do not know, but I will call for a report on the matter.

FISHING VESSEL SURVEY

Mr. CORCORAN: Has the Treasurer, representing the Minister of Marine, a reply to the question I asked him yesterday about application forms for the survey of fishing vessels?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I have a brief report to the effect that 3,000 application forms have been sent out to fishermen (their addresses were obtained from the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department) and to all harbourmasters. That is as far as I can take the matter at present, but a further reply is being sought from the department.

RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Mr. VIRGO: Last week the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, gave me a reply to my question about grade separations proposed for Marion Road at Ascot Park and the crossing of Morphett Road at Oaklands Park in the district of the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson). When I referred this question to the Attorney-General, the member for Glenelg and I had received correspondence from the Marion council which, unfortunately, was not getting anywhere with the Highways Department or the Minister. From the answer the Attorney-General gave, it appears that the Minister is giving my colleague and me the same run around as he is giving the Marion council. It is unbelievable that the Minister could provide a reply saying that the planning investigations were proceeding when in fact I quoted a letter written 12 months ago in which he said exactly the same thing. We were led to believe that the Highways Department was capable of undertaking the mammoth task of implementing the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study plan, yet we have been told that it has taken the department 12 months and it is still planning two bridges over a railway line. Will the Attorney-General again take up this matter with his colleague, stressing its urgency, because both of these crossings are dangerous? I fear that if something is not done shortly the Government will be responsible, through its inactivity, for contributing to the death of some poor citizen.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I entirely refute the imputations in the honourable member's question.

Mr. Virgo: You can do what you like. I have given you facts.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The honourable member has argued the whole matter—

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: And abused his privilege.

Mr. Virgo: What's the matter with you? I'm talking to the Attorney-General.

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

Mr. Virgo: So is the Minister of Lands.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will take up the matter with my colleague.

GREENHILL ROAD

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Attorney-General, representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, a reply to my recent question about the completion of work on the duplication of Greenhill Road?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: It is intended that the duplication of Greenhill Road will extend from Goodwood Road to Fullarton Road. The work will be carried out progressively over the next three years.

BUS STOPS

Mr. HURST: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Minister of Local Government a reply to my question about bus stops?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The Municipal Tramways Trust has the authority under its by-laws to fix the location of bus stops, but the parking of motor vehicles generally is controlled by local councils or, in certain circumstances, by the Road Traffic Board. In practice, therefore, trust officers confer with the relevant local government authority and, if necessary, with the Road Traffic Board, with a view to establishing stops at mutually acceptable locations.

SUPERANNUATION

Mr. VIRGO: On August 21, I asked the Treasurer a question in which I pointed out to him (and this appears at page 1143 of *Hansard*) that it had been drawn to my attention that apprentices in Government departments were not permitted to participate in the superannuation scheme until they had completed their apprenticeship, but that junior officers in other grades were permitted to participate as contributors from the day they joined the service. When I asked the Treasurer to investigate the matter, he said that he recalled the matter's being raised and that he was discussing with the Chairman of the Superannuation Board the introduction this session of amendments to the Act. However, he said he intended to refresh his memory. Has he had time yet to refresh his memory and, if he has not, will he obtain a reply?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: I think that in this matter I have refreshed my mind several times and then forgotten again. This matter, amongst other things, has been the subject of much discussion in the course of preparing a Superannuation Act Amendment Bill. I cannot now say precisely what is the proposed solution. As I think the main purpose of the question was to find out what was happening about the Bill, I can say I hope to be able to give notice of it early next week.

WHYALLA HOUSING

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Has the Minister of Housing a reply to my recent question concerning the Housing Trust's programme for Whyalla as regards the building of purchase and rental houses?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: The trust endeavours to keep a balanced rental and sales programme in relation to known and anticipated demand, as witnessed by the increase in the provision of contracts for sale houses during the past two years. At the time of writing the trust has 267 single-unit houses contracted for and yet to be completed, and the stage of the contracts would indicate that completions will increase. The progressive increase in the number of sale units becoming available has reflected an increase in the number of vacancies in rental houses. The past four months has seen in excess of 16 per cent of vacating tenants purchase trust homes in Whyalla, others having purchased privately. Altogether, more than 25 per cent of vacating tenants have remained in Whyalla so that the number of people leaving Whyalla is considered not excessive in existing circumstances. I am pleased to observe this trend because it indicates a degree of stability in industrial and economic conditions and prospects in Whyalla, and I think this is a very good sign. I am sure that the trust will arrange its programme as closely as it can to meet this changing requirement.

DERAILMENT

Mr. HUGHES: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Minister of Roads and Transport to my recent question about a train derailment between Kadina and Bute?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: The derailment referred to was initiated by a bulk grain hopper waggon, and a joint inquiry found that the following factors contributed towards the incident: (a) the comparatively high centre of gravity of the grain hopper waggon, compared with that for other goods vehicles;

(b) minor track irregularities; and (c) the speed of the train being 3 m.p.h. above the maximum permissible of 35 m.p.h. on this occasion. It is considered that these three circumstances helped to cause an irregular movement of the waggon, thus causing its derailment. Because of the high centre of gravity of the grain hopper waggons the maximum permissible speed of these vehicles on the 60 lb. track between Brinkworth and Kadina has been reduced from 35 m.p.h. to 30 m.p.h.

LAND TAX

Mr. VENNING: In the *Farmer and Grazier* is a letter written by the Minister of Lands to Mr. Graham Andrews. Above the letter is the headline "Government Looking at Land Tax Change". In the letter the Minister of Lands quotes the Treasurer's Budget speech concerning land tax. The Minister in this article also reiterates the problems that exist in primary production today. His letter goes on to say:

For this reason the Government is giving serious thought to farmers' problems, particularly in regard to land tax, and action will be taken to amend the Land Tax Act during the next year to afford substantial relief for rural land from the cost of the prospective new assessments which are to come into effect from the beginning of the financial year 1971-72.

It is not necessary for me to remind the House of the problems involved in all aspects of primary production today. Can the Treasurer say whether the Government will seriously consider abolishing completely land tax on rural land?

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: In his letter the Minister of Lands, as far as my memory goes, quoted verbatim the comment I made when explaining the Budget, and there is nothing I can add at this moment.

ROBE WATER SUPPLY

Mr. CORCORAN: Will the Minister of Lands, representing the Minister of Works, obtain progress reports on work being carried out on the Beachport water supply and on the provision of reticulated water in the township of Robe?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I will bring down a report.

AMPLIFIERS

Mr. ALLEN: This afternoon I had school-children in the Strangers' Gallery, and when I went up to see them I discovered that it was not possible to hear some members' voices,

whereas other members' voices were clear. Will you, Mr. Speaker, take up this matter with a view to improving the amplification in the Strangers' Gallery?

The SPEAKER: I find it difficult myself to hear some members speak. I have endeavoured to acquaint members with the workings of the switches to get their voices amplified in the public gallery. Members have co-operated fairly well to see that that is done but, unfortunately, some members do not have strong voices and their remarks do not carry through the amplifiers very well. As we have had complaints from members in respect of the division bells not ringing in some rooms, this matter has been looked into. I have also asked about increasing the amplification and that matter, too, is now being looked into.

SCHOOL BUS ACCIDENT

Mr. VIRGO: Last week, the Minister of Education replied to a question I asked about an accident involving a school bus. In her reply she said that the person concerned had been driving a bus which was not approved by the board and that a copy of the police report was being sent to the next meeting for consideration. Has the Minister been informed of any action taken and, if she has not been so informed, will she ask the board and bring down a reply as soon as it is available?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: My report referred to the fact that this was a matter for the Road Traffic Board. I would think in these circumstances the question the honourable member has asked me should be addressed to the Minister representing the Minister of Roads and Transport, who will supply the report, a copy of which will be sent to me.

Mr. VIRGO: Will the Attorney-General accept the question that the Minister of Education has declined to accept and will he give effect to my request?

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: I will do whatever is necessary.

LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT

Mrs. BYRNE: When speaking in the Loan Estimates debate on October 7, I referred to the line "Libraries Department" and to the statement by the Auditor-General at page 105 of his report that an investigation had been commenced into irregularities in one section of the Libraries Department. At that time the Minister of Education said that the inquiry had not been completed. Will the Minister find out whether the inquiry has been completed

yet and, if it has not been, will she give a report to the House when it has been completed?

The Hon. JOYCE STEELE: The position is as it was when I replied to the honourable member previously: the inquiry has not been completed, and I shall have to wait until I have the report.

GARDEN SUBURB

Mr. VIRGO: As the Attorney-General knows, I have asked him many questions about the committee of inquiry into the proposed amalgamation of the Garden Suburb and the city of Mitcham. The last few questions have been on the basis of whether Cabinet has concluded considering the committee's report, which I understand has been submitted. Indeed, the Attorney-General told me that the report was before Cabinet and, on October 15, that Cabinet had not yet made a decision. I now ask him, four weeks after that time, whether Cabinet has yet made a decision on the matter.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE: Yes, Cabinet has made a decision: to refer the report back to the committee.

WHYALLA NATIONAL PARK

The Hon. R. R. LOVEDAY: Today's *Advertiser* contains a report of a significant and exciting expansion of national parks announced by the Minister of Lands, one such park listed being described as an area seven miles north of Whyalla, comprising 2,500 acres of saltbush, bluebush and myall typical of the bush country which has been an important factor in the sheep and wool industry. Can the Minister give more detail about the location of that area?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The best description I can give is that it is adjacent to the main road on the northern boundary of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited land. It is former pastoral country and its purchase was negotiated recently. I think the area will be greatly appreciated by the people of Whyalla in due course: the population of that city is increasing and residents have already shown an interest in going out into the country to see the natural vegetation. Because no grazing will be permitted on the land, it will quickly become more attractive than it is at present. Although I have not seen the area since it was acquired, I know the general location. It is adjacent to and west of the road from Whyalla to Port Augusta and, as the report states, it is about seven miles from Whyalla.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

Adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. R. S. Hall:

That for the remainder of the session Government business take precedence of all other business except questions.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2873.)

Motion carried.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (COURTS)

Bill recommitted.

Clause 4—"Arrangement of Act"—reconsidered.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I move:

In paragraph (c) after "(Sections 270-328a)," to add "and"; before paragraph (e) to strike out "and"; and to strike out paragraph (e).

These amendments are consequential upon the deletion of the clause concerning the appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal on points of law after an acquittal. There is nothing to them.

Amendments carried; clause as amended passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (WHYALLA)

The Legislative Council requested the House of Assembly to permit the member for Whyalla (Hon. R. R. Loveday) to attend and give evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Bill.

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

That the member for Whyalla be authorized to attend and give evidence before the Select Committee of the Legislative Council if he thinks fit to do so.

Motion carried.

JURIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2889.)

Remaining clauses (2 to 33) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (COURTS)

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2889.)

Clauses 2 to 8 passed.

Clause 9—"Appointment of senior special magistrate."

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I move:

In new section 13a (1) to strike out "seven" and insert "five".

The amendment results from representations made to me by the special magistrates to reduce the time qualification for appointment or nomination as a senior special magistrate from seven years to five years.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (10 to 16) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

JUVENILE COURTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2890.)

Remaining clauses (2 to 10) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

POOR PERSONS LEGAL ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2890.)

Remaining clauses (2 and 3) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

OFFENDERS PROBATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (COURTS)

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2890.)

Remaining clauses (2 to 5) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PRISONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL (COURTS)

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2890.)

Remaining clauses (2 to 7) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

EVIDENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2890.)

Remaining clauses (2 to 5) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

UNDERGROUND WATERS PRESERVATION BILL

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2894.)

Clause 20—"Artesian well to be capped, etc."

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I move to insert the following new subclause:

(6) The Minister may by notice in writing served upon the owner or occupier of any land grant an exemption from the provisions of this section in relation to a well situated upon the land and while such an exemption

(which may be limited in duration or revoked by a subsequent notice served upon the owner or occupier of the land) is in force, the provisions of this section shall not apply to or in relation to the well.

When progress was reported, some members expressed fear that this clause might be over-restrictive in relation to the many problems they raised. I agreed to look at the matter to see whether some addition could be made to this clause to provide for the matters they raised. I believe the amendment overcomes any special consideration that must be given, because the Minister will be able to give such special consideration, despite the fact that the first part of the clause states "An artesian well shall be capped". I believe the ability of the Minister to use his discretion meets every situation that has been raised on the point that it may not be desirable to cap some wells, because of technical reasons concerning efficient operation and continuation of water basins, and the point that it may be physically impossible to so cap them because of various reasons involving the situation of the well. I admit this is widely drawn and could encompass more than just the traditional bore with casing as we know it.

Mr. EVANS: I support the amendment. It has been explained to me that, regarding the main complaint I raised, the word "procuring" covers the point I made about the natural spring. The amendment goes a little further than that.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (21 to 61) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

CHIROPODISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2874.)

Mr. CLARK (Gawler): I support the Bill. I have listened with much interest to the Premier's second reading explanation and I have read the comments made in relation to the Bill. As far as I can gather, no-one has objected to the Bill. It seems to me that the matters that are adjusted by this Bill can be summed up very simply. Basically, it alters the composition of the Chiropody Board and increases its duties. The Bill ensures that no-one in future will be able to practise chiropody unless he or she holds a diploma or certificate from the South Australian Institute of Technology and the chiropodist

must be registered to practise. A penalty of \$200 is prescribed for practising as an unqualified person.

It is interesting to note that anyone who wants to practise under a fancy name such as a podiatrist or a foot therapist has to be registered as a chiropodist. There has been difficulty in the past with regard to people coming from other States with higher qualifications than are legally required in South Australia and being able to practise here, although not really qualified. This difficulty will be completely removed in the future.

The Hon. R. R. Loveday: What about people running a footorium or a podiatrium?

Mr. CLARK: I think it would cover a footorium, or even a podiatrium. The board will have the power to inspect premises and will have the right to enforce the carrying out of necessary repairs, under a penalty of \$200. The Bill provides also for reciprocity between the various States. These are the basic provisions of this Bill and I am pleased to support it.

Mr. GILES (Gumeracha): I am most interested in one or two aspects of this Bill. It is our job to see that members of the public get the very best of treatment from qualified people, whether such people be chiropodists, doctors, or any other practitioner, and I believe that this Bill is designed for this purpose. One or two things have been pointed out to me about this Bill. The board stipulates the source of qualifications of a practising chiropodist. I sincerely hope, and I have been assured, that the board will recognize the qualifications recognized in the United Kingdom and in the other States, provided that such qualifications are at least equal to those set down for the examinations conducted by the Institute of Technology. If this is the case, the practice is commendable.

Section 39 of the principal Act provides that no person shall assist in the practice of chiropody other than a registered chiropodist, which means that he or she must have passed the examination at the Institute of Technology, which is the standard set down by the Chiropody Board. Doctors and other professional men and women have assistants in their offices, and chiropodists in South Australia have nurses helping them prepare sterilized foot baths and instruments. I would be most disturbed if these nurses, because of this Bill, could not continue the work they had been doing since 1950. I am informed by a medical friend that this will not be the case but, if clause 19 of the Bill does stop these nurses

from helping chiropodists legitimately, I believe we should look at it very closely. However, as I am told that this will not be the case, I support the Bill.

Mr. HURST (Semaphore): I support the Bill because it will tidy up the Act, which has been in force since 1950 and which initiated the registration of chiropodists. The prime purpose of the Bill is to provide a clear definition and to prevent unqualified people from performing chiropody. The public should be assured of getting the service that they pay for.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 18 passed.

Clause 19—"Prohibition of employment of unregistered chiropodists in clinics."

Mr. GILES: I should like an assurance from the Premier that the nurses who have been helping honorary chiropodists at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, as well as nurses attending to patients in clinics, will not be prevented from continuing that practice. The chiropodists who do honorary work at hospitals are doing a commendable job, and available nurses have been helping them.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): As I am unable to give that assurance without inquiring of my colleague, I ask that progress be reported. Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2875.)

Mr. CORCORAN (Millicent): I support the Bill. As members know, the Fisheries Act Amendment Act of 1967 was passed as a result of an extensive inquiry into the fishing industry by a Select Committee of this House. The committee did an extremely good job, covering all aspects of the industry, and the measure to which I have referred afforded for the first time some control in the fishing industry in this State. Without that control, the industry would have been in a sorry state today. In fact, I agree with statements that this form of control should have been instituted 10 years or 15 years ago.

When the 1967 Act was contemplated, we faced many difficulties, because the measure interfered to a certain extent with people who would normally be regarded as being amateur

fishermen. However, it was necessary to subject these people to some inconvenience and financial loss to protect those in the industry and, more important, to see that the industry did not become over-established. This Bill does nothing more than replace the Fisheries Act Amendment Act of 1967, and this legislation will continue until a new fisheries Bill is introduced. This is another matter that was commenced as a result of the inquiry by the Select Committee, and for some time, Sir Edgar Bean, a former Parliamentary Draftsman, has been preparing a new Bill. If a measure is not introduced this session, it will be introduced next session. It will give desirable stimulus to the industry and deal with certain matters affecting the control of fisheries in this State. I have no objection to the Bill. It provides that, because the present Act expired on May 31, anyone who has contravened that Act from that time until now will have a defence that the Act does not apply, so retrospectivity is not involved. It is necessary for controls that can be implemented to continue, and I look forward to the introduction of a completely new measure to repeal the old Act.

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

PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. G. Pearson, for the Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier) moved:

That it be an instruction to the Committee of the whole House on the Bill that it have power to consider a new clause relating to the imposition of registration fees.

Motion carried.

In Committee.

(Continued from November 11. Page 2890.)

New clause 3a—"Imposition of registration fees."

The Hon. R. S. HALL: I move to insert the following new clause:

Section 92 of the principal Act is amended by striking out from subsection (2) the passage "five dollars" wherever it occurs and inserting in lieu thereof, in each case, the passage "one hundred dollars".

The new clause simply raises the fee to a figure commensurate with current money values.

New clause inserted.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

DOG FENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's message intimating that it insisted on its amendments Nos. 1 to 9 to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.

The Hon. ROBIN MILLHOUSE (Attorney-General): I want to do nothing more today than to ask that progress be reported.

Mr. HUDSON: In view of the signal achievement of progress, I second the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no need to second a motion in Committee.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

**PRISONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL
(PAROLE)**

Second reading.

The Hon. R. S. HALL (Premier): I move:
That this Bill be now read a second time.

Its purpose is to constitute a parole board and to define its powers and functions in relation to the release of prisoners on parole. A tendency exists in some sections of the community to think of the criminal court as the principal authority in the administration of the criminal law, and of all other authorities as subsidiary. Over the last decade, the whole purpose and function of law enforcement machinery has come under a close and exhaustive scrutiny to an extent that would never have been regarded as necessary before the Second World War. That scrutiny has clearly revealed that criminal justice connotes a much wider responsibility than the provision of means for investigation, trial and (where there is a conviction) sentence. It has been convincingly demonstrated that the interests of the community are as closely linked to the future of a prisoner after sentence as they were to the pre-trial and trial procedures in consequence of which he became a prisoner.

Under present law and administrative practice, a prisoner may, by good behaviour, ensure that he serves no more than two-thirds of his actual sentence, and, if successful as a petitioner under section 42 of the Prisons Act (as recently amended), may, on the recommendation of the Comptroller, be released on probation after serving no more than one-third of his actual sentence. If he is serving a sentence of life imprisonment a prisoner may, on the recommendation of the Comptroller, be released on licence pursuant to section 42a of

the same Act. Those two possibilities of early release, notwithstanding the terms of a judicial sentence, pose difficult problems of immediate concern to the community. Where release on probation or licence is in view, the two essential steps in the relevant procedures are (1) the recommendation of the Comptroller, and (2) exercise by the Executive Council of the discretion whether or not to advise the Governor to release.

The recommendation of the Comptroller is made largely on the basis of reports from prison and probation officers. There can be no doubt of the value of the work of those dedicated and hard-working officers, but to some extent the particular task given them by the Act places them in a position analogous to a magistrate required to be judge in his own cause. What is their task? It is at one and the same time to assemble facts (if any) tending to show the merit of the prisoner's petition, to assemble other facts (if any) tending to show the opposite, and then, objectively and impartially, to weigh all facts and, bearing in mind the interests of the prisoner and of the community, to agree in what is, in effect, a joint recommendation for the consideration of Cabinet knowing that except in special circumstances Cabinet will act on the recommendation. It is, perhaps, a task that an administrator would be prepared to accept if he was called on to perform it only rarely and for special reasons, but the recent "explosion" (as one may properly term it) of applications for release demonstrates that the task will never be so limited. It follows, therefore, that it is not really fair to continue to place a burden of that kind on probation officers and the Comptroller.

The task of deciding whether a prisoner should be released is a particularly exacting one. It requires, in this age, the discernment of a psychiatrist, the training of a sociologist, the background of a police officer, the knowledge of a prisons officer, and the patience and objectivity of a judge. To bring all those faculties to bear on the problem of each individual prisoner requires time and more time—time for hearing, time for discussion and exchange of views, and time for deliberation. The demands of the task are too great to be performed by Cabinet in the time available, as part of the ordinary business of Government. Moreover, honourable Ministers cannot expect, in every case, to be free of the embarrassments of political pressures. In contrast, the work of a parole board is not dissimilar to that of a court.

Indeed, a typical parole board may function rather as a judge does when sitting with the assistance of assessors. The Government has decided that the present system is unsatisfactory, and that the time has now come for all petitions for release (whether on licence or probation) to be heard and determined by an independent parole board. The parole board is to be presided over by a judge and include other members who have qualifications and experience of the kind referred to above. They would be appointed by the Governor for a definite term on the expiration of which they would be eligible for re-election.

The parole board is to have a most important responsibility in the administration of the criminal law. Judges without exception have stated publicly and privately that sentencing is probably the most difficult task that falls to their lot. So much has to be examined and considered; so much depends on the consequences of their deliberation; the law is able to provide so little by way of principles to guide the exercise of their discretion. The task of the parole board is essentially the same as that of the sentencing judge: it differs only in that the board has greater time to explore the situation, a later picture of the prisoners response to the machinery of the penal system and, perhaps because it considers that later picture, a more direct concern with rehabilitation.

The four great objects of the criminal law will however, still be in the forefront of the members' minds: retribution, prevention, deterrence and reform. The board will be virtually a standing Royal Commission with a Royal Commission's powers, charged with the responsibility of applying the primary sentence with greater flexibility, further and later information and greater power to meet the current needs of the community. Where the sentencing judge has to have resort to foresight, imagination and trust, the parole board, in relation to the same prisoner and the same crime, can rest its decision on up-to-date evidence and the proven progress (or the reverse) of the prisoner. It will be freed from the suspicion of politics, the conflict of interests, and the possibility of public service introversion.

The provisions of the Bill are as follows: Clauses 1, 2 and 3 are formal. Clause 4 amends the definition of "prisoner" to include a person under sentence of imprisonment but released on parole pursuant to the Act. Clause 5 enacts new Part IVA in the principal Act

under which the parole board is constituted and its functions defined. New section 42 inserts certain definitions necessary for the purposes of the Part. New section 42a constitutes the board. It is to consist of 10 members altogether, one of whom is to be a judge of the Supreme Court; one to be the Comptroller of Prisons; two are to be legally qualified medical practitioners; two are to be experienced sociologists; two are to be nominated by the South Australian Chamber of Manufactures, Incorporated; and two are to be nominated by the United Trades and Labor Council.

In practice, the board will consist of six members at any time when it is considering an application for parole, because where two persons of specified professions are to be appointed, one is to be a man and the other a woman, and the male members are to sit when an application by a male prisoner is being considered and a female member is to sit when an application by a female prisoner is being considered. New section 42b deals with the terms and conditions upon which the members hold their appointment. The Chairman is to be appointed for a term of five years and the other members are to be appointed for a term of three years. New section 42c deals with the procedure of the board. New section 42d entitles the members of the board to receive remuneration allowances and expenses as determined by the Governor. New section 42e is an evidentiary provision, and new section 42f invests the board with certain judicial powers.

New section 42g provides that the board is to make reports upon its activities and to report upon prisoners serving sentences of life imprisonment or indeterminate duration. New section 42h provides for the appointment of a secretary and parole officers. New section 42i imposes upon a judge an obligation to fix a non-parole period where a person is sentenced to imprisonment for more than one year. This requirement need not be complied with where the judge is of opinion that there are special circumstances that render it inappropriate to fix such a period. New section 42j deals with the situation where a prisoner is subject to more than one sentence of imprisonment. The court may, in imposing the subsequent sentence, vary a non-parole period previously fixed, or if it imposes a separate non-parole period the non-parole periods shall be cumulative or concurrent depending upon whether the sentences of imprisonment are cumulative or concurrent.

New section 42k invests the board with a wide discretion to release a prisoner upon parole. The parole may be upon such terms as the board thinks fit and specifies in the order. A prisoner released upon parole shall be subject to the supervision of a parole officer. New subsection (6) provides that a prisoner released upon probation or licence pursuant to the Act, as in force before the commencement of the amending Act, shall be deemed to be a prisoner released upon parole under the amended Act. New section 42l provides that a prisoner released upon parole shall remain upon parole for the term of his sentence, and if his probationary release is not cancelled the sentence of the court shall then be wholly satisfied.

New section 42m empowers the board to cancel the probationary release of a prisoner. If his release is cancelled the period that he has spent on parole does not count as part of his sentence. New section 42n empowers the board to release a prisoner upon parole, notwithstanding that on previous occasions his probationary release may have been cancelled. New section 42o empowers the board to make recommendations to the Governor that an habitual criminal be released on licence pursuant to section 323 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. New section 42p vests the board with authority to deal with sexual offenders detained pursuant to section 77a of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act. If the board is satisfied upon the reports of two legally qualified medical practitioners that a person detained is fit to be at liberty it may recommend to the Governor that he be released.

New section 42q empowers the Governor to make regulations for the purposes of the new Part. In particular, he may regulate the supervision of prisoners released upon parole and he may provide for the reduction of a non-parole period as an incentive to, or reward for, the good conduct or industry of a prisoner. New section 42r provides that the new Part does not limit the prerogative of mercy or any other prerogative exercisable by the Governor.

Mr. HUDSON (Glenelg): As there is an obvious weakness in making a speech without having previously seen the Bill, I ask that the debate be adjourned.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot make a speech when securing the adjournment of a debate. He must now seek leave to continue his remarks.

Mr. HUDSON: Very well, Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (PRISONS)

Second reading.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer):

I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The amendments made by it are consequential on those provided by the Prisons Act Amendment Bill at present before Parliament.

Mr. Hudson: Are you making this explanation as Minister of Housing?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer is making this speech.

Mr. Hudson: As what, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Treasurer.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON: In addition, the Bill inserts a new provision that is designed to deal with persons of psychopathic tendencies. These people frequently require long periods of restraint and treatment before they are in a fit condition to be returned to society. The present Bill therefore inserts a provision that will give the courts adequate power to deal effectively with persons who because of their ungovernable criminal propensities require extended periods of detention and treatment. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal, and clause 3 inserts a definition of "the parole board" in the principal Act.

Clause 4 amends section 77a of the principal Act to provide that the release of a sexual offender detained pursuant to that provision is dependent upon the recommendation of the parole board instead of the direct report of two legally qualified medical practitioners as at present. Honourable members will recall that the parole board is to consider the progress of sexual offenders detained pursuant to this section and the reports of medical practitioners upon whether such prisoners are fit to be released. Clause 5 inserts new section 313a in the principal Act. This is the provision to which I have previously referred which is designed to deal with psychopathic prisoners. It provides that where any person apparently of or above the age of 25 years has been convicted since the age of 18 years of three offences punishable by imprisonment for two years or more, and the court is satisfied that it is in the interests of the public or the interests of the prisoner that he should be

detained for a substantial period, the court may impose in lieu of any other sentence a sentence of imprisonment for a term of not less than 10 years.

Clause 6 amends section 323 of the principal Act. The recommendation for the release of an habitual criminal is to be made in future by the parole board instead of the Comptroller of Prisons. Clause 7 amends section 328 of the principal Act. These amendments are consequential upon the enactment of the provisions establishing a parole board.

Mr. HUDSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

OFFENDERS PROBATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (SUSPENSIONS)

Second reading.

The Hon. G. G. PEARSON (Treasurer): I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Although this Bill is not directly related to the establishment of a parole board, it is connected with the general reform of penal law that is being undertaken by the Government at present. It fulfils a long-felt need in that it enables the courts to impose suspended sentences of imprisonment upon offenders. Thus a court may sentence an offender to imprisonment, but may suspend the operation of that sentence provided that the offender observes the conditions of a bond to be of good behaviour and such other conditions as the court thinks appropriate to the case. Clause 1 is formal, and clause 2 amends section 4 of the principal Act. The amendment provides that, where a person is convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment and the court is of the opinion that there are circumstances justifying a suspended sentence, it may sentence the offender to imprisonment but suspend the sentence upon condition that the convicted person enters into, and observes the terms and conditions of, a recognizance to be of good behaviour for a term not exceeding three years, fixed by the court.

New subsection (2b) provides that if during the term of the recognizance the offender properly observes the conditions upon which he was released the sentence of imprisonment shall be wholly extinguished. Clause 3 amends section 9 of the principal Act. New subsection (4) will provide that if a person upon whom a suspended sentence has been imposed fails to observe the terms of his bond the court

before which he has been brought shall order that the suspension be revoked and the sentence carried into effect.

Mr. HUDSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

BUILDERS LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 6. Page 2829.)

Mr. EVANS (Onkaparinga): I support this Bill in the main. It has been said by some members that I do not believe in licensing generally and that I object to the licensing of builders completely. Although I agree to licensing under certain conditions prevailing in this State, I do not believe that the present Act serves the purposes that it was originally intended to serve.

Mr. Casey: Why?

Mr. EVANS: If the member for Frome keeps quiet a little while, I shall try to tell him. I should like to deal, first, with comments contained in a letter published in the newspaper. This letter, which was written by Mr. West, referred to remarks that I had made to members of the Master Painters, Decorators and Signwriters Association. I believe that, now that Mr. West has had an opportunity to meet me, he may have a little more respect for my opinions and knowledge of the industry. If he has not, I shall be disappointed. Even if the Act is amended by this Bill, I consider that there will be much more day work and therefore more day workers in the industry and that many subcontractors will be forced out of it.

Mr. Corcoran: Would that be a good thing?

Mr. EVANS: At the moment 70 per cent of those employed in the building trade are subcontractors.

Mr. Clark: That doesn't necessarily mean they are good.

Mr. EVANS: No; nor does it make the day workers (the other 30 per cent) good. Among the subcontractors would be some of the hardest and most honest and dedicated workers in this State.

Mr. Hudson: What will prevent their getting a licence under the principle Act?

Mr. EVANS: I have not said they will be prevented from getting one, but one of the purposes of the Act is to make it more difficult for these people to operate, and some of them will eventually be forced out of the industry.

If the intention is to force out the subcontractor (and someone opposite said that would be a good job), I am disappointed. I agree that some substandard houses have been built in this State by subcontractors, by builders who do not have much respect for the industry, and by a Government organization known as the Housing Trust. In any case, I do not believe that many builders set out intending to build substandard houses. Most complaints about substandard houses result from the erection of houses on types of soil that are not suitable for housing unless the purchaser is prepared to pay a large increase in cost to put in special foundations.

As a Government agency, the Housing Trust acquired large tracts of land on which it built houses, not realizing at the time how serious the soil problem was. We have tended to drop our building standards and, in most cases, the Housing Trust has given the lead. Before the standards were changed, it dropped ceiling heights 6in. Also, it gave the lead in using brick on edge instead of brick on flat, this method perhaps having led to a down-grading in the standard of houses in the State. It has been argued that the builders in Western Australia are happy with the registration system which operates in that State and which has operated there for the last 30 years. Builders here would be happy if there was a backlog of about 1,800 houses as there is in Western Australia, where the supply is a long way behind the demand.

Mr. Langley: It hasn't always been like that.

Mr. EVANS: It has been like it for the last 12 of the 30 years.

Mr. Hudson: That's not so.

Mr. EVANS: For the last 12 of the last 30 years supply has lagged behind demand in Western Australia, although not always to the present extent.

Mr. Hudson: Are you including the six war years in that 12?

Mr. EVANS: I am referring to the immediate past 12 years. Regarding houses built in Western Australia, I know of one house that is being stucco and cement rendered. It was supposed to have finished brick work, but it was not acceptable and it had to be stucco and cement rendered. The builder involved will not lose his licence but will merely be reprimanded, and the person buying the house has to accept the cement-rendered finish instead of the brick finish. Proportionately, that State has as many

complaints about substandard housing as we have. The registration of builders there has not done away with the person who does substandard work.

The Hon. G. G. Pearson: You'll agree that the general building land is much more suitable in Western Australia than it is here?

Mr. EVANS: Of course, the soil types are generally better in Western Australia, where there is not the soil movement that is the cause of most complaints here. I think all members would agree that most complaints made in this State concern the cracking of houses, and this is caused mainly by soil movement. If suitable foundations for this type of soil were used, houses would be placed out of the financial reach of the average man.

Mrs. Byrne: That's not so.

Mr. EVANS: It is, as the honourable member will learn when she receives a reply to the question she has asked about this matter. Not all houses crack, because sometimes the soil movement is greater in one area than another, and this applies even in the case of houses that are close to one another. There have been cases of cracks appearing in Government buildings that have been built under strict supervision. However, owing to the type of soil they have also cracked. It has been argued that possibly the \$500 limit in the Bill is too high. Although I am not willing to accept that it is too high, I believe possibly some adjustment should be made.

I will pay attention to this at the Committee stage, for I feel this is mainly a Committee Bill. However, as a result of the accusations made against me I shall cover some other points in this debate. It has been said that factories and prefabricated and timberframe buildings should not have been removed from the ambit of the Bill. I believe that all members said during the previous debate on this matter that the main purpose of this legislation was to protect the house owner from shonky building.

Mr. Hudson: To do that you have to improve standards.

Mr. EVANS: The intention now in the Bill is the same, except that prefabricated and timber frame buildings have been removed. If a factory is to be built in an area, the council in that area specifies the stresses and the type of strength that structures must have. Prefabricated buildings can be inspected right up until the completion of the structure work with all the work still visible. However, houses of solid masonry are lined and one can see only

the finished article. It has been said that many factories around the city are a disgrace and that we should not be proud of them. However, many such factories were built when materials were hard to come by. In fact, many of the houses about which we receive complaints were built when people were prepared to accept anything in order to get a house, for we were behind with building materials at that time.

I believe that, in the main, the State can be proud of its houses, for our standard is equal to that in any other State. All States have some houses that do not come up to par. I do not think this legislation can be implemented without the cost of housing increasing to some degree, although I do not say that will be a marked increase. I have spoken to ceiling contractors and master painters about this matter. I have also been told that to paint my house the quote would vary substantially from \$200 to \$600. If I accepted the quote of \$200, my own common sense should tell me that I should be cautious about the type of work that would be carried out. If I was not careful about this, I could not expect a first-class job. I know that in the case of cottage work taking place today (and this applied in the past) there is much cut-throat competition taking place in the painting field. Mainly painters accept responsibility if they are members of the Master Painters, Decorators and Signwriters Association, for the association guarantees for two years the painters' work up to \$500 on any one contract. However, if the paint peels off a house after two years (and two years is not a long time) and a person challenges the paint company representative, he will be told that the company cannot accept responsibility, for even many of the painters who belong to the association tend to water down their paint, not to make it a weaker mixture (they may put two coats on) but to make it easier to apply more quickly. The paint manufacturers do not accept responsibility once a tin of paint has been opened, although I understand that there are some exceptions to that and that one paint firm offers a guaranteed maintenance service for a fixed number of years, in terms of which the firm will maintain the paint work in good condition for that time. This system has been accepted in the Eastern States and it will be introduced in South Australia in time.

I know that most painting contracts for cottage work will be for amounts of less than \$500, but I do not consider painting to come within the meaning of structural defects. If

a person accepts a quote that is on the borderline, it is up to him to make sure that he gets a good job, because quality cannot be bought at the lowest price. Because a structural defect would not be involved, we should not control the painting industry. Regarding apprenticeships in the painting trade, I consider it wrong to require an apprentice to spend three years at school and two years on practical work. Any young man or woman could learn the painting trade to a high standard in three years but, because of the long period of apprenticeship now operating, young men will not enter that trade. It is not price-cutting that keeps apprentices out of painting.

I appreciate the organizations' making representations to me, although our opinions may have differed. The Fibrous Plaster and Ceiling Contractors' Association has difficulties. One is that, whereas 10 years ago 75 per cent of cottage ceilings in this State were of fibrous plaster, the rest being plaster board or other types of ceiling, today 75 per cent of the ceilings are plaster board, only 25 per cent being fibrous plaster. A young man entering the fibrous plaster trade must serve an apprenticeship of five years, but the people who fix plaster board attend only a three-day school to become capable of fixing that type of board to the satisfaction of the suppliers, architects, builders, and house owners. It would be wise to bring these plaster board fixers into a similar category to that of persons in the fibrous plaster trade by requiring an apprenticeship. At the same time, the term of apprenticeship for fibrous plasterers and ceiling workers should be reduced.

Today we seldom have fancy cornice work or moulding done, so who would consider an apprenticeship period of five years to be necessary? The work is so simple that a young man may learn it in a year; he certainly could learn it in three years. This is one reason why those in the fibrous plaster business are being affected adversely. The material is not being used and even members of the association have gone out fixing plaster board instead of fibrous plaster. Because the fibrous plasterers have established large factories and have over-employed, they are now over-capitalized. This is a payment we have to make for progress, and it cannot be overcome. The provision regarding \$500 may be too high in the two trades to which I have referred.

I accept the point of view of the member for Glenelg (Mr. Hudson) to some extent, in that a person can use the clause that gives

an individual the right to contract for his house unfairly. There may be room for a person to move outside the intention of the Act, but we should not worry about this until it happens. We should impose as little restriction and control as possible. Every year we impose more control on the citizen, so reducing his rights. If I want to build a house for myself, I should be able to approach anyone I like, how and when I like, as long as I guarantee to retain ownership of the house for a certain time.

Mr. Broomhill: What if you don't keep it?

Mr. EVANS: Then it would be up to the buyer to make sure that he knew how the house was built and by whom. If registration of builders is introduced, a prospective buyer who has any common sense will ask how the house was built. According to the provisions of this Bill, the person concerned would have to tell him. However, if I want to build a house at weekends with some mates and do not want to sell it, that is my prerogative and I should be free to do so.

Mr. Langley: You can still build it yourself, if you want to.

Mr. EVANS: That would apply only if a person so employed was a registered builder and a person could not employ a person who was not so registered. A subcontractor could be employed. I told the master builders, the master painters, and the fibrous plasterers that, if the Government enforced compulsory licensing, the builders or someone else should put up a bond. There is no protection for the house owner. Within a few years some type of bond will have to be accepted by the builders, or by Government, as is the case in West Germany, where licensing is compulsory. The Government accepts responsibility. If it registers a builder, it guarantees his work for two years. If the builder falls down on the job, the Government catches up with him and sees that the fault is rectified.

Mr. Broomhill: Will you move an amendment to that effect?

Mr. EVANS: No, not at present, because I should like to see the measure in operation first. In our society today we tend to lose much of our personal control too easily. I also consider that a good painter will cover up a multitude of faults made by other tradesmen. The member for Unley, who has been an electrician for some time, would have heard this comment many times in the trade: it is a

standard saying that a good painter will cover up a multitude of sins. I believe in the licensing of electricians, because they carry out dangerous work and persons could receive an electric shock if the work were not done properly. I know of a recent case where a person built a house with the aid of a loan from an organization and the rotary clothes hoist, television set, stereogram, footpaths and fencing were included in the contract. So, it may not be long before even the card table and everything else will be included in the contract. This may be the thinking of some members, but it is not my line of thinking. I agree to registration to a certain extent and I support the Bill which, I believe, will help improve the standard of building in some cases. One of the first things we must do is to legislate for the compulsory soil testing of all house sites before the foundations are poured. The foundations are the first and most important component in house building and the component about which most complaints are made today.

We may be tackling this matter from the wrong end. I do not believe that the advisory committee should be reinstated or left in the Act. I have sufficient respect for the board members, whoever they may be in the future, to know that if they are to deal with any fibrous plastering matter they will approach the employer and employee representatives of the industry (and do the same with carpenters, painters, and cabinet makers), so there is no need to have a fixed body of representatives at all times. It should be up to the board to call in whomsoever it thinks desirable to discuss problems.

We can be proud of our housing, building industry, and many of the people who belong to the Master Builders Association and the Housing Association who started out with practically nothing (perhaps as a bricklayer or carpenter) and who today are some of the most successful builders of quality homes in the country. We should appreciate their services and the work they have put into the industry.

Mr. Langley: They will get a licence.

Mr. EVANS: I agree, but we should look to the future and make sure that it will be as easy for the young man who has similar qualifications but who lacks capital as they lacked it when they started in the industry. This is one of the fears I have.

Mr. Langley: They will get a licence.

Mr. EVANS: The Act will remain in force after the member for Unley and I have departed from this good earth. We should not make it difficult for a young man who has the qualifications and ambition to go into the industry in the future. Except for the one clause on which I have some reservations on the \$500 limit, I support the Bill, commend it to the House, and congratulate the Minister of Housing on the drafting of it.

Mrs. BYRNE (Barossa): I oppose the Bill. I wonder whether there has ever been an Act that has never been tried, yet has been amended before it has been put into effect. No-one can argue that this is an unsatisfactory Act, when it has not even been tried. The Bill was assented to by the Governor on November 16, 1967, and regulations under the Act were gazetted on April 11, 1968. As the member for Onkaparinga said, the Act was introduced to protect house builders, but it was also introduced to improve building standards and to preclude operators who were unable to measure up to certain standards. Even the member for Onkaparinga, who supports the Bill, has admitted that certain builders are building substandard houses.

The present Act is the result of a compromise: it is really only a watered-down version of what the Labor Government wanted when it was in office, but we all know that conferences took place and that the Act was the result of them. At the time, it was realized that the Act did not have the support of the then Opposition and most of the members of another place and, in my opinion, now that the then Opposition is the Government it is using its power to amend the Act to make it virtually ineffective. However, even before I became a member of Parliament I thought that such an Act was necessary.

In Western Australia, builders have been registered for 30 years, so why should builders here not be registered? In the main, master builders want such registration. The reason I have always considered such legislation necessary is that various housebuilding complaints have been brought to my attention.

Like other members, I have witnessed the results of poor workmanship and have seen cracked houses. I remember being told about an 18-year-old boy who had been sent out by a builder to erect a staircase in a two-storey house. He did not know how to do this, so he went farther down the street to another two-storey house, knocked on the door, and asked the owner whether he could see how the

staircase had been erected. Whether someone later used the staircase he built and had an accident or whether the stairs fell down, I do not know.

I have twice seen a woman helping lay foundations and, although I believe in equality of the sexes (but only when women are qualified to do a job), I doubt whether the woman in this case was qualified to lay foundations. However, I assumed that she was helping her husband who had sub-contracted to do the job. I hope that he did not undercut the price, but he probably did. Many bankruptcies occur in the building industry and many bankrupt builders start up under the name of their wife or a company name.

Mr. Hurst: Or a holding company.

Mrs. BYRNE: Yes, or they leave South Australia and go to another State. Unfortunately, those who have purchased faulty houses have no redress. This Act was assented to in November, 1967, and regulations were gazetted in April 1968, but now, 18 months later, nothing has been done. In the meantime, substandard buildings, repairs, and renovations have continued unchecked. Most of the work has been satisfactorily undertaken by reputable builders who accept the responsibility before and after the maintenance period has expired. However, there are builders (in the minority, of course) who do shoddy work, and I refer particularly to estate agents or building brokers who set up as builders, although all do not build unsatisfactory houses. Anyone can start as a builder without qualifications, with the result that some houses after a short time show defects and faults. In some cases cheap and inferior materials have been used and the workmanship is also poor.

Although I have quoted many examples of this and will not repeat them, I have a detailed report on a house built by a builder, who I should think was reputable. It was prepared by a leading architect, whose name would be familiar to all members, and he reports on the workmanship, materials, and deviations from the specifications. The report states, *inter alia*:

Hair cracks in brickwork adjacent to the south-west corner suggest movement in footings. The cement render to footings has been poorly done and does not carry down to ground level. Bed joint on damp proof course, external brickwork, has gaps in certain places particularly on west side of house. Shrinkage cracks apparent in the carport floor slab. The site has been left in an untidy condition with broken bricks, tiles and other rubbish. Broken

roof tile in one part of the roof. Water from the roof seems to penetrate over the porch eaves. Battens to carport ceiling are rough and should be sanded and repainted.

The report refers to excessive gaps between floor boards, and states that some areas of terrazzo floor in the bathroom and toilet require more grinding and should be smoothed off. The walls seem to have cracked because of movement, and the cracks were patched before being painted. Small hair cracks were also evident, and plastering in some rooms was rough. Holes in the room ventilators were blocked with plaster, and the sill tiles in the kitchen were cracked and there was a gap between tiles and the aluminium window frame. The report then refers to matters concerning the ceilings, window frames, doors and frames, and sundry items, but I have detailed enough to show members what was the condition of this house. What sort of situation has this unsuspecting house purchaser found himself in? Obviously, it has caused him much worry, particularly as he had invested most of his money in the house. Although the member for Onkaparinga said that a good painter could cover defects, that would be impossible to do in this house.

All houses cannot be resold to unsuspecting persons, and the owners have suffered ill health because of the worry of the situation. No doubt they thought that they were settled for life, but often people have to leave the area in which they have decided to live and move somewhere else, an action that unsettles the children by upsetting their education. Under the provisions of this Act the Housing Trust is to be the holder of a current and valid general builder's licence, which gives the trust the power to carry out building work, subject to the work's being done under the supervision and control of competent persons.

I now refer to the houses built by the trust at Holden Hill. The Minister of Housing, the member for Enfield, and I visited these houses to inspect the faulty workmanship, which has been attributed to excessive soil movement, but I do not accept this as the sole reason. The extensive cracking that we saw has not taken place in an adjoining subdivision that was erected by a private builder, where houses have shown some minor faults and where the houses built by the private builder similarly to the trust's houses were built as economically as possible so that they could be bought by people on an average wage.

Mr. McKee: That is no reason to erect shoddy houses.

Mrs. BYRNE: Of course not. The member for Onkaparinga said that if provision had been made to ensure that these houses did not crack the price would have been out of reach of the average person, but that is not so. Although I do not know the present price of providing W. and G. foundation treatment, I suppose it would not be more than \$400 for a house of average area, and this sort of treatment would be advantageous. I think all people would prefer to pay extra when they purchase the house to paying continually for repairs afterwards. By paying extra and having better foundations, or foundation treatments, they would not have the worry later of seeing their houses crack.

Many reasons have been given for the cracking in the houses built by the trust at Holden Hill. The trust has stated that it does not proceed to install any foundations without obtaining reports from one of the "best equipped soil laboratories in South Australia", and that the foundations provided were, in fact, larger than the trust's soils engineer had recommended. It has been pointed out to me by occupants of houses in the area that perhaps the dwarf walls are at fault, although, on the other hand, I have been told that the internal dwarf walls comply with both the Building Act and the standards laid down by the lending authorities. The reason for the defects may be lack of supervision by the trust. In any case, bearing in mind the fact that houses of a similar type in the adjoining subdivision have not been affected, I do not accept the view that cracking has been caused by excessive soil movement alone.

I think the trust could build better-designed houses, and I am inclined to think that the average rooms provided are too small for family requirements. I do not think that larger rooms would mean greatly increased cost. Clause 16 (a) strikes out "one hundred dollars if the building work consisted solely of painting work, or two hundred and fifty dollars in any other case" and inserts in lieu thereof "five hundred dollars". I think the original provision was inserted mainly to protect widows and pensioners requiring small jobs to be carried out. However, if \$500 is inserted, it will possibly mean that new building work will be undertaken. It has been pointed out by other members, as well as in correspondence that we have all received from the Fibrous Plaster and Ceiling Contractors' Association

and the Master Painters, Decorators and Sign-writers' Association, that increasing the sum will not be in the best interests of the industry, because of the improper practices and unfair tendering that are rife in the industry today. Clause 16 (b) allows a person to have a dwelling erected by an unlicensed builder provided that he obtains in writing a notice "to the effect that the house or dwelling is intended for that other person's personal use and occupation".

Obviously, this is one of the worst amendments sought to be made to the Act. It is all right to say that a house is being built for a person's private use, but there is nothing to stop the person concerned from selling the house within a week of taking possession of it, with the result that someone else may be saddled with the worry of a badly-constructed house. We should be trying to ensure that all houses are of the highest possible standard. In addition, I think this provision will encourage such builders to undercut prices, for obviously some people will accept houses built in these circumstances if the price quoted is less than that quoted by another builder. I think that as a result of this clause some builders will

have roneoed forms that will be signed by people without their giving much thought to what they are doing. We all know that houses must comply with the Building Act, but the Act is outmoded in some respects. I have some houses in my district which have been condemned and which are unoccupied as a result of poor workmanship in the first place, and they are an eyesore to all those living in the area. These amendments obviously do not have the support of all the employer and employee organizations in the industry. Indeed, I am convinced that if the Bill passes I will still be referring frequently in this place to the poor workmanship in houses that will continue to prevail. I believe that, if the present Act had been tried, the unsatisfactory conditions to which I have referred would no longer exist.

Mr. WARDLE secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.30 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 18, at 2 p.m.