

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, July 15, 1970

The SPEAKER (Hon. R. E. Hurst) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS

## MURRAY STORAGES

Mr. HALL: The Premier will be very much aware that the recent change of Government in South Australia hinged upon a vote taken previously in this House concerning water supplies for South Australia, he and his Party having voted for a proposition under which South Australia must obtain two dams at one time, or none. Before the House first met, a statement was made indicating that no arrangements had been entered into concerning negotiations by the new Government to obtain two dams for South Australia. His Excellency's Speech, which was given yesterday, indicates that negotiations are proceeding with the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Victorian Governments concerning a revision of the River Murray Waters Agreement. Because of the gravity of this situation in relation to South Australia's development and the need to guarantee the State's future water supplies, I ask the Premier what progress he has made towards fulfilling his promise to South Australia, according to his vote in this House, to obtain two dams for South Australia.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I had informal talks with the Minister for National Development, the Premier of New South Wales and, very shortly indeed, with Sir Henry Bolte (but at greater length with the Deputy Premier of Victoria, Sir Arthur Rylah), and they all asked me to put in writing the basis on which I believed negotiations should proceed. I have done so and have directed the matter to them and to the Prime Minister, and I have asked for a meeting within a month to discuss those matters, which include some matters not discussed in this House but raised previously by the Commonwealth Government in relation to the quality and control of water in the Murray River. I am awaiting replies from the Governments of the two other States and the Commonwealth.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In his reply, the Premier said that he had put in writing the basis on which the negotiations should proceed. I recall that there have been several changes of ground and opinion by the Premier and others—

Mr. Langley: Including yourself.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: —on the question of future works on the Murray River. I well recall the rather colourful simile the Premier, who was then the Leader of the Opposition, used in relation to me on the same topic on, I think, the last evening of the last session. As this matter is of great importance and interest to South Australians and as there has been much controversy on how we should proceed, will the Premier tell the House what is the basis that he has proposed for renegotiation of the agreement?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The basis was the one stated to the House by the Labor Party in the debate before the election and at the election, and the only other matter is the matter of quality, to which I have referred.

Mr. Millhouse: What is that basis?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member can read *Hansard* as well as anyone else can.

Mr. CUMBE: Last year the River Murray Commission produced several reports about the Dartmouth proposal and the Chowilla project, and these were made available freely to members. One report, commonly known as the Gutteridge report, dealing with salinity, is outstanding. I understand that the commission has already received it and I presume that the Minister of Works also would have received a copy of it. As this report is of extreme importance to the whole question of the Murray River and its future development, if the Minister has received and studied a copy of the report, will he table it in the same way as I tabled the other reports last year?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have not seen the report yet but, because of the honourable member's question, I will inquire immediately and, if the report is available, I see no objection to tabling it or making it available to members who wish to study it. I will let the honourable member know by tomorrow the result of my inquiries.

## WHEAT SALES

Mr. McKEE: I understand that, as a result of the recent mice plague, some wheat has been rejected and some oversea sales of wheat cancelled, for the quality of the wheat has been affected by the mice pollution. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture to what extent farmers have been affected financially as a result?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to refer the matter to my colleague and to obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### KANGAROO ISLAND SETTLERS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: A few weeks before the election, before the previous Government left office, as Minister of Lands I wrote to the Minister for Primary Industry (Mr. Anthony) about the economic situation of war service land settlers on Kangaroo Island. Settlers there, particularly those growing corriedale wool compared with those growing merino wool, are in difficulty. Although they have greatly increased their production, they are receiving a smaller return for their wool. In my letter, I cited one case of a settler who had increased his wool production by 30 per cent while, during the same period, his return had declined by 15 per cent. Since then the problem has probably been accentuated. I asked the Minister for Primary Industry to agree to send an officer to South Australia to examine and discuss the problem. This problem does not affect settlers generally, it being related to war service settlers on Kangaroo Island. When I left office, although I might have received an acknowledgment, I had certainly not received a firm reply. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Lands whether anything has developed since then?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to take up this matter with my colleague and obtain a report for the honourable member as soon as possible.

#### COMMERCIAL ROAD STATION

Mr. RYAN: On several occasions in recent years I have spoken to the Minister of Roads and Transport about the Port Adelaide Commercial Road railway station, which probably would be one of the greatest eyesores in South Australia.

Mr. Jennings: It has all the earmarks of an eyesore.

Mr. RYAN: Yes, and it also has the foundations of one. When I raised this matter previously I was told that the Railways Department had plans to renovate and improve the station and that the work would proceed during the 1969-70 financial year. However, apparently none of this renovation work has been done. Will the present Minister obtain from the Railways Commissioner a report on when any renovation work will be carried out at this station?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Perhaps I should correct one matter. The honourable member may have approached the Minister on several occasions, but those approaches were not made to me: presumably the honourable member meant that they were made to the former Minister.

Mr. Ryan: Yes, the previous one.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to take up the matter on behalf of the honourable member and give him a suitable reply as soon as possible.

#### BUILDING REGISTER

Mr. CLARK: Part of a letter that I received recently from a constituent who lives at Elizabeth North states:

Enclosed please find a form, which I think should have your attention. It is the second one received this year by us, and very misleading. I have never dealt with these people previously and I am afraid other more innocent persons will fall for this trap. As I do not know the right channels to complain about this, I have taken the liberty to write to you. He enclosed a form from the Australian Building Industry Register that seems to be in the form of an account. It states:

Your entry in the 1970-71 edition will appear as classified.

An amount of \$22 is stated and the words, "If paid in 10 days 5 per cent discount". The form also states:

This *pro forma* becomes effective on remittance.

I have spoken to this constituent about the matter and, apparently, this type of form is sent out and anyone who is foolish enough to fall for it and pay the money obtains an entry in this journal. This seems to me to be a rather questionable practice. The letterhead shows an address in Sydney but, apparently, this firm is a subsidiary of a London company. If I hand this letter to the Attorney-General will he ascertain what is the situation concerning such practices?

The Hon. L. J. KING: If the honourable member would be good enough to let me have the papers I shall have the matter investigated in order to ascertain whether there has been any infringement of the law and, if there has not been, to consider whether the law should be altered.

#### AIR RIFLES

Dr. TONKIN: I think that yesterday we were all saddened, as usual, to see press reports of a young boy having lost an eye after being hit with an air gun pellet. This is something that frequently happens and, in the

course of my professional life, I see it too regularly, and so do my colleagues. Because of the potential danger to eyesight presented by the unrestricted and unskilled use of air guns, will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary to consider amending the Firearms Act to bring rifled air guns within its scope?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I think that this matter has been a source of considerable worry to many people for years. I do not know where the solution lies, but I will certainly ask the Chief Secretary to consider this matter.

#### MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL

Mr. BURDON: I understand that considerable development is to take place soon at the Mount Gambier Hospital. As I have asked many questions in the past concerning the provision of resident medical officers at this hospital, will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary whether provision has been made in these plans for resident doctors to be stationed at Mount Gambier after the proposed extensions have been completed?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will ascertain the position and give the information to the honourable member.

#### GAUGE STANDARDIZATION

Mr. VENNING: Before the recent election the then Leader of the Opposition said that he would build a railway line connecting Adelaide with Crystal Brook on the standard gauge line that runs from Port Pirie to Broken Hill. I do not know whether the Premier has read the Maunsell report, or what information he had before he made that statement, but he said it was his policy to do this. Since then, it seems to me that he has now changed his opinion and that he is accepting a report compiled by the South Australian Railways Commissioner. Why has the Premier changed his mind? Did he not have all the available information in the first place? If he did not have it, why has he made his statement?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As usual, the honourable member has not quoted the words I used but has attributed to me words I did not use. I suggest that he read my policy speech on the standard gauge proposal. The Labor Party has always supported pressing the Commonwealth Government for an adequate allocation for connecting Adelaide to the standard gauge railway system. Indeed, it has constantly put forward this proposal: it did it while it was in office previously, and it is doing it now; there has been not the slightest change in its policy. However, as the honourable member has raised the matter, I can

repeat to the House that to my amazement and that of other Government members we discovered after taking office that a report from Maunsell and Partners proposed a new standard gauge line from Crystal Brook to Islington and that hardly any of the major areas of the Adelaide industrial complex would have been connected to the standard gauge line. Indeed, there would have been transshipment or bogie exchange at Islington for most South Australian industrial products and anything coming from the Eastern States would have had to travel an extra 22 miles by rail. Also, the proposal would have involved expenditure that would leave the State with its proportion of the funds having been spent, and most of our industries would still be faced with the same problems that they face now.

To our amazement, we also found that the South Australian Railways Commissioner had reported to the Government that this would be disastrous to South Australian industry, that there could be a proposal not for the building of a new line but for the conversion of the existing line, and for the connection of most of the South Australian industrial complex to that line within the cost proposed in the Maunsell report. That report, which was in the hands of the previous Government, had not been communicated to the Prime Minister or to the relevant Commonwealth Minister. As this was a matter of grave concern to us, I wrote the following letter to the Prime Minister:

In the short time that my Government has been in office, it has given a great deal of thought and consideration to the furtherance of the rail standardization project in South Australia, particularly with regard to a line between Adelaide and Port Pirie.

When the report submitted by Maunsell and Partners on the proposed standard gauge connection between Adelaide and the East-West standard gauge railway was received, the South Australian Railways Commissioner was asked by the previous Government to study the proposals in detail. I understand that the Railways Commissioner had undertaken a similar study in 1965 and that his findings at that time were forwarded to the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner who, in terms of a letter dated August 8, 1964, from Sir Robert Menzies to Sir Thomas Playford, was to prepare a report in consultation with the South Australian Commissioner.

I must now say that the tenor and substance of the report by the South Australian Railways Commissioner on the present proposals of Maunsell and Partners were not conveyed to your Government by my predecessor. The South Australian Railways Commissioner's report points out that Maunsell's proposals, while eliminating passenger and some freight and livestock transfers, did not attempt to

eliminate transfers in respect of products of the bulk of South Australian industry. I believe that the acceptance of Maunsell's report would necessarily proliferate transfer stations (including two three-gauge yards), result in continued multi-gauge working and in increased ton mileage.

My Railways Commissioner has undertaken studies of alternative proposals for gauge standardization which offer an efficient integrated network. These studies show conclusively that a scheme providing for standard gauge access to all major South Australian industries, which involve interstate movements as well as eliminating the costly and inefficient working associated with isolated narrow gauge lines, would show substantially better operating costs than those estimated under the Maunsell proposals, and at the same time would be capable of being constructed at no greater aggregate cost (and possibly significantly less) than that estimated by the consultants for their scheme. I understand that the operational advantages of the South Australian Railways Commissioner's proposition approximate \$200,000 a year.

It is indeed to be regretted that the previous South Australian Government did not apprise your Government of the nature of my Commissioner's report because it would now appear that your Government's decision as conveyed in Mr. Sinclair's letter of May 27, 1970, to Mr. Hall, was made without knowledge of the considerations and proposals put to the previous South Australian Government by the Railways Commissioner.

My Government is confident that the nation and the State of South Australia would be far better served if Maunsell's proposals were not hurriedly adopted at this stage and that deep and searching consideration should be given also to the alternative proposals of my Railways Commissioner. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that should the Commonwealth agree to make funds available to the extent proposed by Maunsell's as the cost of their scheme, the entire standardization works proposed by South Australia can be carried out under Commonwealth surveillance within the amount proposed by Maunsell's for the whole of their scheme. In this connection, I believe that a proper and logical first step is that appropriate Commonwealth officers discuss our proposals with my Minister of Roads and Transport and appropriate officers of the South Australian Railways.

In his letter, Mr. Sinclair suggested that a new agreement embodying similar financial arrangements as those in the 1949 agreement be made. However, I am of the firm opinion that the 1949 agreement already provides the necessary authority for all of the standardization works now contemplated. Consequently, I do not think that a new agreement is necessary. In view of the importance of this matter both to the nation and to the State of South Australia, I would indeed be grateful for your very early consideration to my proposals.

I wrote back to the Prime Minister on June 11. So far, I have not had a reply. I incorporated the terms of the Railways Commissioner's

report, and I shall be happy to make that available to the honourable member if he wishes.

### FLUORIDATION

Mr. SLATER: Can the Minister of Works say what progress has been made on fluoridating the metropolitan water supply and when the plan is likely to be fully implemented?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member was good enough to inform me that he would ask this question, and I have obtained a report from my department, which states:

Subject to scheduled delivery of metering equipment from the United States of America, all metropolitan fluoridating stations should be ready for operation on September 1, 1970. All eight plants will be commissioned as soon as physically possible from that date. The public will be given notification of the date on which the first plant will be started and advised that fluoride tablets should be dispensed with. It will be appreciated that, while certain areas will receive optimum levels of fluoride almost immediately, the optimum level may not be reached throughout the system for a month or more.

Fluoride source: The Happy Valley fluoridating station will utilize sodium silico-fluoride powder in existing dry feed chemical dosing equipment. All other stations will use 20 per cent hydrofluosilicic acid being manufactured and supplied by the South Australian firm of Adelaide and Wallaroo Fertilizers Limited.

Dosage rate: The dosage rate will be one part per million fluoride, as recommended by the Director-General of Public Health.

### PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Mr. McANANEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to you. Last month, when I raised the blind in my room at Parliament House, there was a big placard outside, blocking the view. Then, several times when I have tried to use the front steps I have not been able to do so, because of the people sitting on them, and I have also had two visitors who told me they could not enter Parliament House because of what was taking place on those steps. Also, one notices a definite smell at times when walking down the front steps. Under these conditions, would it be possible to have the front steps hosed down every morning? Would it also be possible not to allow placards to be placed in front of the House and to keep at least the entrances clear? I believe the whole of the steps should be kept clear.

Mr. Jennings: Why didn't you ask Tom Stott?

Mr. McANANEY: I asked your predecessor, Mr. Speaker, to clear up the matter, but no

action was taken. However, with my confidence in you to do the right thing, I believe the necessary action will be taken to maintain some dignity and the appearance of Parliament House at all times.

The SPEAKER: I assure the honourable member, together with other members, that, if members approach me with such complaints, those complaints will receive my serious consideration.

Mr. RODDA: My question relates to the upgrading of Parliament House. When I was Minister of Works in the previous Government, I looked at plans that had been prepared by the architects in the Public Buildings Department. I must pay a tribute to my predecessor (Mr. John Coumbe) for the work he did in this direction whilst he was Minister. During my time, I was approached by members of the present Government. I share their concern, and I hope that some of them appreciated what replies I could give them. However, their concern was for some quickly agreed action on a plan for redeveloping this House in terms of the present membership and the needs of present-day government. I am sure that the plans that the Minister found when he took office would have quickly convinced him that we did have some conclusions on this important matter. A plan was available that would develop this House and its surrounds in such a way that it would cope in a fitting manner with the dignity and convenience of Parliament, but it was not a cheap venture. Since I have been reassured by the strong attitude the Premier has taken in the interest of State rights, I believe it may have been a good thing to have pressed on with it. However, there is also a plan of redevelopment in a less imposing manner, which we may call the impoverished plan in comparison with the former, and this plan would certainly improve conditions at Parliament House. Because of the great concern some of the colleagues of the Minister of Works were showing when we were in office for quick action in this matter, can he say whether he is making any decisions to upgrade Parliament House? If he is, has he details of the specifications of the plans?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member will be pleased to know that since I have been Minister of Works I have applied myself diligently to this difficult problem. I share the concern of members on this side and those on the other side about present conditions in Parliament House. It is obvious to anyone who works in the building that something must be done, not of a temporary

nature but something that will serve the needs of members in the future. The honourable member will be pleased to know that last Monday I submitted a proposal to Cabinet, but Cabinet has asked for a week in which to consider it. I hope that probably it will discuss this matter further next Monday. Whether any finality will be reached next Monday remains to be seen, but I assure the honourable member that this matter has been given every attention. When Cabinet makes its decision, this matter, because of the cost involved, will have to be referred to the Public Works Committee for its recommendation. I hope that this committee will deal with the matter expeditiously and that the work will proceed soon. I will give the honourable member further details when Cabinet has made its decision.

#### SERVICE STATIONS

Mrs. BYRNE: My question arises from an article, which appears in the *Advertiser* of June 19, on curbing the establishment of further service stations, and which, referring to the Premier, states:

He said he had invited the Oil Industry Council and the Automobile Chamber of Commerce to nominate representatives on a committee to be headed by the Prices Commissioner. The Prices Commissioner would police agreements and arrangements for stopping further petrol-station buildings to ensure that existing advantages to business were maintained. The aim will be to end uneconomic practices, the destruction of useful property, and wasteful spending.

Can the Premier say whether there have been any further developments towards this end since that press statement was issued?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. I asked the Automobile Chamber of Commerce and the Oil Industry Council each to nominate a member to a committee, which would be presided over by the Prices Commissioner, to supervise the rationalization of reselling outlets. The Automobile Chamber of Commerce immediately complied and nominated Mr. Manuel to the committee. I was then notified by some oil companies that they did not consider that representation by anyone from the Oil Industry Council would give them adequate representation, and they made no other suggestion. Consequently, the Prices Commissioner himself has taken action. As a result, he has forwarded a letter to the oil companies requesting detailed information on the building of service stations.

He has arranged with Mr. Mill, of the South Australian Automobile Chamber of

Commerce, to let me have information which he has accumulated. He is calling a meeting, at which he will act as Chairman, with the South Australian Automobile Chamber of Commerce and any representatives the oil companies choose to send to discuss the position. He has made initial recommendations to me as to the appropriate steps he deems fit to take. In addition, I have asked the oil companies to meet with me urgently, and I intend to indicate to them that, unless they are prepared to co-operate in this matter, action will be taken directly under the Prices Act in relation to them. This feature of costs in the oil industry adversely affects the public a great deal, and we are determined that agreements previously reached between the companies and the South Australian Automobile Chamber of Commerce will be given general effect to. We want to see that the rationalization process proceeds effectively so that the public and the people who have been allowed to build up businesses are not bound. I express alarm at the fact that oil companies have not so far co-operated and that some have seen fit to use the interim period since the announcement was made to purchase additional properties and intend to open additional outlets. If they proceed in this way, I can only say that under the Prices Act action will be taken that will be adverse to the oil companies concerned. I hope that I will receive their co-operation in the matter.

#### BIRDWOOD LEASES

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: On June 18, I wrote to the Minister of Agriculture seeking renewal of leases which had previously been granted to some of my constituents at Birdwood and which are important to farmers at a time when primary production is difficult. As yet, however, I have received no reply. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture to consider more closely the representations I have made and make a decision soon, as this matter is of considerable importance to the people concerned?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to convey to my colleague the honourable member's concern and the concern of his constituents, and to see whether something cannot be done quickly.

#### NOARLUNGA BRIDGE

Mr. HOPGOOD: As several constituents have approached me concerning the project to construct a bridge over the Onkaparinga River at Noarlunga, can the Minister of Roads and

Transport say what is the present position in relation to this matter?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I can, and I thank the honourable member for telling me that he intended to ask this question, as this enabled me to get further information beyond that which I had. Tenders will be called shortly for the structure of the bridge and the associated approaches to it. It is expected that work on the site will commence in November next, and it is hoped that it will be completed about 18 months thereafter. The reconstruction and widening of the main South Road to four lanes, which has already been completed and is in service from Darlington to about one mile beyond Hackham, will be extended to by-pass the township of Noarlunga on the western side, so eliminating the existing steep and winding road through the township for traffic to Victor Harbour and Yankalilla. The Onkaparinga River will be crossed by a three-span pre-stressed concrete bridge about 300ft. long and 78ft. 4in. wide, which will provide four traffic lanes and a 16ft. median strip. The bridge will accommodate six traffic lanes, if required in the future. The bridge will feature pre-cast concrete segmental box girders in the deck supported on concrete abutments and circular piers founded on concrete piles. Associated with the main bridge, a two-lane pre-stressed concrete overpass 190ft. long will be provided north of the river to carry local traffic between Noarlunga and Port Noarlunga over the South Road. Work is already in hand on the earthworks connected with the road approaches and the completion of the road work will be timed to coincide with the completion of the bridge work.

#### POLICE PAY

Mr. BECKER: I have been told that penalty rates payable to police officers are sometimes as much as six weeks in arrears. Having raised this matter with the Chief Secretary, I received a reply, dated July 9, 1970, that merely sought to justify the present unsatisfactory system which causes financial inconvenience and embarrassment to members of the Police Force. Will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary to consider the matter again with a view to ensuring that penalty rates are paid to police officers on the pay day immediately following the pay period in which they occur?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will take up the question with my colleague and get a reply.

**LYELL McEWIN HOSPITAL**

Mr. McRAE: I have been in contact with the Minister of Health regarding the Lyell McEwin Hospital. It is well known and agreed on every side that the Lyell McEwin Hospital must be expanded quickly and as soon as financial resources permit, for the area surrounding it has a population growth rate of 10 per cent a year. Therefore, there is a drastic need in the long term for this expansion. However, at present a matter deserving urgent consideration is that pensioners and other poor persons in Elizabeth and surrounding districts, although they receive excellent attention at the hospital, if they need physiotherapy or other specialized services have to travel to either the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or the Royal Adelaide Hospital for those ancillary services. Investigation reveals that this situation can be relieved by the expenditure of about \$15,000 a year while the long-term reorganization takes place. The current unsatisfactory situation is highlighted by the fact that some pensioners in need of physiotherapy are taken from Elizabeth to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where they receive treatment that greatly benefits them, but all the good done is then promptly undone by the jolting 20-mile ambulance trip back to Elizabeth. In the circumstances, will the Premier undertake to consider this matter urgently, while at the same time proceeding with the investigation of the long-term needs of the hospital?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I gather that the honourable member asks this question of me as Treasurer of the State. We will certainly have a look at the proposal. I appreciate the difficulty that his constituents have and the complaints that they justifiably make. Of course, the matter will have to be looked at in relation to the overall position of the Hospitals Department and its budget. We will certainly take a hard look at the matter to see whether we can do something for the honourable member's constituents.

**BRIGHTON ROAD**

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say when reconstruction of the Brighton Road will be completed? Also, will he consider an additional start on work being made southwards from the northern or Jetty Road end of Brighton Road?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: At this stage I cannot give the honourable member the information he desires. However, I will seek the information and bring down a report.

**RAILWAY HOUSES**

Mr. JENNINGS: For some time railway houses have been left vacant in my district and other districts in the metropolitan area. Many of these houses have been taken over from the Housing Trust and have been vacant for several years, despite the present serious housing shortage. In railway circles, particularly at Islington workshops, occasionally there are rumours that the houses are to be handed back to the trust, or some similar rumour. Whenever I have inquired of the Railways Department or the trust, I have received different answers. In fact, sometimes I have received different answers from these authorities to the same question asked on the same day. I have examined some of these houses in my district, and they are deteriorating alarmingly. Will the Minister of Roads and Transport say what policy the Railways Department may have on this matter and, if the department has no policy, will the Minister formulate one?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Government's policy is that houses or property owned by a Government department that are capable of earning revenue should be so used. I am concerned about the information that the honourable member has given, but at this stage I can do no more than assure him that I will ask the Railways Commissioner for an up-to-date report about houses owned by the department, to ensure that the maximum revenue that it is reasonable to expect is being obtained and I will give this report to the honourable member.

**SWANPORT BRIDGE**

Mr. WARDLE: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport give the probable starting and completion dates for work on the proposed new bridge over the Murray River near Swanport? I understand that the Highways Department would at present know at least the approximate dates. The people of Murray Bridge are extremely interested in knowing when that township is likely to be by-passed, and even greater interest is probably being shown by landholders through whose properties the approaches will pass.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to get the information for the honourable member.

**ELECTRIC BLANKETS**

Mr. LANGLEY: For several years past, electric blankets have been used sparingly but lately they have been used more extensively.

Recently it was stated that it was suspected that the death of a young child at Peterborough was caused by an electric blanket and several reports have appeared about the use of the Electricity Trust voltage type and also the low voltage type of blanket. Has the Minister of Works a report about the safety of electric blankets, about the case at Peterborough, and about ensuring that further use of these winter appliances is not unsafe?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Because of my interest in the fatality that occurred, I have inquired of the Electricity Trust and a summary of a report from the trust states:

Electric blankets are prescribed under serial No. 33 in the third schedule of the regulations of the Electrical Articles and Materials Act, 1940-1967, which is administered by the Electricity Trust of South Australia. Similar legislation applies in other States and a system of uniform approvals is in use between States. In the case of electric blankets, the tests applied are those set out in Standard No. C164. The trust itself has not been called upon to conduct approvals tests on electric blankets, because electric blankets are not manufactured in South Australia. However, in accordance with the uniform approvals scheme, the trust has accepted the certificates of other States. There are about 200,000 electric blankets in use in South Australia and the trust has no evidence that any person has been killed or injured as a result of malfunctioning of, or defects in, electric blankets. Recently the death was reported of a six-month old baby in an electric blanket, the public being left with the impression that electricity had been the cause of the child's death. The particular blanket was tested by the trust and found faultless. The trust has had no reports of electric shock from the electrical elements of blankets. Some reports of shock have arisen from an electrostatic effect which would only be felt by very sensitive people. In each case the trust has tested the blanket and found no fault.

#### PARK SUBSIDIES

Mr. EASTICK: A press report of July 1 states that the Minister of Local Government announced that from that day councils could receive subsidies for the development of land bought in future under the provisions of the Public Parks Act and that these subsidies would be granted up to a maximum of half the cost of proposed development. Will the Minister say what is the position regarding land purchased by councils before that date and the future development of that land?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I think the newspaper report contains the reply to the question. Subsidies for development apply to land purchased after July 1 and we have imposed this restriction because the fund is limited and, obviously, if the subsidy is made available

in respect of any land held, the amount available for development would soon be used and there would be insufficient money to go around.

Mr. EASTICK: Will the Minister say whether councils can be assured that subsidies that have previously been available to them for park development on land already held, particularly subsidies from the Tourist Bureau, will continue?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I think the honourable member may be getting his facts a little confused. The Public Parks Fund to which he refers is the fund through which we have acted to provide for the subsidy of half the cost of the Land Board's valuation of the property, plus up to half the cost of proposed development. The honourable member now refers to finance available through the Tourist Bureau, and this is a completely separate matter, as is finance through the State Planning Office for the acquisition of certain recreation areas. The question just asked by the honourable member has tended to confuse me as to what information he is seeking. All I can say is that the present practice of making finance available through the Tourist Bureau and the State Planning Office is not being altered: the only alteration is in the Public Parks Fund allocation, as we have now provided a subsidy of up to half the cost of development of the land.

#### EYRE HIGHWAY

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport say what plans the Government has for the immediate sealing of the Eyre Highway from Ceduna to the Western Australian border?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I invite the honourable member to join with the Government and press his colleagues in Canberra to provide the necessary finance for the work. The plain facts are that the previous State Liberal Government pressed the Commonwealth Liberal Government without success. We have made a similar request to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance, but at this stage have not received a satisfactory reply to allow us to do anything other than the small amount of work that we can do with the finance available. The people of South Australia have been getting a shabby deal in many fields, not the least of which is in this field, and I invite the honourable member to join us in our demand to the Commonwealth Government to provide South Australia with the finances it is entitled to receive.



**FIRE BRIGADES CONTRIBUTIONS**

Mr. McKEE: Recently, I received a letter from the Port Pirie council asking me to ascertain what stage the Chief Secretary's Department had reached in its investigation concerning the contributions made by councils to the Fire Brigades Board. Will the Attorney-General obtain this information from the Chief Secretary soon, because this council has been inquiring for some time?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will ask my colleague about this, and get a reply for the honourable member.

**EYRE PENINSULA SCHOOLS**

Mr. CARNIE: Can the Minister of Education say what stage has been reached in planning the Tumby Bay Area School and the Port Lincoln High School, and when tenders are expected to be called for these projects?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

**SECONDHAND CARS**

Mr. CLARK: Recently, a constituent of mine purchased a 1963 Holden station sedan (I will not name the firm, but it is in the metropolitan area) for a deposit of \$50. The purchase price was about \$1,380. Because my constituent did not have more than the \$50 deposit the firm sold him a car from its yard for \$1. He did not see the vehicle, but the firm then repurchased it from him for \$94, giving him a paper deposit of \$144 for the purchase of the station sedan. To me this seems to be rather a questionable practice, and I think this could be regarded as putting it modestly. If this practice is legal, can the Attorney-General say whether something cannot be done to curb such practices, as they must inevitably recoil to the detriment of the purchaser eventually, as happened on this occasion?

The Hon. L. J. KING: If the honourable member will let me have the particulars of this transaction I shall inquire.

**WHEAT QUOTAS**

Mr. ALLEN: It is reported that wheat quotas for the coming harvest will be posted to wheatgrowers at the end of this month. Growers have been anxiously waiting to receive details of the quotas, although most of them are aware that the quotas will be at least 20 per cent less than last year's quotas. It is rumoured that no new quotas will be issued to growers who have grown wheat this year for the first time.

Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture what is the Government's policy concerning new wheatgrowers? Are they to be issued with a quota or will wheatgrowing become a closed industry?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to obtain a report from my colleague soon.

**BLACKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. EVANS: To all outward appearances the Blackwood High School is a good school and well constructed, but it has a shortage of accommodation for students. In 1971, in this developing area there will be a shortage of accommodation at this school and it will not be able to accommodate the students expected to enrol for the 1971 intake. Can the Minister of Education say whether additional buildings are planned to be erected at this school before the beginning of the 1971 school year and, if they are, whether the buildings are to be classified as permanent or temporary?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: To my knowledge there is nothing on the list for permanent buildings to be built at Blackwood High School before the end of this financial year. The honourable member will realize that the construction of permanent buildings requires considerable planning and, even where a permanent building is constructed with all haste, it is not usually ready for occupation for at least two and a half years. However, I shall inquire about the present position and make available to the honourable member as soon as possible any information that I receive.

**WATER POLLUTION**

Mr. HALL: The Premier, as Minister of Development, will understand from the files he has been able to peruse that the negotiations that I, as Premier, conducted previously with the Apcel group for the extension of that firm's activities in the South-East of the State depended on my insistence that it provide certain facilities to extract solids from the effluent that the company disperses into the drains that eventually empty into Lake Bonney. I informed the company that my co-operation, as Minister, in helping it to expand would be willingly forthcoming provided it took action along the lines suggested. I subsequently arranged through the State Bank for the representatives of the company to be interviewed and for it to be granted additional loan finance to enable it to provide the installation needed

to remove the solids from the effluent the company discharges. I was therefore greatly disturbed when I heard reports about this matter soon after the Premier took office. He announced the expansion of Apcel Proprietary Limited without saying whether he had continued my insistence that Lake Bonney should be safeguarded by the company's removal of solid waste products from the effluent. I can only assume that the Premier did not pursue my line of thought and that he agreed to the company's expansion without insisting, as I had insisted, that it take the steps suggested to protect Lake Bonney, although I should like to think that this was not so. Can the Premier therefore say whether he insisted that the company take the action that I previously insisted on?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Leader is incorrect in assuming that arrangements were not made with Apcel Proprietary Limited and Cellulose Australia Limited concerning the removal of suspended solids in the disposal of effluent from those factories. Indeed, the problem of removal of suspended solids is greater for Cellulose Limited than it is for Apcel Proprietary Limited. I will read to the Leader the reports I have received from the engineer concerned regarding the progress of negotiations on these matters. A meeting was held between representatives of Apcel Proprietary Limited, Cellulose Australia Limited and Mr. Lewis (Engineer for Water and Sewage Treatment) on June 24, 1970. Mr. Lewis reported as follows:

The meeting left me in no doubt that Kimberly-Clark of Australia Proprietary Limited—the honourable member will realize that that firm is the owner of Apcel Proprietary Limited—

is prepared to carry out suspended solids removal with clarifiers on both Cellulose and Apcel effluents on the understanding that the Government accepts the responsibility for disposal of the liquid part of the total waste disposal problem, but suspended solids removal would represent a significant achievement—particularly aesthetically.

With regard to standards, I suggested that the department would be looking for reduction of suspended solids to 40 parts a million (present average in excess of 550 parts a million). Company representatives felt this was achievable but may be exceeded during short periods of plant breakdown or works upsets. It was agreed that 40 parts a million should be the normal limit and that consideration might be given to a formula which would allow higher suspended solids contents for limited periods and frequencies with an annual total solids limit discharged to the lake.

It was agreed that both Cellulose and Apcel would submit functional clarifier proposals including estimated capital costs, together with

predictions of completion dates. It was accepted that the best possible completion date was probably about 18 months from present date. As soon as the technical aspects had been agreed upon, the company would submit a firm proposal to the Government. The question of removal of the existing accumulation of solids at Lake Bonney was briefly discussed. When the clarifiers are operative (1972) it is proposed to examine the feasibility of scraping this material into heaps to allow it to drain and subsequently burning it or carting it away and burying it.

The report also concerns the total responsibility of the Government regarding clarified liquid, and the most recent report from the Engineer for Water and Sewage Treatment is as follows:

The request of the Premier for a full report can only be answered following:

- (1) Receipt of solids removal proposals from Apcel and Cellulose as arranged at the meeting on June 24, 1970. These may be subject to further discussions on technical aspects.
- (2) The completion of the laboratory survey of Lake Bonney to determine the capacity of the lake to assimilate the proposed increase in load without nuisance. This work is in hand and should be completed in July.
- (3) The preparation of functional designs and estimates for sea disposal of the liquid wastes by the Services Division.
- (4) Estimates of cost for the cleaning up of existing solids deposited at Lake Bonney. This could best be carried out by the Regional Engineer, Southern.

To avoid delays in obtaining this information, two new dockets dealing with requests for information regarding paragraphs (3) and (4) have been opened, and it is expected that these dockets will be forwarded to the Minister of Works for approval of the action taken. Therefore, the Government is carefully pursuing the matter of effective disposal of effluent and reduction of pollution at Lake Bonney.

Mr. Hall: Would this be done at the company's expense or from Government Loan funds?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Government must obviously accept the responsibility for disposing of liquid effluent.

Mr. Hall: But the expenditure involved in the installation of the clarifier will be as previously arranged?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

#### WAIKERIE COURTHOUSE

Mr. CURREN: Will the Attorney-General ascertain what stage has been reached regarding the construction of a new police station and courthouse at Waikerie?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will look into the matter and get a report for the honourable member.

#### JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Last December, when I held the position of Minister of Social Welfare, I asked the Social Welfare Advisory Council to report upon the working of the Juvenile Courts Act and other Acts concerning juveniles, which report was received by my successor, the member for Davenport, just before the election. It was made public, and I remember the week before the election appearing with the present Minister on a television programme on which the report was discussed. We both agreed broadly that the recommendations contained in the report should be put into effect. I am sure that those who saw the programme would have gained the impression that whichever Party won the election would act on the report. The report suggests among other things the institution of a juvenile crime prevention scheme. I am therefore disappointed that His Excellency's Speech contains no mention of the setting up of such a scheme or of any action to be taken regarding juveniles, except in the final paragraph of the Speech, among the "also rans", where it is suggested that the Juvenile Courts Act might be amended. Can the Minister of Social Welfare therefore say whether it is his intention or that of the Government to act on the recommendations contained in the report of the Social Welfare Advisory Council to which I have referred, and, particularly, whether the Government intends to set up a juvenile crime prevention scheme?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I am pleased to be able to inform the honourable member that Cabinet has already considered the report and approved the preparation of legislation that will give effect to the substance of the report. I hope that the matter can be dealt with at a relatively early stage of the session.

#### DAIRY RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture whether any further details are available concerning the provisions of the marginal dairy reconstruction scheme, which I understand was accepted by the Minister at the recent meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council? One of the major objections to the scheme held in South Australia up to the time we left office was that it did not include any

dairy farm that produced no whole milk, and it thereby eliminated many dairy farms in South Australia, many of which were of the smaller type. If these farms were left out of the scheme, the position in our State would be seriously prejudiced. Therefore, I am interested to know whether the Minister of Agriculture has been able to have that type of dairy farm included in the scheme.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague and bring down a report.

#### WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works yet received a report from the committee that I set up about 15 months ago, when Minister of Works, to investigate the total water resources of South Australia? This was a committee consisting of Mr. Bennett, Professor Rudd and Mr. Kinnaird. If the Minister has not received the report, can he say when it is likely to be available and whether it is likely to indicate the needs of South Australia for many years to come? As the whole future development of the State depends on adequate water supplies, will the Minister table the report for the benefit of honourable members?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I met the committee to which the honourable member has referred about three weeks or a month ago, when its members discussed with me a draft report they had prepared. They have not yet submitted the final report but I expect that this will be in my hands within the next month. As I am not certain whether the committee was established to advise the Minister or to provide general information for the public, I am not completely satisfied that I should undertake to make its report a public document. However, I shall be happy to have a look at the matter and, if I can see no objection, I will inform the honourable member whether the report may be made available for public consumption.

#### RUDALL SUBSTATION

Mr. CARNIE: When the power line was constructed to connect Port Lincoln with the power station at Port Augusta, it was routed through Rudall so that the Electricity Trust could eventually supply surrounding areas with bulk power. However, this cannot be effected until a substation at Rudall is built and is operating. Can the Minister of Works tell me what are the plans of his department and

the Electricity Trust concerning the early commencement of this project?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As I do not have the information on hand, I shall be happy to obtain a report and bring it down as soon as possible.

#### MARGARINE

Mr. McANANEY: The Minister of Agriculture recently made a statement about increasing the quota of margarine. Will the Minister of Works obtain from the Minister of Agriculture information to indicate whether this increase will take place? If the quota is to be increased (and I do not think this would be in the interests of dairy farmers, bearing in mind their present financial state), will he ascertain whether some effort cannot be made to prevent the current unfair presentation of mutton fat margarine, or certain types of margarine containing colouring, etc?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to obtain a report from my colleague for the honourable member.

#### MONARTO SOUTH SCHOOL

Mr. WARDLE: I believe that tenders were called many months ago for resealing existing pavements and sealing new areas at the Monarto South Primary School. However, I believe those tenders proved not to be satisfactory after estimates of cost were placed on them by the department; they were recalled, and the new tenders are now being considered. Can the Minister of Education say whether a decision has been made on this matter and, if it has, when it is likely that this work will be undertaken?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will take up the matter with the Minister of Works and inform the honourable member of the current position as soon as I have the information.

#### LOBETHAL SCHOOL

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I have been approached by the Chairman of the Lobethal Primary School Committee about the unsatisfactory heating at that school. The Minister of Education will appreciate that this school is in one of the colder parts of the State. As the rooms have the old type of wood burner, which has largely been replaced in other schools, they are very cold indeed. Will the Minister undertake to see that these burners are replaced by oil heaters as soon as possible?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will look into the matter and see what can be done.

#### POINTS DEMERIT SCHEME

Mr. PAYNE: I believe all members of this House (indeed, I hope, all citizens of South Australia) are concerned at the mounting road toll. I think every one of us knows what is happening. A reference in the press only yesterday indicates that one of the members of this House was actually delayed in reaching the House through what was, fortunately, only a minor collision. My question relates to the following extract from His Excellency's Speech:

My Government will ask Parliament to appoint another Select Committee to examine the so-called points demerit scheme as part of an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act.

Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say when an announcement will be made about the appointment of this Select Committee?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Government is most concerned about this matter, hence the reference to it in His Excellency's Speech. We sincerely regret that the previous Select Committee did not complete its work, the result of which is that we must now appoint a new committee. We hope that much of the work already undertaken will be accepted by the new committee, although it will be up to that committee to decide whether or not it accepts it. I hope that within a week or two we will be able to move for the appointment of a committee. I assure the honourable member that the committee will then be expected to get on with the job, which was not finished by the previous Government, with a view to effect being given to the committee's decisions.

#### SCHOOL TOILETS

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Minister of Education seek the co-operation of the Minister of Health in obtaining from officers of the Public Health Department a report on the condition of toilet facilities provided for students at the Glen Osmond, Rose Park and other older primary schools?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member has raised the question of the current standard of toilet facilities at the Glen Osmond and Rose Park Primary Schools. I will see that the problems involved are investigated and, if necessary, that appropriate action is taken.

#### LEAVE PAYMENTS

Mr. VENNING: I understand that while Professor Medlin was recently absent from his duties for two days, during which time he participated in the moratorium, he did not lose any wages for not being at the university

on those days and that he was paid in the normal way. About two or three weeks ago, a teacher, who is a member of Rural Youth in South Australia and a constituent in my district, was a member of the South Australian Rural Youth debating team that won the national title. Although this teacher received leave of absence for this purpose, she lost wages for the time involved. I realize that the university is autonomous to a degree. However, I ask the Minister of Education to comment on the case of this teacher, who lost her salary while representing South Australia in a Commonwealth-wide debate, and the case of Professor Medlin, who received his salary while participating in the moratorium.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member will appreciate that, although I have been a member of the Flinders University Council, I have now resigned. I firmly believe that the administration of universities should be independent of any Government interference. Therefore, I suggest that the honourable member raise his question about Professor Medlin with the member for Bragg (Dr. Tonkin) who, I think, is one of the Opposition members on the Flinders University Council and who, I am sure, will be prepared to look into the matter for him and, if necessary, as a member of the council, make some sort of public statement on it. Regarding the other matter, my view is that, as far as practicable, we should encourage teachers to take part in activities involving interstate representation and provide them with leave so to do. The honourable member will appreciate that on occasions the granting of leave creates considerable difficulty. I will look into the question of leave without pay as against leave with pay in the circumstances referred to by the honourable member, and give him a considered reply.

#### GLENELG INFANTS SCHOOL

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister of Education say whether the Glenelg Infants School is on the list of prefabricated school buildings that it is intended to rebuild and, if it is, what is its priority?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member will appreciate that the Glenelg Primary School has just been completely rebuilt. This work has resulted in the complete relocation of the buildings of that school in such a way that an oval space is now available for the children using the school. The rebuilding programme did not involve the infants school for, at the time, the arrange-

ments for the infants school were considered to be satisfactory. At this stage, several other schools have a higher priority on the list for replacement than does the Glenelg Infants School. I am sure that the honourable member will appreciate that many schools throughout the State are in a far worse position than is the Glenelg Primary and Infants School complex and therefore have a higher priority with regard to future replacement. At this stage there is no immediate plan to replace the Glenelg Infants School.

#### BLACKWOOD PROPERTY

Mr. EVANS: Although I usually raise this type of question in correspondence, my question is important because a constituent is being adversely affected, so I will ask the Minister of Roads and Transport to investigate this matter speedily and have it rectified. My constituent is a Mrs. Porter, who resides at 33 Winns Road, Blackwood. The Highways Department intends to widen the road in this area, taking 25ft. from her property. This lady is separated from her husband and, because of her ill health, she cannot stay in the area. Having had to move, she is staying with friends. Last April, on being told that the property was for sale, the Highways Department told her that it was prepared to put a value on it and purchase it if she would accept the valuation. At present she is paying \$12 a week board and her two children, who are under her jurisdiction as a result of the separation order, are living apart from her, which is not helping the family, or what is left of it, to survive happily. As this woman is in a desperate position waiting for the department to put a price on the property so that she can decide whether or not to accept it, will the Minister have the matter investigated and rectified as quickly as possible?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Yes.

#### SERVICE PAY

Mr. RODDA: A report in yesterday's press states that the Minister of Labour and Industry (as is akin to his very generous nature) has said that he will agree to the payment of service pay of about \$6,000,000. I understand that this is only a start: I do not think it will be the last of the matter. A report in this morning's newspaper states that negotiations are still proceeding. I am sure that the Minister knows, as I know, that these payments will have a rather repercussive effect on those whom I represent, the primary producers, but be that as it may;

the Minister has done this out of the generosity of his heart. Can the Minister say when he is likely to reach finality about service pay and from what date this generosity is likely to be effective?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: What the honourable member read in this morning's newspaper was an offer made to the unions, which they had been considering. Although the honourable member considers the offer over-generous, I do not consider it so, because it is in line with rates of pay recently granted by the Commonwealth Government and the Governments of Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia to their employees. Those rates were based not on the generosity of the Commonwealth Government but on an assessment of the rates of pay in outside industry, the types of over-award payment being made and their effects, and, in the case of the Commonwealth Public Service, the consequent ability of the Commonwealth Government to compete for the best types of employee. That line of thought was applied in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia and, when our Government was approached, we considered the matter on the same basis. We hope that, when the employees consider the proposals that will be made through the tribunals, they will regard them as being satisfactory and accept them. I have not set a firm date for considering the offer further but I think the Trades and Labor Council will consider the matter next week, after which we will consider the operating date of the new proposals.

#### SOCIAL STUDIES TEXTBOOKS

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Education say whether he has received a copy of the resolutions passed at the Cummins meeting last Friday evening and whether he will consider the resolutions?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I have not received a copy of those resolutions yet.

#### PRE-SCHOOL KINDERGARTENS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I was pleased to read the statement in paragraph 15 of the Speech of the Governor's Deputy that the Education Department would establish and operate pre-school kindergartens at all Aboriginal schools and would train Aboriginal teacher aides for employment in Aboriginal schools. I wonder to which schools His Excellency refers in that paragraph: does he mean the schools at Amata and Ernabella and, perhaps, at Point Pearce? Which schools does the statement

refer to as Aboriginal schools? Does it mean schools on Aboriginal reserves and missions, and if so, when does the Minister of Education expect that pre-school kindergartens can be established at these schools, as apparently he has made definite plans for these? Also, regarding the training of Aboriginal teacher aides, one of our difficulties was to find those Aborigines who were suitable for training and willing to offer for training. I wonder how the Minister plans to solve this undoubted problem which, as Minister, I found difficult to cope with. Can the Minister give more detail on these matters, stating at which schools these pre-school kindergartens will be established, when they will be established, and the Government's plans for training Aboriginal teacher aides?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Regarding the first part of the question, the Government intends, as a policy matter, to establish pre-school facilities at all Aboriginal schools, including, for example, schools such as those at Ernabella and Fregon, which will soon be taken over by the Education Department.

Mr. Millhouse: Did you agree to this with the Presbyterian Board of Missions?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Yes, this has been agreed and arrangements will be sufficiently in hand for the department to take over from the beginning of the third term. Whenever the department is involved in conducting an Aboriginal school, we will try to establish appropriate pre-school facilities. I will obtain a detailed report for the honourable member as soon as possible about the timing of these arrangements and the problems involved in the employment of Aboriginal teacher aides.

#### APPETITE SUPPRESSANT

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health whether his colleague knows that a brand of appetite suppressant drug, particularly prone to produce drug dependence, is freely on sale without restriction in South Australia and will he ask his colleague to take urgent action to bring within the scope of the Dangerous Drugs Act this and other similar amphetamine-like drugs not already controlled?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain a reply from my colleague and let the honourable member have it.

#### LANGHORNE CREEK WATER BASIN

Mr. McANANEY: Although there has been considerable investigation in recent years of the Langhorne Creek and Milang Basin, it has

been only on a limited scale. Will the Minister of Mines ascertain what progress has been made and whether action will be taken here similar to that taken at the Virginia Basin?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### WATER MAINS

Mr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Works indicate the Government's policy on the percentage return on capital expenditure required before the extension of existing mains will be undertaken by the Engineering and Water Supply Department?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Government's policy is that, before such works are considered, 10 per cent should return to the Government in order to cover the capital and administrative costs of the extension. I think the honourable member would be aware that the department often finds difficulty in this matter. If he will give me reasons for his concern I shall look at the matter for him and, if he has in mind a specific area of extension, I shall be pleased to consider it.

#### STRATHALBYN POLICE STATION

Mr. McANANEY: As I understand that land is being purchased at Strathalbyn on which to erect a police station, will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary when the building will be erected?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain that information from the Chief Secretary and give it to the honourable member.

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY TEACHERS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The Minister of Education recently announced that the South Australian Government had told the Commonwealth Government that it intended to withdraw its teachers from the Northern Territory. I understand that certain advantages flow to the State from the agreement to have some of its teachers in the Northern Territory and I realize that the present system is popular with some of our teachers. Also, I imagine that we do not suffer financially from the present arrangements. Therefore, will the Minister outline the advantages of ending the present arrangements, and give the general reasons for coming to this decision?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The basis of the decision is that the Northern Territory is expected to experience a dramatic rate of increase in student numbers in the next nine years. Although South Australia provided only 11 teachers for the Northern Territory in 1946, by 1970 the number had increased to 444. It is

expected that by 1979 (if we are still involved in Northern Territory education) we would have to supply 1,500 teachers, that is, about 1,050 teachers more than the number we now supply. I remind the honourable member that the output for the next few years from teachers colleges in South Australia is likely to be fairly static at about 500 a year, so that, at our present rate of obtaining qualified teachers from our colleges, the increase in the Northern Territory requirements in the next nine years would need two years' complete supply from our teachers colleges. The honourable member should realize that on average we have staffed Northern Territory schools at a higher level than we have South Australian schools, in the sense that there has been a higher percentage of qualified teachers employed in Northern Territory schools than would apply on the average throughout the whole of South Australia. If we were to maintain that same standard we would only be able to continue with the arrangement by starving South Australian schools or by preventing any improvement in standards in those schools. The honourable member has said that we are compensated fully for the costs of our effort in the Northern Territory, and that is true, by and large. We are paid for our full costs and, in addition, we receive a surcharge of 15 per cent; but whether the 15 per cent extra payment covers the full costs for which we are involved in capital and recurrent costs of teacher training in respect of the Northern Territory is open to question. The compensation also includes administration costs, but whether it covers the full cost of teacher training is questionable. What we have been doing is training teachers, in part for the Northern Territory, and part of the capital costs of teachers colleges in South Australia and part of the present running expenses of teachers colleges in South Australia are directly attributed to Northern Territory education. I have an open mind on the question whether the 15 per cent surcharge the Commonwealth allows us meets all administrative costs in Adelaide and all teacher training costs associated with the Northern Territory.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Would not service in our education service lose some of its attractiveness if the Northern Territory association were lost?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: This is certainly one advantage that now exists, because some of our teachers are happy to go to the Northern Territory and regard it as a valuable

experience. I have met one or two teachers who would happily stay in the Northern Territory for the rest of their teaching lives. However, I point out that, in the future, the teacher in South Australia and in other States will become more mobile than he is now, and his ability to obtain a job in another State, with another teaching service, or even overseas, is likely to increase further rather than to decline. We have to recognize this fact by being willing to employ teachers who come from overseas (or re-employ previous teachers of ours) and to take full account of their oversea experience in determining their salaries. That matter is being considered at present, and I will have something further to say on that shortly. Although there is an advantage in being able to directly provide experience for South Australian teachers by sending them to the Northern Territory and, even though that advantage would be lost by withdrawing teachers from that area, the overwhelming argument is that South Australia cannot supply the additional teachers required in the Northern Territory without starving our schools.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Are you saying that the Commonwealth Government will set up its own training scheme, or will it draw on teachers from other States?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am sure I would be out of order if I answered that question.

The SPEAKER: Yes, the question is out of order.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I should be happy to answer it now if the Speaker would permit me to do so. The Commonwealth Government has established some sort of teacher training scheme, which has commenced for the first time this year at the Canberra College of Advanced Education. When I recently met with Mr. Bowen (Commonwealth Minister for Education and Science) in Sydney, he could not say what arrangements the Commonwealth Government would be making. However, the Commonwealth Government will certainly have to expand considerably its own effort in teacher training, which it has just commenced. In addition, it will be asking teachers from other State services to enter its service in the Northern Territory when it assumes control there. Therefore, the Commonwealth and the other State Governments will in future be bearing a greater burden than they have borne in the past in the staffing of the Northern Territory schools.

#### BOAT RAMPS

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Marine consider providing for those councils in coastal areas full costs of construction of boat ramps erected for the use of the local fishing industry and tourists?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Marine and Harbors Department is the constructing authority in relation to any improvements or developments that take place in fishing havens. The question should, therefore, be properly directed to the Minister of Agriculture, but I shall be happy to pass it on to him and obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### BREATHALYSER CHECKS

Mr. RODDA: As far too many accidents are occurring on South Australian roads, will the Premier say whether the Government intends to introduce spot breathalyser checks?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No decision has been taken on this matter, although some recommendations concerning it were made before the Royal Commission on the Licensing Act some years ago. Of course, as the honourable member would realize, the road toll does not stem entirely from the causes of which he speaks, as I have found to my cost in the last week.

#### SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of Sessional Committees.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor's Deputy:

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We express the sincere hope that His Excellency the Governor will be speedily restored to full health.

3. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to the matters placed before us.

4. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

The SPEAKER: For the benefit of honourable members, especially new members, I point out that under Standing Order No. 143A, the Address in Reply debate is now subject to a time limit of one hour for each member. The lights situated one above the Speaker's Chair, one under the Chamber clock, and another



on top of the timing device operated from the table, will light up when an honourable member has one minute of his time still to run.

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): In moving the adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, I am conscious of and acknowledge with gratitude the honour that has been conferred on me in being entrusted, in my maiden speech in this House, with this task. In this maiden speech, I intend to set forth, if I can, some of the basic principles by which I shall try to be guided in forming my judgments concerning the great issues that fall to be determined in this Chamber. It is my conviction that, notwithstanding that great national issues in our federal system are decided at the political centre of the Commonwealth, many of the issues that most directly and fundamentally affect the quality of the life our people live are decided at State level, and in South Australia, of course, in this Parliament. For that reason, I have thought it appropriate, as a new member of this House, to reflect upon and endeavour to express the principles which ought to guide me in deciding my attitude to these issues.

The principle which lies at the root of many derivative political principles, and which determines my attitude to most of the great questions that have exercised and will exercise this House, is that of the intrinsic value of each human life, the corollary principle being that of the essential equality of all human beings. The steady contemplation of these two great and related principles leads, in my view, to the correct solution of most of the great political and social questions. At the heart of all Governments is the Constitution under which government is carried on. The two principles to which I have referred must be reflected in the Constitution of a State if that Constitution is to be worthy of a society based on freedom and justice. No Constitution can be said to meet this norm unless it ensures, so far as laws make this possible, that all citizens have an equal voice in deciding the Government of the State. For over 30 years this State bore the shame of an electoral system under which this Chamber, from which Governments are formed, was elected on electoral boundaries that effectively deprived the majority of the people of the power of deciding the Government of the State.

So gross was the inequality between citizen and citizen as to the voice they could exercise in the government of the State that democracy (if that system means government by the

people) was no more than a mockery. This electoral injustice was remedied to a substantial extent in the last Parliament. But it is still true that there is a considerable inequality between the voice in the government of the State exercised by a citizen residing in my district of Coles, which has about 17,000 electors, and by a citizen residing in the district of Frome, which has about 8,300 electors. I recognize that the area of the State and the number of members of this House make it inevitable that there should be some tolerance in favour of the far-country areas so that those districts will be manageable by their members. But I judge this to be a concession to necessity and not based upon any sound fundamental political principle.

This Chamber can never regard itself as truly representative of the people of South Australia until, subject to strictly necessary tolerances in the case of far-country areas, the districts are substantially equal in numerical size. We should never lose sight of the essential validity of the principle of one vote one value. Perhaps of even more immediate significance is the blot upon our Constitution and society involved in the restricted franchise and inequitable electoral boundaries applying to the other House. Every measure, in order to become law, must be passed not only by a majority of this Chamber but by a majority in another place. It is nothing short of staggering that at this point of time, more than two-thirds of the way through the 20th century, the Constitution of the State is still encumbered by a House elected upon a franchise and on electoral boundaries which reflect utterly outmoded and discredited concepts of social and political privilege. This Labor Government, in my view, cannot rest while so great an affront to democratic principle remains part of our Constitution.

An understanding of the worth of each individual human being leads to an appreciation of the importance of education and of the State's role in education. Education enables the child to develop his faculties and to realize his full potential as a human being. No doubt the primary responsibility for educating children rests on the parents, but under modern conditions the State must undertake the task of ensuring that the greatest possible education is available to each child. Under present Commonwealth-State financial arrangements, this is proving beyond the capacity of the State. The result is a crisis in education, producing disaffection among teachers, distress among parents and considerable harm to the

welfare and advancement of many children. This crisis is deeply felt in my district of Coles, which is for the most part a developing area with many young families.

Problems associated with educating children loom large in the minds of the people of the area. Class sizes in the schools are generally too large, and equipment and facilities are in many cases not wholly adequate. The mid-year intake has grievously intensified the problem in some schools. The tragedy of the situation is that, while the immediate responsibility for education services rests with the State, only the Commonwealth has the necessary financial resources to overcome the crisis. The campaign to secure specific grants from the Commonwealth for education must be pressed vigorously, and I suggest that it merits the support of all sections of the community.

Unless these grants are forthcoming, the quality of the education received by children in Government schools must decline. The situation in the majority of the non-Government schools is if anything even worse. The right of parents to choose the type of education the child is to receive is a universally recognized human right, recognized indeed by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. It is a reproach to the community that the exercise of this right is likely to be attended by a significant lowering of the living standards of the family and by educational disabilities for the child. The raising of the standards of the education of our children to a level appropriate to our affluent community ought to be a top national priority, and the securing of funds from the Commonwealth for education will be a top priority for this Government.

It should, I believe, be a major objective of Government to restore and enhance the dignity and the rights of the ordinary citizen living in a modern commercial society. The nature and organization of the economy places the ordinary citizen at a severe disadvantage in his business dealings. In almost all his business dealings, the citizen deals with large organizations, which are in many cases immensely powerful and in virtually all cases well equipped with the knowledge and the machinery to protect their own interests.

The citizen cannot hope to match the knowledge and experience of the organizations with which he deals. He finds himself in the position of having to accept the goods and services offered to him on the terms dictated by the supplier. He is generally presented with a contract that he must sign if he wants the goods or services. More often than not he

does not read it; if he did read it he would be unlikely to understand it; and, even if he did read and understand it, it would make no difference anyway, because he would be obliged to sign it if he wanted the goods or services. There is no real bargaining, and nothing approaching equality of bargaining power. For the citizen, it is a question of taking it or leaving it. He must simply hope that the contract is fair and that the goods and services are of adequate standard to meet his needs.

He feels generally quite powerless to affect the course of the transaction and helpless to protect himself. These being the facts of modern economic life, it must be recognized that the juristic concepts underlying existing law of contract have become irrelevant to modern conditions. The law of contract as we know it was framed by the courts to deal with transactions between persons of relatively equal bargaining power and relatively equal economic status. It is conceived in terms of an offer made by one party and an acceptance by the other; that is, a free meeting of the minds and wills of two persons who are in a position to bargain with one another and thereby affect the ultimate terms of the contract. Agreement having been reached between the negotiating parties, the contract is entered into and is then binding upon both parties. The law does not provide for the intervention of government or courts, as it is based on the view that, the parties having freely entered into the contract, there is no occasion for any outside intervention other than, of course, a mere enforcement of the contract.

All this will be seen to be irrelevant to a situation in which a member of the public seeks goods or services from a large-scale commercial entity. In such a case there is no bargaining and no meeting of minds or wills. A member of the public either accepts the terms offered or goes without the goods or services. A proper regard for the rights and dignity of the individual citizen therefore demands an overhaul of the law designed to restore justice in the citizen's business dealings. If it is impossible, as doubtless it is, to restore to the citizen the power to affect the course of the transactions into which he enters with large commercial entities, it is at least possible for the law to supervise such transactions to ensure that the unequal economic strength and the unequal degree of sophistication of the parties is not used as a means of working injustice.

What I have just said is the philosophy underlying and the theoretical justification for the consumer protection policies of the Government. I believe that there must be a radical change in the basis of the law of contract. The mere fact that parties have adhered to the contract can no longer be regarded as sufficient reason for applying the literal terms of the contract in all cases and irrespective of any injustice thereby created. I believe that the only solution is to confer upon the courts a jurisdiction to vary the terms of the contract, where it is just and equitable to do so, to ensure that injustices are avoided and that there is fair dealing between the parties. Much thought has already gone into this subject in legal circles and, in drafting the legislation, the Government will have the advantage of learned and thoughtful contributions to the topic from judges, legal practitioners and academics. Such a reform will have far-reaching effects, not only in the area of the buying and selling of goods and services but also in insurance, hire-purchase, and many other areas.

An example of the unsatisfactory results produced by the present law may be found in the predicament of a considerable number of old people, some of whom reside in my district, in relation to their aged cottage homes. Aged Cottage Homes Incorporated is a non-profit-making body and was set up to provide home units for elderly persons, mainly pensioners. The basis of the scheme was that the pensioner would contribute out of his savings a sum of money, generally about \$1,800 or \$2,000, and would receive in return a home for life. The unit was to be maintained by the pensioner during his occupation thereof, and he was to pay \$1 a week to the management by way of security for such maintenance. The basis of the arrangement was therefore that the pensioner paid over his savings, or as much thereof as was necessary, and received in return a home for life. It appears that the management found that this arrangement did not work out satisfactorily. It found it more satisfactory to maintain the units on an overall centralized basis rather than to deal with each pensioner individually. It may also be that the management was having trouble with rising costs. Whatever the reason, the pensioners were approached to sign a new contract, which would make them liable for the first time to pay rent. Many of them signed this new contract, thereby signing away the right to a home for life under the original agreement.

The legal right to occupation of a unit for life gave place to a mere expression of intention carrying no legal obligation with it. The expression of intention by the management carried with it no legal obligation. Since that time there have been increases in the rent and considerable dissatisfaction and discontent among the pensioners.

The point I make about this in this context is that it is obvious that no reasonable person possessed of a right to a home for life, for which he or she had paid a sum of money, would, if properly advised, sign away that right in exchange for an unenforceable privilege involving not only the payment of rent but also the loss of the security of tenure existing under the original agreement. I have spent much time talking to these old people and have attended one of their meetings. There is no doubt about the distress and worry occasioned them by what has happened. Old people are not in the best position to protect themselves in their business dealings and they are frequently unable to cope with worry and insecurity. All of them thought when they went into their homes that they had a secure home for life and were free of any worry concerning the roof over their head. They have been disillusioned. Their security has turned to nothing. They are confronted with demands for rent increases.

Instead of being marked by peace and security, their years of retirement are being marked by worry, distress and strife. Since taking office as Attorney-General, I have in collaboration with the Chief Secretary been active to find a solution for the situation which has arisen. It is my earnest hope that our efforts will be attended by a sincere desire on the part of all parties to the dispute to find a fair and just solution. Given goodwill on all sides, I believe that a solution can be found which will restore to the parties to the original contract the security of tenure that they enjoyed under it, which will bring the tension between the occupants and management to an end, and which will lift the burden of worry and distress from the minds of the elderly occupants.

I have stressed as the theme of this speech the intrinsic value of human beings and of human life. How ghastly an affront to this idea is offered by the conflict in which Australian troops are currently engaged in Vietnam. It is unnecessary, I suppose, and indeed pointless to stress the immense loss of life occasioned by the conflict. Human life,

whether it be Australian, American or Vietnamese, is too valuable to be wasted in a conflict which cannot attain any objective that could justify the sacrifice of life upon such a scale. In our own community, opposition to the war is deep and strongly felt. Many are so convinced that the war cannot be morally justified that they are unable in conscience to participate in it. Much has been said and written about those whose consciences direct them to a course of non-compliance with the National Service Act. To my mind, our condemnation should be directed not to the conscientious objector who is prepared to sacrifice much for his principles and his conscience but to the system which produces such a crises of conscience in so many responsible and sincere persons, namely, the system of military conscription for service in a war about which the community is so deeply divided.

Speaking as an individual member of this House, and in no sense on the behalf of the Government, I make the point that in the last Parliament, the sense of the paramount value of human life suffered a severe wound at the hands of this Parliament. It withdrew the protection of the law from the life of the unborn child in many circumstances. I believe that this change in the law was a tragic leap backwards from the condition of civilized society in the direction of the jungle. I trust that no further inroads will be made by this Parliament into the protection which the law affords to human lives and, in particular, to the lives of the weak and unprotected.

It lies within our power to make a positive contribution to the community's consciousness of the value of human beings and of human life. The law of this State still provides for capital punishment. Every effort that has been made to show that the retention of capital punishment is necessary for the preservation of law and order has failed dismally. The taking of life by the State as a punishment is a grave and terrible step and can be justified only, if at all, by clearly demonstrated necessity. There is not the slightest evidence of any evil consequence to society in places where capital punishment has been abolished. The abolition of this extreme form of punishment will be a resounding declaration by the Parliament of South Australia of its belief in the paramount importance of the sanctity of life, even the life of the criminal.

Human dignity in society is protected by the rule of law. Respect for the law, like respect for conscience, is vital to the well-

being of society. This respect can be commanded only if the law itself is attuned to contemporary needs and aspirations. It is in the nature of the law that it changes slowly and sometimes loses touch with contemporary needs. It is, therefore, necessary to pursue a vigorous and unrelenting programme of reform in all fields of the law. Not the least of the areas of law requiring the attention of the reformer is the criminal law: its provisions closely touch the lives of the people. Many of the present provisions of the criminal law are either obsolete or ineffective in modern conditions. The offences it creates are often out of touch with modern conditions, and the penalties it imposes frequently do not reflect current attitudes and thinking. The promotion of high standards of sound morality must always be a primary consideration and objective of every community. There are, however, good reasons for thinking that many attempts to use the criminal law to promote high standards of private morality have utterly failed and have, on the contrary, produced only misery and degradation and disrespect for the law and, indeed, in some cases frustration of attempts to rehabilitate those whose lives have been degraded. I hope to see, during my term of office as Attorney-General, the completion of a thorough overhaul of the criminal law and its procedures.

It is unfortunate that substantial numbers of people in our community find themselves to be without the means of adequate livelihood. The social services system operated by the Commonwealth provides relief in many such cases. It is necessary, however, to supplement the deficiencies and gaps in the system by means of State benefits. Limited State finance makes it impossible to expand the welfare system as one would like. It is, however, possible to ensure that those who avail themselves of the State benefits are dealt with in a way that preserves their self-respect and human dignity. All contribute to the welfare of society. When illness or misfortune comes, society owes assistance and relief. In administering the social welfare services of the State, I shall try to ensure that those who seek assistance are treated as citizens who have a just title to benefits from the State. I shall endeavour to ensure the maximum of humanity and human respect in the administration of the system. It is as important to see that those who seek assistance are treated with the respect due to citizens of the community who have fallen upon misfortune as it is to see that their material needs

are met adequately. I see the promotion of humane and compassionate policies in the social welfare services as the primary challenge in this area of activity and an aspect of my duties as a Minister.

No-one who sees human life and human beings possessing the value to which I have referred earlier can fail to be moved by the sight of so many young lives being ruined by criminal behaviour and anti-social attitudes. The prevention of juvenile delinquency and the rehabilitation of offenders will be a primary consideration in the administration of the department. Steps will be taken as soon as possible (and I repeat what I said in reply to a question by the member for Mitcham earlier this afternoon) to implement improvements in the machinery for dealing with juvenile offenders. I am greatly indebted, in dealing with this difficult topic, to the work and report of the Social Welfare Advisory Council on this subject. I am pleased to acknowledge that the member for Bragg (Dr. Tonkin) was a member of that council. The council's enlightened report has been of enormous assistance in the formulation of forward-looking policies regarding juvenile care and rehabilitation. This is not the place to outline details of the Government's legislative proposals in this regard. It is sufficient to affirm that everything possible will be done to ensure that young lives are reclaimed from the waste of a life of frustration and crime.

What I have said in this speech applies, of course, to the whole community and all its citizens. There is a special group, however, for which, by reason of my portfolio of Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, I have a special concern and responsibility, and that is those of our citizens who are members of the Aboriginal race. It is a regrettable fact of history that human worth and dignity has not always been enhanced by the attitude of the white people of Australia towards their Aboriginal fellow countrymen. All too often the Aborigines have been exploited by white men and at other times they have been over-protected. The policy of my administration will be the recognition of the intrinsic worth and dignity of the Aboriginal citizens as well as the white citizens of this community. My policies will be designed to give the Aborigines the maximum opportunity to assume responsibility for their own lives. They must have the same opportunities as white men to make their own decisions as to the way in which their lives will be led, to exercise the full rights of

citizenship and to assume the corresponding responsibilities. Human dignity and self-respect and pride in one's race and culture are qualities to be encouraged among all our citizens, not the least among our indigenous citizens.

Mr Speaker, I am making my first speech in this House. I express the hope that when I come to make my last speech in this House I shall be able to claim in that speech that my efforts in public life have advanced and not hindered our community's grasp and understanding of the infinite value of every man and woman and of the essential equality of all human beings and that my efforts in public life have assisted translation of these great principles into the laws by which the community is governed.

Mr. CRIMES (Spence): I am greatly honoured to second the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply so very ably moved, as one would have expected, by the Attorney-General, the member for Coles. The Attorney has delivered his maiden speech from the front bench, and I think this is an achievement of which anybody could be proud. I believe that the Attorney has all the abilities and talents to justify his presence on the front bench, on the Government side of the House, so early in his Parliamentary career.

Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker (Mr. Ryan), I congratulate the Speaker (I am sorry he is not here to receive my congratulations) on his appointment to so important and authoritative an office. I have been at gatherings where the Speaker has been in charge and has been called upon to make interpretations, and I think I can say with absolute truth that he is a man whose fairness and just decisions have never been, and probably never will be, questioned. I congratulate also the member for Adelaide (Mr. Lawn), who unfortunately is also not here, on his appointment as Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker. I think I must also mention the unfailing courtesy shown and attention given to the new members of the House in an attempt to acclimatize them to surroundings with which they have not been very familiar.

My thanks go to the electors of Spence who elected me with a majority of which I am particularly proud, and I pledge myself to do everything I possibly can to justify the choice of those very many people. My opponent was a gentleman named Mr. Rieck, and I must extend to him *in absentia* my thanks for his conducting a campaign in that area

that was impersonal and utterly fair. I hope that I reciprocated in kind in my campaign in that area on behalf of the Australian Labor Party. I think I can say that Mr. Rieck's chances were probably no better in that contest than were mine on two previous occasions when I contested Gumeracha against that almost legendary figure, Sir Thomas Playford.

I am conscious of the fact that I am representing an area formerly represented by three estimable members of this House at that time. One of those members was the Hon. C. D. Hutchens, no longer a member of the House, who represented Hindmarsh, which now constitutes part of the District of Spence. Another was your good self, Mr. Acting Speaker, who represented Port Adelaide, part of which has now also been incorporated in Spence. I refer also to the present member for Ross Smith (Mr. Jennings), who also represented part of Spence. So it will be seen that I shall have to do my utmost to maintain the standards of representation registered by the three people I have mentioned.

I should like to broaden my remarks and say that I commend the majority of the people in this State because, without their interest and support and their attention to what has been referred to as a black spot on the escutcheon of South Australia (I refer to the gerrymander, that ultimate electoral injustice), we would not have had the fresh wind of democracy blowing through this House in the manner that it has, resulting in a radical and beneficial effect upon the House and, I trust, a greatly beneficial effect on the affairs of the State. I point out that the majority of the people of the State made their decision known in no uncertain terms.

It seems to me that we must regard ourselves as trustees of the requirements of the community. In these days, in a manner never registered before, we are seeing the indications of the people being shown in many and various ways. It is certain that people today require information and that communication of information is essential to the carrying out of the tenets of democracy. It is because of this growing clamour of the people of the State and of the nation for information and involvement that this Government is determined to see that proper information flows to the people generally by every possible means at its disposal. I refer particularly to the appointment of Press Secretaries, an appointment which has come under some criticism but which nevertheless is essential if the people of the State are to know the intentions and

purposes of the Ministers who are carrying out the requirements of Government policy. We know what happens when information is not made available to the people in a truthful and factual way. Rumour and distortion then take over, with the result that in due course electoral decisions can be made by people who have not been in possession of the information required in order to register their decisions in a beneficial manner through the ballot box.

The Ministers of the present Cabinet have already made their presence felt. There have been many pronouncements through the press of decisions made and regulations issued, and I think this has proved the desire of this dynamic Government to get cracking in serving the requirements of the State. I believe that one of the most important things done by this Government is its appointment of a Community Values Advisory Committee, which is to report to the State Planning Authority on matters reflecting the interests of specific groups or of the community as a whole. According to a description I have seen of this committee, it will fulfil functions somewhat similar to those of an ombudsman. Again, I emphasize that this indicates the desire of this Government to maintain wide-open channels of communication between the Government and the people of the State. A multiplicity of Party committees has also been set up and, again, we see recognition of the principle of involvement. In other words, the Ministers of the State will be, and are already, involving the rank-and-file people and back-benchers, such as I, in the work that has to be done in carrying out the Government's policy.

Special reference must be made to the stand of our Premier and his attempt to obtain a fair financial deal from the Commonwealth Government for State developmental, educational, and other needs. I quote from the *News* editorial of June 26, which states in rather proletarian language, "It is lousy and disappointing", in respect of the allocation of funds by the Commonwealth Government to this State. That editorial continues:

In cold facts and figures South Australia's share of the final revenue grants offer represented the smallest percentage of any mainland state.

The Premier has stated that he was satisfied that the Commonwealth Cabinet had vetoed an extra \$3,000,000 allowance, which had been recommended by the Commonwealth Treasury, and that certain allocations had been made to some States that had not been recommended by the Commonwealth Treasury. This is

emphasized in further editorial comment on this matter in the *News*, as follows:

Are the people of this State losing about \$2,000,000 in special assistance because they voted in a Labor rather than a Liberal Government at the recent election?

I believe that South Australia is fortunate in having a Premier who is backed by a loyal and united Parliamentary Party and who is willing to make it clear to all concerned that South Australia is not prepared to acquiesce to playing the role of a puppet tied to the political financial strings of the Gorton Government. It is to be hoped that all fair-minded South Australians, irrespective of their political loyalties, will support the Premier's stand against what is described in the *News* as the "lousy and disappointing deal" meted out to our State. I believe that there is no shame in the Cabinet's decision to go to the Grants Commission as a claimant State. Our first duty is to our State and this of necessity means using all the established Commonwealth machinery available as a means of seeking financial fair play. Later, machinery for the expression of the feelings of South Australian citizens will be available in the use of the ballot box when the Senate elections are held later this year.

I will now quote statements by reputable and estimable people in the Australian community relating to several matters that are fundamentally and profoundly important not only to this State but also to Australia and even, in some cases, to several countries throughout the world. I turn to the problem of environmental pollution, which does, I hope, exercise the minds of all thoughtful citizens. The Commonwealth Senate committee has recommended that the Commonwealth Government take action to control water pollution, and its report states:

There is not one State in the Commonwealth with waters that are all pollution free, nor are our shores lapped by one ocean that is not being used somewhere as a repository for the refuse of our society.

If ever there has been an indictment of society and of so many people, that is it. The report states that South Australia's problem is simple but serious, and that Adelaide's water supply is endangered. This Government is alive to these serious problems and will take all possible action to alleviate them and to have those responsible adopt sane attitudes towards them. Concerning industry's attitude to pollution in all its wider implications, it was heartening to read the following comment by Mr. E. A. Jones

(a former Chairman of Mobiloil Australia Limited):

Australian business leaders would have to accept a wider range of social and environmental responsibility.

He also said:

The preservation of the private enterprise system would demand this in the face of a rising tide of criticism and discontent.

The Chairman of America's General Motors Corporation (Mr. J. M. Roche) made stern remarks to 600 delegates at the national conference of the Institute of Directors in Sydney recently, when, *inter alia*, he said:

Automobile manufacturers, whether in Australia or America, must deal with the problems of highway safety and air pollution, as well as the more general social obligations such as education and health.

These are welcome words from a direction from which at one time they would, perhaps, have been unexpected. They play sweet music of common sense from those quarters. A subject that agitates this Government is one that has been highlighted by the Chairman of a Commonwealth committee of inquiry into health insurance (Mr. Justice Nimmo). He has estimated that 250,000 families, or 1,000,000 people, exist below a miserable poverty line. South Australia has its share of these unfortunate people, and I suggest that the public and private relief agencies could testify to this fact. No doubt there are those who would like to ignore this appalling situation in the Australian community.

I could not help but be suspicious when I read of Commonwealth Treasurer Bury's attitude towards the request of the Council of Commonwealth Public Service Organizations that questions be included in the Australian census form dealing with the living standards of Australians. Mr. Bury said that the Government was conscious of the sensitivity of people to inquiries about their private affairs. I suggest that the sensitivity may be more strongly felt by those who claim that we live in the best of all worlds. Mr. Bury and his supporters may argue that how Australians live is their own business but, on the contrary, this State Labor Government believes that it is its business to do what it can to contribute to the abolition of what has been described as the poverty cycle that blemishes all of the States. Doctor Crowley (Director of Adult Education in the Sydney University), in an address on automation entitled "Man Against Himself", said that the common man was still not receiving an equitable share of the benefits of modern productivity. I think members can

understand how this can be tied up with the reference in the Nimmo report on living standards in the Commonwealth. Dr. Crowley said:

We still have considerable pockets of real poverty and serious distortion of our economy in meeting the more important human needs of our communities.

He continued:

This is the problem of organizing production for needs instead of profit—as Socialists used to put it when I was a young man.

It is certain that poverty such as that which I have described and which has been statistically proved to be in existence by the Nimmo report will not be dealt with satisfactorily while the present Commonwealth-State-local government financial relations remain as they are at present. Concentrate on State matters though it must, this Government wants to improve Commonwealth-State relations.

The Premier has put it that we must have co-operation rather than competition. Under our Commonwealth Constitution, the physical operation of important State functions is difficult to carry out, although there have been some indications that this can be successfully done, one such indication being the great Snowy Mountains Authority project. But the Commonwealth can involve itself in plans of State development and match the necessary financial resources to them accordingly, if it so wishes. The condition in which we find ourselves constitutionally today is that we appear to be a mere congeries of States at war with the central governing authority of the nation. At one time we gave credence and support to the slogan "One people, one flag, one nation", and it seems to me that, unless we establish those relationships that have been indicated by our Premier as being so necessary, we cannot give other than mere lip service to that great slogan.

In closing, I indicate that I am at one with the Attorney-General in his remarks about the immoral and unjust war in Vietnam and the application of private conscience to the question of conscription. I am conscious of the importance of each person who has been elected to this House. I dedicate myself to doing everything in my power to benefit the people of the State and, as we are part of a federation, to doing all I can to benefit the people of the Commonwealth.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

## PORT AUGUSTA TO WHYALLA RAILWAY AGREEMENT BILL

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Roads and Transport) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to approve an agreement made between the Government of the Commonwealth and the Government of the State for the construction of a railway between Port Augusta and Whyalla in the State, and for purposes incidental thereto. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

It is intended to approve the agreement between this State and the Commonwealth for the construction and operation by the Commonwealth of a standard gauge railway from Port Augusta to Whyalla. The text of the agreement appears in the schedule to the Bill. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal, and clause 3 provides for the approval of the agreement, this approval being necessary to bring the agreement into effect. The approval of the agreement by the Commonwealth has been expressed in clause 5 of the Port Augusta to Whyalla Railway Bill, 1970, of the Commonwealth, which was assented to on June 17 last. This clause also authorizes the State to do all things required of it under the agreement. Since the railway will be maintained and operated by the Commonwealth as part of the Commonwealth Railways, such obligations as there are of this State are set out in clauses 5 and 6 of the agreement.

Clause 4 formally sets out the consent of the State to the construction of the railway. This formal consent is rendered necessary by the provisions of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, which requires the consent of the State to railway construction by the Commonwealth. I draw members' attention to clause 4(2)(a) of the agreement, which deals with railway crossings, and in this regard the Minister for Shipping and Transport, when introducing the Commonwealth measure in the House of Representatives, said:

We have paid particular attention to the question of level crossings. Arrangements have been discussed with the South Australian authorities regarding the points at which the proposed route of the railway crosses the existing alignments of the Stuart Highway (to Woomera) and the Port Augusta to Whyalla road (marked Lincoln Highway on the map). As a result the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner has agreed to include a road overpass in the proposed work (at a point about five miles from Port Augusta), and the South Australian Highways Department will divert the Port Augusta to Whyalla road to enable it to use this overpass. This will eliminate all highway level crossings. There will be



level crossings, however, catering for purely local traffic, at Lincoln Gap and on the Point Lowly Road near Whyalla. These crossings will be protected by flashing lights. There will, of course, be the usual access crossings provided by agreement with the holders of pastoral leases along the route of the railway. I am happy to confirm that this is the substance of our arrangement with the Commonwealth in this matter.

In commending this Bill to the House, I believe it is one which will further the progress of the northern cities of the State, and it is yet another step forward in the rail expansion that this State so urgently needs. I thank the House for the courtesy it has extended to me in enabling Standing Orders to be suspended in order that the Bill may be considered.

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): This is the most satisfactory Bill that the Minister of Roads and Transport will ever bring into the House because, if members look at the schedule, they will see that it was prepared by the previous Government. Therefore, I can assure the House that this is a good Bill. I invite the Minister, whenever he needs further assistance, to call on members on this side, and we will be as happy to provide for him plans for the future development of this State as we were to produce the results of our negotiations, which are formalized in this agreement now presented to the House. It will be an important step forward for South Australia, because it will result in linking a fast-developing part of South Australia (Whyalla) with the standard-gauge link connecting the mainland States of Australia, excluding the Northern Territory.

It is a link which is desired to give a continuous transport service for the steel products of Whyalla, and this should lead to a diversification of products in that area and to the further expansion, we hope, of Whyalla's steel-producing plants. So it is another example of support for decentralization, this time from the Commonwealth with the co-operation of the State, and one that will provide not only a transport link but, most important, much work for South Australians. I remind the House that in the clamour for Commonwealth funds this project is important in that it will achieve something like \$8,000,000 worth of expansion—

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Not to exceed \$7,000,000.

Mr. HALL: It will represent \$7,000,000 worth of expansion in this State, and that is a significant amount of Commonwealth money that will be provided under the rail standardization legislation.

I wish that plans for the important link between Adelaide and the existing standard gauge line were as forward as those for the link referred to in this Bill, because a disastrous situation now faces the State in relation to a connection between the metropolitan area and the Indian-Pacific link. I think that the link with Adelaide involves a standard-gauge construction that impinges on this project; this would involve completion of the links that can foreseeably be standardized in South Australia. I should have hoped that in the foreseeable future (this year, in fact) we would see the completion of an agreement whereby Adelaide would be linked with the standard-gauge line, but under this Government's present attitude we are further away from achieving such an agreement than we have been for many years.

I warn this House and all of South Australia that if the Government continues with its attitude in connection with the other vital link we shall achieve nothing, and industrialists had better beware lest they are inveigled into supporting the present Premier in his plea for support for the substitute arrangement that he intends to press with the Commonwealth. I remind the House that the research relating to standardizing the link between Adelaide and the standard-gauge line has been going on for many years. When we came into office in 1968, we re-presented to the Commonwealth a comprehensive plan previously advanced by the Labor Government for the extension, conversion and rebuilding of lines to standard gauge to the north of Adelaide, and the re-presentation of that link was refused then, as was its first presentation by the previous Labor Government. To resolve an impasse which had developed over those years, both this State Government and the Commonwealth Government agreed to appoint independent investigators who would arbitrate concerning what standardization would be achieved and what lines would be standardized.

The report (the Maunsell report), which came in a few months ago, purported to settle an argument that had existed for years, but it did not go far enough in the previous Government's view. Its recommendations, if implemented, would not have connected as much of the metropolitan area to standard gauge as we would like, so we said to the Commonwealth, "We want an additional link before we accept." However, the election interrupted any final settling of that dispute. But I warn the present Government that, unless it pursues the Maunsell report as the basis of its negotiations, we shall never get the standardization

of the line between here and the Indian-Pacific as all South Australia requires. Although the present Government clamours loudly for more money from the Commonwealth, it may turn its back, as it is now turning its back, on \$50,000,000 that the Commonwealth is willing to spend in this State.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you would not want me to continue for long in discussing a project outside the scope of this Bill, but in leaving that subject I remind the House that that project is closely related to the one we are now considering. So I commend the Government for so early in its office introducing into the House a Bill to formalize an agreement made by the Government with which I was previously associated. I am pleased to see this Government proceeding with the matter so early and I hope that the arrangements for the physical construction of the line can be quickly implemented. However, let the Government beware lest it loses entirely a valuable project, thereby delaying further the construction of the link between metropolitan Adelaide and the Indian-Pacific line. I support the Bill.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Roads and Transport): It would not have been my intention to reply to the debate, except for the comments made by the Leader. However, as a consequence of his comments, I feel impelled to offer some form of rebuttal. Regrettably, another matter has been referred to in the debate on this Bill, which is an enabling Bill relating purely to the Port Augusta to Whyalla line. The Leader saw fit to introduce into the debate the politics of the dispute regarding the standardization of the railway line between Adelaide and the Sydney-Perth line. Therefore, I have no alternative but to refute completely the allegations made by the Leader and to say that the arrangements or negotiations for standardizing the Adelaide to Port Pirie section, as it is commonly referred to, would have been much further advanced had the previous Government cared to advance the case to the Commonwealth Government.

If the Leader wants to debate this specific issue at any time, I shall be only too happy to do so and to bring into the House the documented evidence to show that the former Government never at any stage stated the case to the Commonwealth Government as outlined by the Railways Commissioner. Never at any stage was this stated. The Leader admitted that the Maunsell report left much to be desired and he said that an extension had been

requested. I suggest that members have a good look at the request for an extension. It was a pretty half-hearted one. When the former Minister conferred with the Commonwealth Minister the matter was never raised. So much for the ballyhoo we are getting from the Leader about what his Government did on standardization! Since the standardization agreement was enacted in 1949 we have had Liberal Governments in the Commonwealth sphere and, apart from the period 1965-68, we have had Liberal Governments in this State. And where is the standardization that has been talked about? Who pressed for it? We never heard a word from anyone about it. So, let us not talk about warnings that this Government must take the Maunsell report or go without. This has been the attitude of the previous Government.

We want to have industry connected to the standard gauge railway. We do not want some isolated freight yard at Islington in the old sewage farm providing alleged access to Tonsley or the General Motors-Holden's plant at Woodville or the industrial complex at Mile End. How are industries supposed to send goods to the isolated yard at Islington? If the goods are sent by road, further problems will be created, because our roads will become cluttered up with semi-trailers. Or, should industries send their goods by the broad gauge railway and have bogie exchange at Islington? They may just as well send the goods on the broad gauge line to Peterborough or Port Pirie and have bogie exchange there, as they are doing now, so there is no advantage in using the broad gauge line to the proposed Islington yard.

The Leader referred to the alleged possibility that we might turn our backs on \$50,000,000. This sum (the cost of the project) is not a gift from the Commonwealth Government. This State has to pay 30 per cent of the sum out of its own revenue. The Commonwealth Government is simply lending us money that we are subscribing in taxation and paying interest on, into the bargain. I have already stated a case to the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport. Within the next few days I will be submitting a written case to him in an endeavour to get the Commonwealth Government to do what should have been done six or eight weeks ago—to give full and proper consideration to the submissions made by the South Australian Railways Commissioner.

Mr. Clark: And if the Commonwealth Government refuses, the onus is on it, not us.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Of course it is. I assure the Leader that we will be pursuing to the utmost the standardization proposals in order to get the best deal possible. We will not take anything dished up by the Commonwealth without our arguing for the best. If we fail we shall probably be pushed into a corner, but we will certainly fight vigorously for the rights of the people of South Australia—and those rights are not catered for in the

Maunsell report, which was accepted by the present Leader of the Opposition when he was Premier.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 5.22 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, July 16, at 2 p.m.