

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, July 30, 1970

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

ADDRESS IN REPLY

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that His Excellency the Governor will be prepared to receive the House for the purpose of presenting the Address in Reply at 2.10 p.m. I invite the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and such other honourable members of the House of Assembly as may care to do so to accompany me to Government House for this purpose.

At 2.2 p.m. the Speaker and members proceeded to Government House. They returned at 2.18 p.m.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that, accompanied by the mover and seconder of the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Governor's Deputy's Opening Speech, together with other members, I proceeded to Government House and there presented to His Excellency the Address adopted by this House on July 29, to which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:

I thank you for your Address in Reply to the Speech with which my Deputy opened the first session of the Fortieth Parliament. I appreciate deeply the good wishes expressed by the House concerning my return to full health. I am confident that you will give your best attention to all matters placed before you. I pray for God's blessing upon your deliberations.

QUESTIONS

MURRAY STORAGES

Mr. HALL: It is over four months since the Premier indicated that he believed he could, on being elected, easily renegotiate for South Australia the agreement relating to the Chowilla dam. It is about three months since he and his Party voted in this House on this matter, saying that two dams must be built to serve South Australia. Indeed, it is two months since the election was held, this matter being one of the major points of contention at that election. The season is going on, the year is progressing, yet apparently South Australia is still no nearer obtaining a guarantee for its water supplies than it was at the time when the vote was taken in this House. Can the Premier say how much

closer he is to his ideal of obtaining the two dams for which he voted in this House?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Leader tries to foist on members on this side views which they did not express, in debate in this place or at the election, as their policy. I have announced the stage that negotiations have reached, and I point out to the Leader that, if he thinks he can build up in the public's mind the time I have had to conduct these negotiations, by referring to something that happened before we were in office, that may kid him but it does not kid anyone else.

NOTICES

Mr. JENNINGS: This morning, as I proceeded with some urgency towards an important part of this building, I had to pass the office of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I noticed that, in addition to the official sign on the door stating "Deputy Leader of the Opposition: Hon. R. R. Millhouse, M.P.", attached to the door was a printed invitation imploring us to "Save South Australia now". Mr. Speaker, do you think that, irrespective of whether the sign was attached to the door by someone who thinks South Australia needs saving from the Deputy Leader, or by the Deputy Leader himself as a consequence of his disappointment at the election result, this savours of electoral exhibitionism, which is out of place in Parliament House, and will you order the sign's immediate removal?

The SPEAKER: I am concerned that unauthorized persons are placing notices on doors in Parliament House. I do not know who was responsible for putting this notice, which I have seen, on the door of the Deputy Leader's office; the Deputy Leader is away at present. I will certainly ask that the notice be removed by whoever placed it there. Whoever was responsible for placing the notice on the door should act in future with a little more dignity. Honourable members will recall objections raised in this House to demonstrations being held and placards being shown on the steps of Parliament House. The person who acted in such a childish way in this case is not setting a very good example for the public outside. If any honourable member sees this type of thing happening in Parliament House, I ask him to report it to me immediately, and I will take appropriate action against the person concerned.

Mr. HALL: Knowing now of your concern in this matter, Mr. Speaker, and because the sign referred to contained sentiments that were of a nature safeguarding the Government

and its activities in South Australia, will you take similar action in future if placards of this nature or of a nature detrimental to the State are placed in the front of this building in public view?

The SPEAKER: I will deal with every case on its merits. I emphasize that I expect all members within this Chamber to set an example to people outside. Until such time as honourable members act like members and responsible representatives, I consider that it will be difficult for anyone in a position of authority to ask the public to act in a responsible manner.

EYRE PENINSULA SCHOOLS

Mr. CARNIE: On July 15, I asked the Minister of Education when he expected tenders to be called for work on the Tumby Bay Area School and the Port Lincoln High School. On July 21, he replied that it was expected that tenders for the Tumby Bay school would be called at the end of 1971 or at the beginning of 1972, while those for the Port Lincoln school were to be called in the latter part of 1971. Work on the Port Lincoln High School was approved by the Public Works Committee in February, 1965. In March, 1965, the Walsh Government came to power, and the work was not proceeded with. In August, 1969, when he was Leader of the Opposition, the Premier visited Port Lincoln and made a statement that was published on August 28 in the *Port Lincoln Times*. The Premier said that the Port Lincoln High School was the worst high school in the State, that urgent work was needed to provide proper facilities for the students, and that he was glad to see that teachers in that area had finally become militant about the necessity for better facilities. Interested people in Port Lincoln have been under the impression that tenders would be called during the current financial year (indeed, that was the stated policy of the previous Government), and that this was also the case in regard to the Tumby Bay Area School. In view of the Premier's published statement about the urgency of the project, and in view of the previous Government's programming, can the Minister of Education say why he has now informed me that tenders will not be called until a much later date?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The question of when tenders will be called for any school project involves providing an estimate of the time it will take for the design work on a project to be completed so that the tender documents are fully ready. I take the view

that, when any statement is made regarding the calling of tenders and when an estimate is given of the likely time involved, I and officers of the department should be careful not to be over-optimistic and so disappoint interested persons by giving them a date that is not achieved. It seems to me to be much more preferable to err on the conservative side and try to get ahead of the date given, and I intend to adopt this practice. I assure the honourable member and the people of Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay that we intend to proceed with these two school projects as quickly as possible. However, those concerned must appreciate (as the honourable member would appreciate) that the time involved in designing a school or in overcoming difficulties that occur in the design stages cannot be controlled by the Minister of Education. Further, the time when tenders will be called and the commencement date depend on the overall financial position. Accurate forecasts cannot be made in these matters, the date given at any time being purely tentative. The honourable member may be assured that my department will proceed with both these projects, particularly the Port Lincoln High School, as quickly as possible.

LIBRARIANSHIP COURSE

Mr. COUMBE: When I was Minister of Education earlier this year I had discussions with the South Australian Institute of Technology and arrangements were made with a view to introducing, in 1971, a course in librarianship at the institute. Such a course would provide facilities for the first time for people who wished to train in the extremely important work done in libraries. Can the Minister of Education say whether this course is still to be introduced at the institute at the beginning of 1971?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am astounded at the honourable member's statement that he had arranged for this course to be introduced, because the Director and Assistant Director of the Institute of Technology have made clear to me that no final decision has been made in this connection, and I cannot find in my office any record of a decision to provide the additional funds necessary.

I have been told that the budget proposals of the institute were lower at the beginning of the triennium than it had asked for, and that it is now having difficulties meeting its current commitments. I have taken up with the institute the matter of the librarianship course and I have asked for details of the costs

involved. I will take up the matter with Sir Ian Wark to determine whether Commonwealth assistance will be provided on the normal basis if this course is established. The honourable member will appreciate that a course such as this would normally be subsidized, on the recommendation of the Wark committee, by \$1 for each \$1.85 provided by the State. This has a considerable impact on the overall financial problem associated with introducing such a course. Certainly, it was not part of the Wark committee's approval for courses for the triennium. If the member for Torrens is aware of documented information within the department that shows that the institute had agreed to start this course and that Cabinet approval had been given for the provision of finance, I should be pleased if he would inform me of its existence.

Mr. Coumbe: Will the Minister investigate the matter further and give me a report?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will examine the matter further, and I hope an appropriate arrangement regarding it can be made. However, at this stage, as much as I would like to be able to say that we shall be able to do it, I cannot give a definite promise.

INDIAN-PACIFIC

Mr. McKEE: I have received complaints from people who have travelled on the Indian-Pacific between Broken Hill and Peterborough. I understand that obsolete carriages are added to the train at Broken Hill for passengers travelling between that city and South Australia. People have complained that they are not permitted to use any facilities on the train and that conditions in the old carriages are poor. I am sure that the Minister of Roads and Transport will agree that this is a fairly desolate trip, and these people consider that they should be made as comfortable as they can on it. Will the Minister therefore act on these complaints?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Travel on the Indian-Pacific is at present being examined in the widest possible context. Not only the point that the honourable member has raised but also the current time table is being considered; moves are afoot to have the time table altered, the net result of such alteration being that South Australia would be even further isolated as there would be no connections. The whole matter is under review at present and, as soon as this review has been completed, I shall be pleased to inform the honourable member of its result. I assure him that I am aware of the difficulties he has raised, and that everything possible is being

done to overcome them. The most important factor associated with the problem is the provision of additional rolling stock and, until the Commonwealth Government is prepared to provide finance for this, the present position could well continue. I will bring down a report as soon as possible.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Mr. VENNING: I believe that, when the Walsh Government won the 1965 election, the advertising campaign was handled by Hansen Rubensohn McCann Erickson, an American-controlled advertising agency with a branch office in Adelaide. Soon after that a vacancy occurred on the board of trustees of the Savings Bank of South Australia and I believe that the Labor Government appointed Mr. G. H. Huntley, then manager of this advertising firm, to fill the vacancy. Now, following another successful campaign by this company, the agency has been appointed to handle all Government advertising in Australia and overseas. Can the Premier say what remuneration this firm will receive as advertising consultants for all Government advertising in Australia and overseas?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The remuneration is at standard advertising rates: there is no contract, and no special fee is payable. The work is done at the normal agency rates. The reason why the Government has decided that one agency should handle all Government advertising is that the results to government are beneficial because, with the scale of advertising in consequence handled by one agency, benefits can accrue from promotions that are more economic for the agency to undertake. Consequently, we get promotions that do not cost the Government anything, and where, as Treasurer, I can save cash, I assure the honourable member that I intend to save it.

GROUP LAUNDRY

Mr. CURREN: As persistent rumours have been circulating in my district that a group laundry is to be established by the Government to serve all hospitals and Government departments in the area, will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health what is the position, and whether a group laundry is to be established in the Upper Murray district?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain the information sought by the honourable member.

OAKBANK AREA SCHOOL

Mr. McANANEY: The school bus at Oakbank Area School is idle at present, because the last driver employed considered \$11 a week

insufficient for the work involved, and it has been impossible to obtain another driver at that figure. If this bus is not used there will be overcrowding in other buses when all the children at present sick return to school. Will the Minister of Education obtain a report on this matter and, if he considers the offered payment is inadequate, will he take the necessary action?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will consider this matter.

PARA HILLS COURTHOUSE

Mr. GROTH: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to the question I asked on July 16 about building a courthouse at Para Hills?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have been supplied with a report that states that subcontract tenders have been advertised for the erection of the Para Hills police station, and I understand the Public Buildings Department will advertise the main tender in September next. The building should be completed within 12 months of acceptance of the main tender.

DEPARTMENTAL CRITICISM

Mr. EVANS: My question concerns the recent clarification by the Minister of Education of the original announcement that teachers, if they wish, can criticize if they consider that there are deficiencies in the Education Department, and it is in that context that I ask my question of the Premier. I have been approached by two people employed in another Government department, claiming that they believe that they would not be allowed to criticize deficiencies in or actions of their department if they considered that those things were wrong. Can the Premier say whether there is an overall acceptance of the rule that, regardless of the department in which an officer is employed, he or she may criticize it and bring to the notice of the public any existing deficiencies?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will discuss this question with the Public Service Board, which is responsible in this matter, and see whether I can bring down a considered reply for the honourable member.

MARKET GARDENERS

Mr. McKEE: On July 17, a deputation of market gardeners from the Napperby area waited on the Minister of Agriculture and discussed certain problems that exist in the Adelaide market. As the Minister promised to consult merchants and other interested organizations, will the Minister of Works

obtain from his colleague a report on the negotiations with merchants and other interested bodies?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to do that.

GLENELG TRAM SERVICE

Mr. MATHWIN: Because of the importance of encouraging the public to use public transport, will the Minister of Roads and Transport consider making available either weekly or monthly passes to passengers using the Glenelg tram service, a facility that was available some years ago but has since been discontinued?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This matter has been discussed with the Municipal Tramways Trust on a much wider basis than that covered by this question. The determinations of those discussions have not yet been finalized, but when they have been I expect to make a statement in the House concerning them.

MODBURY SCHOOL ROAD

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Works ascertain whether tenders have been let for the sealing of the roadway between Modbury High School and the Modbury South Primary School on land owned by the Education Department? If tenders have been let, will the Minister ascertain when it is expected that the work will be completed?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to obtain a report for the honourable member.

TRAVEL CONCESSIONS

Mr. GROTH: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether rail and bus concession fares are allowable to age pensioners in any States other than South Australia? If they are, can he say what percentage rebate is applicable in each State?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Concession fares to pensioners apply in every State of the Commonwealth and within the Commonwealth Territory itself concerning the Commonwealth Railways. However, as I cannot tell the honourable member off the cuff what are the percentage rates that he seeks, I shall be pleased to obtain that information and to bring it down for him.

DUTTON WATER SUPPLY

Mr. ALLEN: About six weeks ago, when in the Dutton area which now comes into my district, my attention was drawn to the lack of water (both surface water and rain water storages) in that area. This area is not served by any reticulated water supply, the nearest

points of supply being Truro to the south and Neale Flat to the north. At the time I was in the district, people were carting stock water. However, since then, the area has received a little rain, sufficient to put about 12in. of water into the dams, and people are now receiving muddy water through their taps. I understand that a few years ago the former member for Light made submissions to have a water scheme for the district investigated but that his efforts were to no avail. Will the Minister of Works have another investigation carried out to see whether it is practicable to serve the area of Dutton with reticulated water?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to examine any previous examinations that have been carried out in this area with regard to providing a water supply and to see whether or not the present situation is different from the one existing when such investigations may have been carried out. I say this, because I do not wish to undertake for the honourable member a further investigation if, by examining the results of the previous investigation, I can see that it is not practicable. However, I will certainly examine the matter.

COOBER PEDY WATER SUPPLY

Mr. GUNN: Is the Minister of Works aware of the chaotic situation that exists regarding the quality of water on issue at the Coober Pedy mining centre? Because of the delay in manufacturing replacement modules for the reverse osmosis plant, the salinity rate has risen to an undrinkable level, and a family of two adults and three children is restricted to consuming four gallons of water a week. Will the Minister of Works treat this matter as one of urgency and use his influence to rectify the situation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am not aware of the chaotic situation in Coober Pedy that people are experiencing at present. However, it is evidently a serious matter, and I accept the honourable member's description of it. No doubt, this restriction is causing great inconvenience and discomfort to the people concerned. I shall be happy to use any influence that I have to see whether I can speed up repairs to the desalination plant.

DRIVER'S LICENCE

Mr. CLARK: I was recently contacted by the friend of a constituent of mine, this constituent, who is of Finnish extraction, having difficulty in renewing his driver's licence because he speaks inadequate English. His friend has written to me to ask whether it is possible for my constituent to obtain a licence

through an interpreter. Although it has been said that he cannot do this, the friend goes on to say:

My friend has come from Finland two years ago and has obtained an international driver's licence in Finland. He lives at Smithfield and works at Christies Beach.

That, of course, is the reason why he particularly wants a licence. The letter continues:

He has two children and he has driven since 1956; he has driven an ambulance for six years and driven in South Australia for two years.

Will the Minister of Roads and Transport be able to reply to this question today, or will he inquire into this particular case?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As I understand the honourable member, his constituent is a current holder of a driver's licence and is having difficulty in obtaining a renewal.

Mr. Clark: He apparently has what is known as an international licence.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: That is a different thing; he has not been issued with a licence in South Australia. A prerequisite for obtaining a licence here is to have what I think can be described as a working knowledge of English. However, I think the most satisfactory way to reply to this question would be to ask the honourable member to give me the details of the matter, including the name of the person concerned, and I will have an investigation made to see what the position is and whether this man's English can be encouraged sufficiently to enable him to obtain a licence.

AMERICAN RIVER WATER SUPPLY

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I have corresponded with the Minister of Works several times about the lack of a water supply at American River. As I understand that the Minister is now able to give me a considered reply on this matter, will he do so?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have received correspondence, as did my predecessor, from the honourable member on several occasions concerning the supply of water to American River. Prior to my assuming the Works portfolio, this matter had been investigated, but no urgency was placed on that investigation. The water supply proposal east of the existing system and extending to American River is being re-examined. To implement this, every endeavour is being made to assess all favourable factors that can influence this proposal. At the present time, urgent consideration is being given to all possible benefits that can be

derived, and the likely revenue from the scheme is being examined to ascertain the maximum return that can be reasonably expected. This has involved inquiries through other departments, and a reasonably early answer is expected. In other words, the matter is being treated as urgent, and I hope that it will not be long before the scheme can be finalized.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understood the Minister to say that this matter had not been treated urgently, but that comment puzzles me, as this matter has been one of considerable moment for years, particularly over the last few months. For several years these people have been carting water by ship. The correspondence I have received only recently indicates that I have written several times not only to the present Minister but also to the previous Minister, the latter of whom said, in a letter to the District Clerk of the District Council of Dudley on May 28, that the Director and Engineer-in-Chief was treating the matter as urgent. Will the Minister of Works therefore examine that aspect of his reply, because his own department apparently acknowledges that this is an urgent matter? I have attended several meetings of the residents at American River and I have been asked many questions about the cost of the scheme and the method of assessment and rating, as a result of which I have taken up with both Ministers the possibility of an officer visiting American River to discuss these matters with the residents concerned. Not only the farmers but also large tourist concerns are involved, and these people would be helped greatly if they could be informed of the method of rating and have their questions answered. Will the Minister therefore consider sending a departmental officer to American River?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to consider the final part of the honourable member's question. Regarding his first point, I certainly do not want to give the impression that the honourable member has not been treating this matter urgently, because I know he has. I merely mentioned that, although the department had examined the matter prior to my assuming office, strong doubts were expressed about its financial feasibility and about problems as to the route of the main. As a result of the Government's intention to provide a ferry to cross Backstairs Passage from Penneshaw to Cape Jervis, the need for water in this area has become greater from the point of view not only of the Government but also

of the residents concerned. Because of this and because of questions regarding financial feasibility, the matter is being treated urgently.

ORANGES

Mr. CURREN: At present, a considerable quantity of oranges in excess of normal market requirements and surplus to produce company requirements has been built up in producing areas. To assist in disposing of this surplus, it is necessary to explore every possible outlet. Will the Minister of Education, in conjunction with the Minister of Agriculture, investigate the possibility of selling quantities of oranges through school canteens?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will certainly look into the matter for the honourable member. However, he will appreciate that school canteens are run independently of the department. Therefore, all that it might be possible to do would be to request that school canteens take advantage of any offer that could be made to them by the Citrus Organization Committee. I will certainly look into the possibility and, if this is possible, I will see to it that the school canteens are circularized and informed about the particular offer C.O.C. makes to them.

SOUTH-EAST ELECTRICITY

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the new transmission line providing electricity to the South-East?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The new high-voltage transmission line to the South-East will make use of materials and be of a type of construction that will not overlap with normal electricity extension work proposed for the Lucindale area or elsewhere. Therefore it will not cause any delay in these works.

ELIZABETH OCCUPATION CENTRE

Mr. CLARK: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the delay in completing the construction of toilets at the Elizabeth Occupation Centre?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am informed by the Public Buildings Department that construction of the Elizabeth Occupation Centre toilets has reached the stage where internal terrazzo partitions are about to be installed. The expected date of completion is the end of August, 1970.

Mr. Clark: Did you check the date?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I checked specifically on that point for the honourable member.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Mr. EASTICK: Recently I asked the Attorney-General a question about information which was circulated by his department to all members and which gave a definite quota of justices of the peace for each town in a district. Apparently this quota does not recognize that justices get older, have health problems and, in some cases, have appointments that frequently take them outside their town. For these reasons, justices may not be able to carry out in their town the duties for which they were appointed. For the benefit of all members, can the Attorney-General say in what circumstances appointments of justices of the peace beyond the quota will be considered?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Since becoming Attorney-General, I have been concerned, as a result of my observations and of the observations made to me by the honourable member and other honourable members, about the rather inflexible nature of the present quota system, and I recognize that it is necessary to devise a formula that gives greater flexibility to the present quota system for the appointment of justices. I am still considering the matter and, as soon as I am able to devise a more appropriate formula than the one used at present, I will inform the honourable member.

CHAIN OF PONDS JUNCTION

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Several constituents have complained to me about the junction of the Kersbrook and Gumeracha roads at Chain of Ponds. As this junction occurs on the brow of a hill, it is impossible for a driver coming from Chain of Ponds to see traffic proceeding along the Kersbrook road and for a driver travelling from Kersbrook to see traffic on the road through Chain of Ponds. Will the Minister of Roads and Transport see whether something can be done to improve the situation at this junction?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to examine the matter and to bring down a reply.

ST. LEONARDS SCHOOL

Mr. BECKER: As I understand that plans are being drawn for the erection of a new school block to replace the existing temporary classrooms at the St. Leonards Primary School, can the Minister of Education say what stage the plans have reached and when work on the new building is expected to commence?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The project for a new building at St. Leonards Primary

School is not yet on the official departmental list within the Public Buildings Department. As I shall be going to the St. Leonards Primary School this evening, I shall be pleased to examine the situation at the school and to see the problems there. As I know that the rebuilding of the St. Leonards school is on the primary division list, I will inquire to see what stage progress has reached in getting this project on to the departmental design list.

BEACH EROSION

Mr. CUMBE: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to the question I asked last week about beach erosion at our suburban beaches?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Coast and beach protection is not the responsibility of the Marine and Harbors Department except in respect of its own waterfront lands. However, the department's engineering staff is experienced in this type of work and as a result it is often asked for gratuitous advice. Occasionally special grants have been made to local councils for beach protection works, and in these instances the Marine and Harbors Department has been asked to approve the plans, inspect the works and certify the accounts.

About six years ago, the Government assisted in a full-scale investigation of the beach erosion problem by the Adelaide University by a grant of \$30,000 payable in six annual instalments of \$5,000, the last of which was paid this year. An interim report by the university strongly recommended the setting up of a Metropolitan Beach Protection Authority with power *inter alia* to construct beach protection works, and to control all forms of development affecting the metropolitan beaches. The Government intends to study closely the final report from the Adelaide University before it decides on a course of action.

HILLS SCHOOLS

Mr. EVANS: I refer to two small primary schools at Ironbank and Cherry Gardens in the Adelaide Hills. Rumour has it that a large sum is to be spent on the Cherry Gardens Primary School which is in the catchment area of the new Clarendon reservoir and which is a considerable distance from the centre of the Cherry Gardens township. The Ironbank Primary School, which has only a small enrolment, is not owned by the Education Department, the building being leased from the local Methodist Church trust. I wondered whether a school might be built between these two townships, plenty of land being available outside the catchment area on which one could be erected. If

that were done, the students who normally congregate inside the catchment area would be congregating outside that area. Also, as the school would serve both areas, the number of students would be greater, so that perhaps the standard of education could be better than that presently provided in a one-teacher school, with seven classes, which is the position at Ironbank. Will the Minister of Education have this matter investigated before too much money is spent on the Cherry Gardens school which, as I have said, is in the catchment area?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I certainly know of no proposal to rebuild the Cherry Gardens Primary School. However, I shall be pleased to consider the honourable member's suggestion, and I shall also see whether the children at these two schools might receive a better education if bus services were provided to take them to the largest of the neighbouring schools in the honourable member's district. I assure him that the whole matter and possible solutions will be fully investigated.

HOUSING TRUST TENANCY

Mr. WELLS: One of my constituents was told, when she accepted from the Housing Trust the tenancy of a shop, that she should re-cover the shop floor. This work was expensive but, nevertheless, had to be undertaken. Subsequently, this woman discovered that in a doctor's surgery adjacent to the shop that she was occupying the floor had been re-covered with expensive floor tiles, at the expense of the trust. In addition, the shop that she occupied was unsuitable for the type of goods that she desired to sell (it was a delicatessen) and early last summer she lost most of her stock of chocolates because of the effects of the heat. At her own expense, she installed an air-conditioning unit, but it was not satisfactory, and she replaced it with a further unit, which also was unsatisfactory. Then she engaged a firm of experts, who stated that the insulation of the ceiling and the roof with a certain type of insulating material would solve the problem. I was brought into the matter at this stage, and an officer of the trust, in reply to a letter I had written to the General Manager, stated that, regarding covering the floor with tiles, the terms of the lease of the shop differed from the terms of the lease of the surgery, and nothing could be done about that matter. However, the reply stated that the trust would send an officer to examine the insulation of the ceiling of the shop. I have since been told that the experts that the tenant called in to inves-

tigate insulating the ceiling have refused to undertake the insulating work because of the bad state of repair into which the ceiling has fallen, stating that the trust would hold them responsible for any damage that occurred (a trust officer later confirmed this statement). If I give the Premier, as Minister of Development, the name of the person and her address, will he call for a report on this matter, with a view to rectifying the position for the tenant?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I shall be pleased to get a report for the honourable member.

BLUE LAKE EXPRESS

Mr. RODDA: I refer to the night accommodation on the Mount Gambier overnight train, which is known as the Blue Lake express.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Is this the "express" that stops at all stations?

Mr. RODDA: It stops at most of them. This matter, like the accommodation to which I refer, is a hoary old chestnut. For a long time the sleeping accommodation on this train has been unsuitable and it does not attract the patronage that modern accommodation would attract. Knowing the Minister's many difficulties, I do not get pleasure from adding to them. However, will he use his good offices to have a modern sleeping car provided, as a trial, on this train?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I have already discussed this matter with the Railways Commissioner, mainly because of the many requests that I have heard made since I have been in this Parliament by the member for Victoria and, more particularly, by the member for Mount Gambier. The latter member has been complaining consistently about this train and, frankly, I consider that the complaints of both members are more than justified. We are still examining the matter and I hope that the position will be rectified. I am sure the honourable member is extremely thankful that there was a change of Government on May 30, because plans were in hand to discontinue the Mount Gambier passenger service if the previous Government had remained in office.

SCHOOL RECRUITING

Mr. CLARK: A few days ago, because of the concern that several constituents in Elizabeth had expressed to me about secondary schoolchildren being addressed for Army recruiting purposes, I asked the Minister of Education to obtain information on the matter. A news broadcast this morning about this matter was a little confused. I should like

everyone in South Australia, and particularly all members of Parliament, to know that I do not at present have influenza, I have not had it in the immediate past, and I hope I shall not get it in future. However, the broadcast stated that I could not be contacted because I had influenza, even though the radio station had contacted me earlier in the morning. Has the Minister a further reply to my previous question?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am pleased that the member for Elizabeth has been, is, and hopes to remain, in good health. The Army was given general approval in 1968 to visit schools at the headmasters' discretion, and it has been the practice of the Army to take in a small team of officers once a year to selected schools, where films are shown on such aspects of Army training as the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and the Army apprenticeship scheme. No contracts or brochures are apparently brought to these meetings. Certainly, no applications would be received from students. There is a second kind of function arranged by Rotary Clubs which they call careers days or careers evenings: these are attended by Army teams. At these functions one would find representatives of the Education Department recruiting teachers, and representatives of large firms, officers of the Police Department, etc. Probably the reference to the Octagon Theatre was to the function arranged by the Elizabeth Rotary Club during the day of June 17. I am assured by the Army authorities that there is no intention to hold any special function in August at the Octagon Theatre. One of the features of secondary schools in the last few years has been the collection of careers information. The Education Department provides information on teaching, and large firms, such as General Motors-Holden's, Chrysler Australia Limited, indicate their apprenticeship schemes, and so on. There is no attempt to recruit, but merely to inform, so that students may make a careful and informed choice of positions. The Army, like all other employers, attempts to insist on meeting the parents and, in fact, the father must sign any application to enter the Army in either of the training schemes indicated above. Any visit to schools of this nature is subject to the approval of the individual headmaster concerned. I am confident that headmasters will use the discretion granted to them to ensure that only appropriate contacts are made with students.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understood the Minister to say that the matter of

allowing Army personnel into schools was entirely at the discretion of the headmaster. Can the Minister of Education say whether any headmaster with some personal objection to military service has in the past refused military personnel entry to a school or is likely to do so in future? I understand that the policy of the Minister's Party is generally to oppose National Service as a compulsory service and to allow the defence of Australia to rest upon voluntary recruitment. In these circumstances it seems to me important that service personnel should have adequate and reasonable access to schools. Will the Minister comment on the possibility that a headmaster with some conscientious reason may exercise his right of veto, and in these circumstances—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member knows that it is not correct to ask a Minister to comment.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I accept your correction, Mr. Speaker, but I know that the Minister is bursting to comment. If these circumstances existed, would the department encourage the headmaster to allow recruiting personnel into the school?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the honourable member is aware that it is necessary these days to allow independence for headmasters in State schools, the same as applies in independent schools. The cause regarding independence for headmasters is not served by the honourable member's asking a question which, if I carried out its implications, would involve me in having departmental officers chasing around the countryside and quizzing individual headmasters about their particular policy. I know of no instance where what the honourable member has suggested has occurred. I do not intend to consider what action may be taken in certain purely hypothetical circumstances, which are the product of the honourable member's fertile mind. I intend to continue and, as far as possible, expand the policy of providing independence for individual headmasters. If we give them discretion we should not interfere continually with the way that that discretion is exercised.

SALENITY

Mr. EASTICK: The Minister of Works would be aware that the extension of some reticulation schemes depends on the use of water obtained from bores, some of which supply water too saline for human and stock consumption. Can the Minister say what is

the maximum salinity of water that his department will reticulate?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As I am not sure of the maximum salinity content about which the honourable member has asked, I will inquire and bring down a report.

SCHOOL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Mr. BECKER: The following appeared in the *Education Gazette* of May 1, 1969, under the heading, "New Programmes for the Medical Examination of schoolchildren in South Australia":

There have been significant changes made in the school health programme. The changes arose from the fact that the Government decided during 1968 to extend the School Medical Service to all private schools in South Australia, something which had not been done previously. This meant an additional 37,000 children to be covered by the programme and it became obvious that the existing programme of examinations in grade 1, grade 4, grade 7 (primary schools) and second and fourth year (secondary schools) could not be continued, as staff and finance were not available.

It continues:

A medical examination by doctor and sister which will include testing of vision and hearing is to be done in grades 1 and 7 in primary schools and in third year in secondary schools. Testing of vision and hearing only by sisters will be done in grade 4, and in fifth year.

Will the Minister of Education therefore review the present system, with a view to increasing the frequency of such medical examinations of schoolchildren?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member would I am sure be the first to realize that increasing the frequency of these tests would involve increased expenditure and that increased expenditure in this direction must compete with scarce financial resources for the department's other needs. However, I will examine the matter.

PORT LINCOLN DEEP SEA PORT

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to the question I asked last week regarding the establishment of a deep sea port at Port Lincoln?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The estimated total cost of the Port Lincoln project is about \$6,000,000, although detailed estimates have yet to be prepared. The scheme has been submitted to the Public Works Standing Committee and it is expected that the department will be presenting evidence within six weeks. Should the committee recommend favourably, and approval is given for the scheme, it is probable that funds will be allocated in the 1971-1972 Loans Estimates. The work will take three years to complete.

WATER RATES

Mr. CARNIE: Recently all houses in Port Lincoln were reassessed for water rating purposes and, to say the least, the consequent increases have not been accepted happily. Increases brought to my notice have averaged about 60 per cent and some have been over 100 per cent. Such increases are causing much hardship to many people, but the cases I wish to bring to the Minister's notice are those of age pensioners. The rates of one pensioner couple have increased by \$72.16 to \$120.88 a year. This means that this couple now has to pay \$2.33 a week in water and sewerage rates. Another case is that of an aged widow whose rates have increased by \$41.40 a year to a total of \$101, and she is totally unable to pay this increase. As these are only two cases among many, will the Minister of Works investigate the possibility of reducing water and sewerage rates for pensioners?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: First, I point out that everyone can appeal against the valuation of a property. The honourable member would know this and I assume that his constituents would have been told of it. However, if they do not take that action, people who can display real hardship, such as pensioners and others, can ask for water and sewerage rates to be accumulated against their estate. The Minister has no power under the Act to remit any part of water or sewer rates, but, if hardship is caused, a request can be made to allow these rates to accumulate against the estate. Perhaps the honourable member's constituents may agree to this procedure or even to paying by instalments, which is another method that can be used in cases of hardship. This usually applies to pensioners, but it can also apply to others. However, I shall be pleased to consider the matter to see whether something cannot be done for the honourable member's constituents if they so desire.

SOCIAL STUDIES TEXTBOOKS

Mr. GUNN: Can the Minister of Education say whether the department has any plans to revise the social studies textbooks in order to give an unbiased coverage to political Parties?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I thought I had made myself quite clear on this matter, and that even the honourable member would have appreciated the system that operates. Curricula and textbooks are in the hands of the appropriate curricula committees, and I do not intend to instruct or discuss with them how they are going to carry out their job. I am confident that they will continue to carry out

their job in future in as impartial and professional a way as they have undertaken it in the past. It is time that people desisted from this kind of criticism and approach. When the headmaster of a school has to write to a country newspaper to protest about accusations being made about his and his staff's political affiliations, things have reached the stage where we should all be concerned to ensure that people generally recognize the professional integrity of the people involved.

READERS DIGEST

Mr. LANGLEY: Recently, I received a letter from a constituent about the way that *Readers Digest* sends mail in order to obtain subscribers. On the face of the letter is printed "Urgent gram" in two places. Also "Open Immediately" is printed on the face of a gold and brown envelope, and on the back of it "Urgent gram" is shown in three places. The impression is that it is an urgent telegram. My constituent, who recently lost her husband and whose only child is employed as a driver, was most upset when receiving this kind of mail, particularly as the letter was addressed to her and her husband. If I give the Attorney-General this correspondence, will he discuss this matter with the appropriate authority to ascertain whether something cannot be done to stop this practice?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I can understand the distress that a communication of this kind may cause to the person receiving it. Unfortunately, this material is often posted outside this State and I am not sure that anything can be done in this State. However, if the honourable member will supply me with the particulars I will consider this matter.

GILBERTON FLATS

Mr. CUMBE: I refer to the large three-storey block of flats now being built by the Housing Trust adjacent to Channel 10's television station at Gilberton, in my district. The Premier, as Minister in charge of housing, will recall that this project was deferred, tenders were subsequently let, and the project was proceeded with during the Hall Government's regime. The building was to be called Elliott Lodge. Will the Premier obtain some information for me regarding this block of flats, which I have inspected, particularly in relation to the number of tenants likely to be housed in those flats? Also, will he ascertain when it is expected that the flats will be completed and whether special provisions are being made for single persons or pensioners to occupy them? I point out that

the construction of these flats has been the subject of an agreement between the Housing Trust and the Walkerville council.

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

LOCHABER ELECTRICITY

Mr. RODDA: During November and December last, an officer of the Electricity Trust visited the Lochaber district and tentatively took details of the installation of power points, etc., in farm houses and station sheds in that area. Although that officer said that he would return in January in connection with more specific requirements, the people in the district have not since seen or heard any more of the trust's activities in that area, and some concern is being expressed about what progress is likely in this regard. As arrangements to complete the Naracoorte scheme are well under way, people in Lochaber are naturally concerned. As the Minister of Works knows, the lighting plants are wearing out and the batteries have outlived their usefulness. Will the Minister examine the matter I have raised on behalf of the Lochaber people and bring down a report?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to do that.

LAWN MOWERS

Mr. EVANS: Over the last two years, since I have been a member of this House, I have received one or two letters complaining about the noise made by motor mowers, especially in the early hours of the morning, and I recently received three more complaints from people about this matter. Although I do not believe that a law can be introduced to stop people from using lawn mowers at any particular time, I ask the Attorney-General whether it would be possible to place on the Statute Book a law providing that household motor mowers used in residential areas must be fitted with a muffler, similar to the type fitted to a motor vehicle.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I must say that this has never occurred to me, but I am willing to consider the honourable member's suggestion, and I will let him have a reply in due course.

POLDA SUBSTATION

Mr. GUNN: Can the Minister of Works say when the Electricity Trust will construct the Poldia Basin substation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No; but I shall be happy to find out.

WEST BEACH BUS SERVICE

Mr. BECKER: At present, a Municipal Tramways Trust bus serves West Beach residents, traversing a route along Burbridge Road, Military Road and Seaview Road. During the past four years, many new houses have been built at West Beach Estate, and most of the residents of this area who use the bus have to walk at least a mile to their nearest bus stop. West Beach Estate is the area east of Military Road, west of Tapley Hill Road, north of West Beach Road and south of Burbridge Road. Would the Minister of Roads and Transport be kind enough to request the Municipal Tramways Trust to investigate the possibility of extending the Adelaide to West Beach bus route in order to serve residents living in West Beach Estate?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This matter has already been investigated at the request of the Minister of Labour and Industry who, last year, asked the then Minister of Roads and Transport, through the Attorney-General in this House, a question identical to the one just asked. Although the then Minister rejected the request, I am willing to have a look at the matter to see whether this suggestion can be implemented.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION BILLS

The Legislative Council intimated its concurrence in the appointment of the committee and notified the selection of its representatives.

LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Lottery and Gaming Act, 1936, as amended. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move.

That this Bill be now read a second time. It gives effect to one aspect of the Government's policy and amends the Lottery and Gaming Act by enabling authorized and exempted lotteries to be conducted. Clause 2 provides for the Bill to become law on a day to be fixed by proclamation; clause 3 makes a formal amendment to the principal Act; and clause 4 defines "authorized lottery"

and "exempted lottery" and widens the definition of "lottery". An authorized lottery is defined as a lottery for the conduct of which a licence under the Act is in force. An exempted lottery is defined as a lottery that is for the time being exempted by regulation.

The policy underlying the Bill provides that certain classes of lottery will be exempted from the provisions of the Act by regulation while authorized lotteries will be covered by licences granted under the Act. The expression "lottery" is given a wider meaning than at present to include any scheme, competition or device for the disposal or distribution of property which depends, at some stage of the scheme, competition or device, on an element of chance. It will therefore be seen that the Act provides that all lotteries will be illegal, except authorized and exempted lotteries and lotteries of a kind referred to in section 9 (new section 14a). Clause 5 makes a formal amendment to the heading of Part II; and clause 6 inserts a new section 4b into Part II which provides that that Part does not apply or refer to any authorized or exempted lottery. Clauses 7, 8 and 9 increase the penalties provided for breaches of sections 6, 7 and 8 of the principal Act. Clause 10 adds to the exceptions from the Act contained in section 9 three new categories of exception, namely:

- (a) where property is distributed among the owners and that property is capable of being fairly apportioned among all the owners and is apportioned equally, so far as practicable, among all the owners;
- (b) where the disposal or attempted disposal of any property or the allotting of any prize of money is by means of a device or game where the participant is entitled gratuitously to participate and to receive such property or prize; and
- (c) where there is a raffle of a private nature among persons engaged in common employment under the same employer and the net proceeds thereof are intended to be appropriated to the provision of amenities for persons in that employment and the value of the prize does not exceed \$25.

Clause 11 enacts a new Part IIA comprising new sections 14a to 14d which deals with authorized and exempted lotteries. New section 14a provides that it shall not be an offence to conduct or participate in an authorized or

exempted lottery or a lottery of a kind referred to in section 9.

New section 14b provides for the making of regulations: prescribing lotteries or classes of lottery for the conduct of which licences may be granted under the Act; providing for the granting and refusal of licences by the Chief Secretary or a person nominated by him; prescribing the conditions under or subject to which a licence may be granted; providing for cancellation of a licence upon breach of a condition; prescribing and providing for the payment of fees for licences; exempting any lottery or class of lottery; providing for a penalty not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding three months for a breach of a regulation; and providing for related matters.

New section 14c provides that failure to comply with a prescribed condition is an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500 or by imprisonment for six months, or both. It will be a defence in any prosecution for an offence under the section if the defendant proves that he took all reasonable steps to prevent the commission of the offence. New section 14d requires the appointment of an approved person by a group of associations or organizations, before a licence is granted to it, who shall be responsible for carrying out and complying with all conditions under and subject to which a licence may be granted to or held by the group.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from July 29. Page 435.)

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): Rather significantly, this is the first piece of legislation the new Government has brought forward, and it is something that the Labor Party has tried to introduce into South Australia for some time. The Upper House refused permission to the previous Labor Government to implement it, and now the present Government has introduced it, undoubtedly having much more confidence that the Bill will be passed. I make it clear that I oppose the Bill and will vote against it, as ineffectual as that vote may be, for I believe that, at least on this matter, all Government back-benchers will vote for the Government.

Significantly, we have this first flourish of Socialism which will do nothing that matters for the South Australian citizens, yet important questions that will have a great effect on the lives of South Australians are wanting action by the Government. Day after day in this House, Opposition members are being denied answers to their questions about these important matters, yet we are to deal with this matter, the implementing of which will do nothing for South Australians.

We continue to wonder what the Government is doing about important matters such as providing a guarantee of South Australia's water supply. When will the Government effectively back up the policy of two dams for which it voted in this House? We wonder why the Premier has refuted a statement widely attributed to him by the three forms of news media in this State. The Government continues to live on announcements of industrial promotion that are directly related to actions of the previous Government. Even today, in dealing with the Government's intentions in relation to air pollution and pollution of the environment generally, the Premier was using as a basis action taken by the previous Government. While all this is taking place, there is a churning out of words, yet difficulty is facing South Australia and there is a need for Government action that we are not getting. We will not be governed but we will be traded to success in the new era of Socialism in South Australia.

The same old arguments and reasons for introducing an insurance office were given by the Premier in his weak second reading explanation. Some of the defects in a minor section of the insurance industry were paraded out again in this House and put before the public as an excuse for setting up another insurance office. As I remember pointing out in the previous debate on this matter, nothing is contained in the Bill that is planned to cure any of the ills referred to in the second reading explanation. The Bill contains nothing that will remedy the situation about which the Premier spoke last evening. The Premier proposes nothing that will have an effect on the failure or discriminations which he referred to and which may exist in a minor section of the insurance industry. Why then does the Premier parade these items as a reason for establishing another respectable insurance company among the many respectable insurance companies that already exist in this State? The only reason for this Bill is that

it fulfils the Labor Party Socialist policy, and that is why we must debate the Bill now.

Although I make no complaint, as I understand the Government is willing to have only a few speeches made today on the Bill and then have it dealt with again next week, this debate is taking place rather suddenly. I am sure that members who wish to speak in greater detail to the Bill than I do will appreciate the weekend in which to study it further. I assure the Government, no doubt to its gratification, that my remarks will not be lengthy at this stage, although I will ask questions as the clauses of the Bill are dealt with in Committee. At that stage we will discuss the details, having had more time in which to study the implications of the Bill. One test that is made of a Bill is to ask why it is before Parliament; apart from the spurious arguments of the Premier to which I have just referred in which he points to defects and includes no remedy in the Bill to deal with them, what is the reason for this Bill? Is South Australia worse off in relation to insurance than the other States that have Government insurance offices? Is this legislation designed to cure something?

Perhaps one could ask whether tariffs in South Australia are higher. Is there something peculiar about South Australia? In looking at tariffs in significant areas that interest members of the public generally, we find that there is something peculiar about the tariffs in South Australia. We are different because our tariffs are lower. Therefore, what is peculiar about South Australia, the 'odd State' out that does not have a Government insurance office, is that it has lower tariffs. Do we want to alter the situation on behalf of the public? Let us tamper with it and alter it! That is what the Bill is designed to do: not govern but trade. This will not affect the course of insurance in this State except to divide the existing business, thereby raising the cost to the community. In this day and age, when management is becoming particularly important in every type of industry, no-one can deny that to divide the available business is to raise the cost to individual operators.

Mr. Jennings: I thought competition was supposed to reduce costs.

Mr. HALL: Let me tell the honourable member what competition has done for South Australia. Further, let him try to justify, if he wishes to do so, the move being made here, on the basis of the tariffs charged in this State at present. As the honourable member knows, there are categories for motor vehicle insurance

premiums, and the categories of interest to the House and to the public are Nos. 2, 3, and 4. Category 2, I consider, covers what may be called the popular makes of motor car. I refer to the medium size car that most people in South Australia use. In New South Wales, for purposes of this comparison, the insurance rate in category 2 (the metropolitan area) for that car is \$150.50, and the comparable rates in the other States are: Victoria, \$140.90; Western Australia, \$119; South Australia, \$99.80; Queensland, \$97; and Tasmania, \$123. Our charge is the lowest of all States except one, and the lowest rate, that in Queensland, in that category is \$2 below our rate.

In tariff categories 3 and 4, our rates are the lowest. Therefore, in two of the three major comparisons in that category we have the lowest tariff. In relation to the other categories, I shall refer to the highest and lowest rates only. The rate in New South Wales is \$192.10 and in South Australia it is \$127.10. The nearest rate to the South Australian rate is the \$145 charged in Queensland, and that State, like all other States except South Australia, has a Government insurance office. Therefore, those Government insurance office figures are included in this comparison. In relation to rates in the country parts of the States, Queensland's rate in category 2 is \$2.40 lower than the South Australian rate, and in every other category South Australia's rate is the lowest. Therefore, can any member opposite give any reason for the establishment of a Government insurance office here? Not much could be said at present, because there is no-one on the front bench: no Minister is at present giving his attention in this House.

Mr. Coumbe: This is the first time I've seen that.

Mr. Langley: It's not the first time I've seen it.

Mr. HALL: I ask the leaderless legion opposite to give some thought to my question, because the Ministers obviously are not here to do it. I ask members opposite whether they can justify their support of this measure by comparing our rates of insurance for motor vehicles with rates charged elsewhere. Obviously, they would have to say that they could not do that. If we are in this business of getting closer to the other States, we will raise our tariffs to bring them closer to those of other States.

The Premier, in his explanation, dealt with other matters. He brought in a point about the wording of contracts. Of course, it is a fact (and I say this because the insurance

industry has given me information for which I asked) that the wording of contracts used by nearly all tariff companies and many non-tariff companies is the same, regardless of category, and this also applies to Government insurance offices. Practically all insurance houses adopt the same wording of contracts. The Premier has made much of what he calls the unilateral alterations that some companies are reputed to be making to their types of contract, and in that part of his explanation he states:

In the comprehensive motor vehicle field, it has been common for insurance companies to give notice of alterations in the amount of franchise payable or to impose additional premiums where owners of vehicles have made claims, despite the fact that it cannot be shown that they are accident prone. It had been brought to the notice of the Government that certain companies had included in their insurance policies a condition in the following terms:

Then the Premier refers to companies being able to alter a particular aspect of the contract if they so desire. Every other Government insurance office in Australia writes contracts that give it that ability, if it desires to have it. I freely predict that, if this Bill passes, the new Government insurance office will write into its contracts a similar term, which will enable it to make the very variation that the Premier now criticizes. What other reasons are given for establishing a Government insurance office? No reason that has been given stands up to examination. A point was made also in the Premier's explanation about personal accident insurance. Does the Premier know that the rates for personal accident insurance are the same throughout Australia, whether with Government or private tariff companies?

Mr. Coumbe: Then what's the advantage of it?

Mr. HALL: As the member for Torrens says, what is the advantage of having this office, and why is it being established? I do not expect to get a reply to that now or at any other time, because the Government, in its early days of office, is not in the habit of giving answers, despite the fact that we are entitled to them.

In another part of his explanation the Premier mentions payouts and how difficult it is at present for people to rely on the arbitration clause, which is somewhat difficult. The arbitration procedure is said to be cumbersome, expensive and difficult. What will the Government insurance office do that is so different from what a private company may do? Will it pay out quickly? Well, I believe

that the present insurance companies will pay out quickly. The point at issue is whether the person covered will accept the offer. If the person covered by our Government insurance office will not accept the offer, what will the commission or the Government do? Will it just shell out? If it does that, and pays out more money more easily, what will the commission's premiums be? Will the commission get its money from the taxpayer, or from the insured?

Do not let us have the Government saying that insurance is so profitable today that the commission will be able to pay out more money for the same collection of tariff. At least, the Premier did not say that, but this is the consequence of following his reasoning through. I am concerned that the Government should give this false impression to the public. I repeat that the public is being given the false impression that, once one goes to our Government insurance office, insurance business will be easy to transact, and the service will be better. It has been said that the people will get better service and easier cash payments. All I can say is that I hope the money does not come from the general taxpayer. The Government is putting abroad the impression that payment will be obtained much more easily and that a person will not have any troubles when dealing with a Government insurance office. I ask members opposite to consider what has happened in other States in relation to Government insurance offices. If members opposite think that those offices do not have disputes with clients, let them look at the court records, which show that several years ago in New South Wales there was a delay of about four years in having cases heard. I have not brought my information up to date, but I remember giving that material to the House during the previous debate on this subject.

Mr. Coumbe: That delay occurred under a New South Wales Labor Government.

Mr. HALL: That may have been one of the reasons for the delay.

Mr. Clark: You're talking about the period from 1965 to 1968, aren't you?

Mr. HALL: Yes, I agree with the member for Elizabeth; I have not had time to bring the information up to date, and the position now certainly is better than it was. Of course, it would need to be. Members opposite should not kid the people that clients do not have disputes with Government insurance offices. These offices know that, to succeed, they must operate in a business-like manner, and the small

margin between success and failure depends on good management, not just a statistical figure or table. Many questions need to be asked when this Bill reaches the Committee stage. For instance, what use will be made of public servants as agents for the Government insurance office? That is a good question and one that I hope can be answered. Perhaps the Government can assure me that on no occasion will public servants be used to create an unfair advantage in insurance in this State. Also, will the Government insurance office have to pay sales tax and all other taxes on its investments? Clause 17 of the Bill provides:

Whilst any Act relating to income tax shall not apply to the commission, the commission shall from time to time pay to the Treasurer such sums as the Treasurer deems to be the equivalent of the amounts which would be payable by the commission if the commission in respect of its insurance business were liable as an insurance company for payment of income tax and other taxes under the provisions of any Act or Commonwealth Act.

The governing phrase of that clause is, "of its insurance business." The Premier must tell the House whether that also applies to its investments apart from its daily turnover in insurance business. The two important questions are whether public servants are to be used as agents, at no cost to the Government, and whether the Government insurance office is going to make a full payment to the Treasury in lieu of ordinary normal trading taxes on other than simply day-to-day transactions. These are matters that the Opposition will pursue in detail when the Bill reaches Committee. I return now to my remark that the Government should carry on the business of governing. It needs to do so because the South Australian public is day by day being confused by the Government's shoving and filling and refusing to provide information. The Government is now involved in activity—

Mr. McKee: That is why you are in Opposition.

Mr. HALL: The honourable member speaks from his citadel of Port Pirie, which has supported him without the slightest hesitation throughout his political career, and he has never had to fight close politics. He knows, as he has looked at his Ministers' operations, that they are denying the public the information it seeks and, while this is happening, we are having put through Parliament the first flourish of Socialism in this piece of legislation that the Government has introduced. I oppose the Bill, which I will study and give my close attention to.

Mr. Jennings: You should have done that before you spoke.

Mr. HALL: The member for Ross Smith may well have guided his Government to pay the Opposition a little more courtesy instead of presenting this Bill a few days before asking us to debate it. He is merely furthering the Government's dictatorial attitude towards the Opposition.

Mr. Langley: You know that is wrong. You are not telling the truth.

Mr. HALL: His Government is refusing to answer the public's queries, and it is providing a dose of Socialism without any ground for justifying it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. HALL: I again ask members opposite, including the member for Unley, to justify this legislation.

Mr. Langley: We will.

Mr. HALL: I also ask him to prove that it is needed, on the basis that it will produce lower insurance charges in this State, that it will produce fewer disputes between the public and a Government insurance office than exist between the public and private insurers today. I ask him to prove also that it will cure any one of the ills that the Premier has used as an excuse for introducing this legislation. I oppose the Bill.

Mr. BURDON (Mount Gambier): Possibly never in the history of South Australia have we witnessed such a scene as we witnessed this afternoon, when we had the supposed Leader of a political Party get up and lead a campaign against the Government's proposal to establish in South Australia a Government insurance office. I did not think it would be possible to listen to such an inept attempt by the Leader, who swung his arms around and spoke about the flourish of Socialism.

Mr. Ryan: And said nothing.

Mr. BURDON: His speech did not contain one good point that would in any way justify opposition to the Government's policy in this matter. This afternoon the Leader said something about not receiving information from this side of the House. How absurd can he be, when he earned the reputation, as Leader of the previous Government, of being the man who never answered a question?

Mr. Rodda: That is untrue, and it is most unfair.

Mr. BURDON: It is not unfair. He has that reputation, and he can have it. On no occasion did the Leader give any information to this House. Members opposite talk about

dictators, but this afternoon we had a complete example of what a dictator can do. The Leader of the Opposition, when Premier, probably thought when he used to rant in this way that he was influencing the people of South Australia. However, his action has put him on the left-hand side of the Speaker and, if he does not join his colleagues in Canberra as it has been suggested he will do, he will be sitting there for many a long day.

The Leader's speech this afternoon contained nothing that would rebut the Government's proposal to establish a Government insurance office. Some of the things that were said this afternoon have been said throughout Australia for the last 50 years by opponents of such schemes. There were such people in Western Australia in 1926, and later in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. If any member wishes to read the history of these insurance offices, he will find that the same sort of ranting as occurred this afternoon has also occurred in the past. Not only that, but such an insurance office in Western Australia operated illegally for 12 years, and successive Liberal Governments did nothing to close it up.

One of the greatest advances has occurred in the State insurance field in Queensland and New South Wales. Indeed, in Queensland the State Government Insurance Office is the dominating insurance company. Such offices are restricted in Tasmania and Victoria and, to a certain degree, in Western Australia. These limitations have been imposed by State Governments. In 1917, the first State Government insurance office was established in Queensland. This step has been followed in every other State except South Australia, and the same arguments we heard this afternoon have been advanced in those cases. Opponents said that it was not the correct time for such a step to be taken, that costs would increase, that public servants would be asked to do something that was wrong, and that it would mean more competition for the private insurance companies.

Mr. McAnaney: What did they do in Queensland?

Mr. BURDON: They instituted a State Government Insurance Office.

Mr. McAnaney: Who collects the insurance?

Mr. BURDON: If the honourable member perused the history of that office I am sure that he would be enlightened. It shows a considerable profit—

Mr. Rodda: Is this office going to be of any benefit to farmers?

Mrs. Byrne: I doubt that they will use it, because you will tell them not to.

Mr. BURDON: In replying to the member for Victoria, I shall quote figures later showing the benefits that have been derived by district councils in Western Australia from that State's Government Insurance Office. The Fiftieth Annual Report of the Queensland Government Insurance Office states:

This annual report, which closes a half-century of achievement, is a tribute to the men and women throughout Queensland who, during that period, have contributed to the success of the office. It is, therefore, very pleasing to report that in this, the golden jubilee year of the foundation of the office, we have substantially exceeded all previous production, profit and bonus distribution records and have become firmly established as the most progressive and prominent insurance office in Queensland. The achievements of the office, since its formation in 1916, reflect the confidence which it has enjoyed from the insuring public of Queensland. In return, the office has reciprocated by providing the greatest range of insurance benefits ever known in the history of insurance in Australia.

The planning over the last five decades has been aimed at maintaining a service based on the principle of maximum benefits to policyholders at the minimum possible cost. This was the reason for our foundation and the office, despite its great success in the insurance world, has never forgotten that the basis for its existence is the general welfare of the people of Queensland.

Mr. McKee: Who wrote this report?

Mr. BURDON: This was a report presented to a Liberal Government in Queensland. The profit of the Queensland operations for 1967 was more than \$11,000,000. The report continues:

The greatest guide to the success of the positive sales effort during the last twelve months is the rapid increase in the volume of business handled by the office. Every department has smashed previous peak production standards and the total premium income of \$38,800,000 is the highest ever recorded.

This report indicates clearly the success of this office, which received the same opposition 50 years ago that the present move has received in South Australia. The report goes on to say (and this is something the member for Victoria should note):

In Queensland semi-governmental and local authority loans made by the office totalled \$6,400,000; housing societies loans, \$1,600,000; loans on policies, \$1,000,000; mortgage loans, \$7,400,000; company debentures and notes, \$3,800,000; ordinary and preference shares, \$2,600,000; and \$1,200,000 was invested in real property. The portfolio distribution at June 30, 1966, was \$24,000,000. These funds are invested in such firms as fertilizer works, cement works, flour mills, abattoirs and sugar mills in Queensland.

Many country people, including farmers, would be receiving considerable benefit from that investment. Also, the district councils in Queensland would be happy with the result of the establishment of the Queensland office.

I draw special attention to the following points: (1) the valuable assistance rendered to local government bodies in Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales; (2) the considerable savings made by Government departments placing their insurance through the State office; (3) the provisions made for amounts to be paid into the State Treasury equivalent to those that would have been payable to the Taxation Department by private enterprise; and (4) funds held by the Treasury from office operations at low interest rates. It may be appropriate to indicate here that funds exceeding \$13,000,000 are at present held by the Treasury in Victoria from the operations of the State Government Insurance Office, lent to the Treasury at an interest rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I think the South Australian Treasury would be happy to be lent a sum each year, probably at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest; it could do something with that money.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Members opposite are always complaining about interest rates.

Mr. BURDON: Yes; but if the Government got the benefit from such an investment, it would be foolish if it did not take it. I do not want to go through the whole rigmarole of figures here but I want to move on to some of the things that happened in Western Australia. Before doing that, I say that, although the operations of the Tasmanian State Insurance Office are only small, its accumulated profits are of great benefit to that State. Its operations year after year are showing a handsome return to the State Treasury.

I make this point, which was raised by the Leader of the Opposition some time ago when he was putting on a bit of an act in the House, when he asked whether a Government insurance commission would pay taxation. No Government insurance office pays taxation but what it does in every other State (and the same thing will happen here) is that it pays to the State Treasury an amount equivalent to the amount that a private firm would pay as taxation.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Who determines that?

Mr. BURDON: The insurance office determines it on the same basis on which it is determined for a private company.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Who assesses it?

Mr. BURDON: Probably the Government or Treasury officials would assess it on the same basis as the taxation of a private company would be assessed. That money would be paid to the State Treasury instead of as a tax to the Commonwealth Government. It comes to the same thing. So, to say that a Government insurance office gets an unfair advantage is a mis-statement of the position. I have indicated some of the benefits that have accrued from the operations of the State Government Insurance Office in Queensland. In Western Australia there are 104 hospitals (buildings and contents) insured with the Western Australian State Government Insurance Office. Also, 135 out of 141 district councils or shires in Western Australia do the whole of their insurance business with the Government insurance office.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Apparently they do not have to.

Mr. BURDON: It is not compulsory, but 135 out of 141 councils are utilizing the services of the Western Australian State Government Insurance Office. As I said earlier, that office operated for 12 years without the official approval of Parliament. On five occasions the relevant Bill was rejected by the Upper House, but the office still continued its operations, and the Bill was finally got through the Western Australian Parliament by Algy Hawke, who was a former member of this House and, later, Premier of Western Australia, and who I think was Minister of Industrial Development in that State at the time. He was able finally to get the Bill through the State Parliament, but in the meantime a Liberal Government took no action to close the Western Australian State Government Insurance Office.

We have had the same position in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia, where Liberal Governments have not taken the step of abolishing their Government insurance offices, because they realize the great advantages accruing to their States from having these offices. I am certain the same benefit will accrue to South Australia. The only thing is that here we are 40 years behind the times: We should have had this office many years ago. I remember talking to the Manager of the Western Australian office, a former manager in New South Wales, and the Manager of the Victorian State Government Insurance Office, and they said, "There is only one missing link in the chain of State Government insurance offices, and that is South Australia. We hope

to be able to complete the link so that we have an affinity with one another."

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: It would be a chain of Socialism then.

Mr. BURDON: We listen to the people as a whole. It is apparent from what the honourable member says that he represents the King William Street cockies, the North Terrace financiers and, quite clearly, the Establishment in South Australia. It is apparent that, despite the march through Adelaide last week, when farmers came here protesting against a Liberal Government's policies in Canberra—

Mr. Gunn: What is causing the rising costs?

Mr. BURDON: What is causing rising—

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think the honourable member should get back to the Bill.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member should link up his remarks with the clauses of the Bill.

Mr. BURDON: There is no difficulty in doing that, Mr. Speaker, because the farmers are vitally interested in insurance, and I am sure many of them look forward to the establishment of a Government insurance office in South Australia. So I fail to see how the honourable member can take a point of order.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: He is touchy, so you must have been right.

Mr. Clark: You seem to have been getting underneath his skin.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BURDON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quietness seems to be returning to the scene.

Mr. McAnaney: You have not answered the question.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. BURDON: Questions can be asked between 2 and 4 p.m.; I do not have to answer them now.

Mr. Clark: The Leader said all his members would oppose the Bill.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BURDON: What has been said in the Premier's second reading explanation and in my speech so far today about Government insurance offices throughout Australia justifies the establishment of a similar office in this State. As I said before, we are probably 40 years behind the times, but we must realize that we were not living in a very progressive State during that period. It was only with the advent of the Labor Government in 1965 that South Australia woke out of its long slumber.

Mr. Clark: Then followed three good years.

Mr. BURDON: Yes; after those three good years, although the people of South Australia re-endorsed our policy in respect of a Government insurance office, the Labor Government was voted out of office in 1968 through the gerrymander that the Liberal and Country League foisted on South Australia. The people again endorsed our policy in 1970, and no member opposite can deny that.

Mr. Gunn: What will you do to help the farmers?

Mr. BURDON: The way the farmers are going on the West Coast they will be taking action against the honourable member before long. On August 24, 1967, another place carried restrictive amendments to a Bill that had been approved by this House. Because those amendments rendered the Bill completely useless, the Government of the day regarded it as a waste of time to proceed further with it. The Labor Party's policy in respect of a Government insurance office was placed before the people in 1965, 1968 and 1970; so, it has been endorsed by the people three times. Members opposite will have great difficulty in convincing this House that our proposals are not worth implementing. I support the Bill, because it will benefit this State and in years to come it will do for the people here what Government insurance offices have done for the people of other States.

Mr. CRIMES (Spence): It hardly seems necessary that I should indicate my support for this Bill. It is pretty obvious that the Labor Party is entirely committed to the Bill. I remember that, when a similar Bill was introduced during a previous Parliament, a quibble was raised about the reference made to it in the Labor Leader's policy speech. The quibble was that the reference simply said that a Labor Government would consider introducing a measure for the purpose of establishing a State Government insurance office. There is now no question of any quibble, although I accepted at the time that the policy was clear enough and that there was no doubt that the Labor Leader would introduce a Bill for the purpose suggested. However, there can be no doubt whatever about the meaning of my Leader's reference to this matter in his policy speech delivered during the recent election campaign. There can be no grasping at straws in respect of the meaning of his words. My Leader said:

The Legislative Council rejected a mandate the previous Labor Government had for the establishment of a Government Insurance Office. Labor will reintroduce this measure which was thrown out by the L.C.L.-dominated Upper House of this State. It

will be a Government insurance office covering all insurance risks other than life assurance. It will not only, through competition with non-Government insurance offices, ensure adequate standards of insurance service (and in the non-tariff area particularly these do not exist today), but in addition it will provide a valuable source of investment in semi-governmental loans for development.

Experience has proved that this is feasible and practicable. The figures produced by the member for Mount Gambier give practical proof that these offices, by and large, have been very successful and beneficial to the States concerned. A report in an edition of the *Advertiser* published during July, 1967, states:

The Opposition Leader in the Council Mr. DeGaris, said recently he would support a new Bill allowing all forms of insurance except life, if the people gave the Government a mandate. What was done to the Bill at that time indicated that the majority of members in the other place did not endorse Mr. DeGaris's views. Life insurance is not included in the Bill, and this should line up with the requirements of Mr. DeGaris's support.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: We don't care what he thinks, anyway: it's what the people think.

Mr. CRIMES: I agree, and I will later deal with that point more strongly. It seems to me that there is no good reason why life insurance should not be included. However, we are concerned with establishing a Government insurance office that will benefit the people and develop the interests of this State. The Bill constitutes a strong test of support, or otherwise, on the part of Mr. DeGaris. Under the Bill, every liability that would be undertaken by the Government insurance office would be guaranteed by the Government. I believe that this guarantee encourages confidence, and it ensures greater success for the institution that is to be established.

When we refer to an establishment guaranteed by the Government we have only to think of the Savings Bank of South Australia, which is guaranteed by the Government. So proud of being guaranteed by the Government is that bank that it has emblazoned the following words over its doorways "Guaranteed by the Government." No-one will claim that the Savings Bank of South Australia has not been a success. Similarly, when a Government insurance office has been established, no-one will be prepared to say that this State-backed institution is not a success. It is strange to listen to some of the pronouncements made on this matter by the Opposition (the pro-private enterprise side that favours

subsidies and other concessions for private enterprise, even though these subsidies and concessions come from Government sources, which Opposition members seem to dislike so much).

Mr. Ryan: They believe in competition, too, provided it is not Government competition.

Mr. CRIMES: I think the honourable member is correct.

Mr. Jennings: They don't believe in competition; they believe in combination.

Mr. CRIMES: Very good. I think the member for Ross Smith, too, is correct. We must realize that the entire ordering of society depends on Government services, whether they be services provided by the Commonwealth or State Government or by local government. Services such as roads, water, railways, postage, a good deal of power production and provision, and public health benefit every section of the community, including the rural section. An ordered society would collapse without its publicly-based operations; yet, despite the importance of government in the scheme of things, the Opposition would say that government must not enter into business or, as Opposition members put it, trading projects.

If the Government is not fit for the latter, I suggest that it is not fit for the former. On every occasion when we hear of any suggestion to extend public ownership and Government enterprise, we hear the cry of "Socialism!" The Leader of the Opposition referred to the first flourish of Socialism, but I suggest that that is a rather out-dated remark, because, if this is the concept of Socialism understood by the Opposition, the first flourish must have taken place when the first organs of Government were established in Australia. Surely the establishment of railways and other public enterprises would have been flourishes of Socialism that occurred prior to the establishment of a Government insurance office.

The Opposition's idea of Socialism is obviously that it is a form of compulsion, and, if it applies this idea to the establishment of a Government insurance office, where does its charge of Socialism stand? There is no suggestion of compelling the people of this State to take out insurance policies with the Government insurance office. As my colleagues have said, the Government insurance office increases the field of competition and, if competition is not the basis of private or free enterprise, I should like to know what is. Complete freedom of choice in insurance dealings is maintained under the Bill; in other words, one can either do business with the

Government insurance office or go to any one of a multitude of other insurance enterprises within the State.

Mr. Clark: The same as applies in all the other States.

Mr. CRIMES: True. The field of competition is widened, and I suggest that the success of the entry of statutory bodies into the business field and into the field of service to the community is no better indicated than in the establishment by the Commonwealth of a two-

airline system. One can easily imagine what would have occurred in this area had there been a monopoly. However, here a freedom of choice is enshrined in the system. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.53 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 4, at 2 p.m.