

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 27, 1970

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Advances for Homes Act Amendment,
Statutes Amendment (Public Salaries).

QUESTIONS

TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Mr. HALL: Dr. Breuning and his associate are reported to have submitted a verbal assessment to the Government of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study plan. In addition, there have been published reports of a somewhat conflicting nature that the M.A.T.S. plan should not be proceeded with at present, that we should not put all our eggs in one basket, and that we should wait for some new technology that may still be just around the corner. In view of the indecision that could arise if this new recommendation were implemented, in view of the problems that could arise and the cruelty this could mean for individuals in our society as a result of the longer period involved if no decision is made by the Government, and in view of the vehement desire of the Minister of Roads and Transport expressed recently when he was in Opposition that the public should know what the Government is doing, will the Minister make available to this Parliament as soon as possible the report on the M.A.T.S. plan by Dr. Breuning and his associate?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am not sure whether the Leader was in the House on Tuesday when a question was asked by the member for Mitcham about this point but, if he cares to check *Hansard* if he was not here or casts his mind back if he was here, he will see or recall that I said in reply to a question by the member for Mitcham that I expected that the full report would be presented to me in a few weeks' time, and that after it had been perused and the necessary decisions had been made the House would be informed. What I said then applies equally now. I assure the Leader that I do not intend to comment on press comments, which are, after all, the basis of his question. The investigation by Dr. Breuning and his associate (Mr. Kettaneh) has been completed, and they are satisfied with

the work they have done. Having received a verbal report, Cabinet is satisfied that they have completed a full and proper investigation, bearing in mind the time factor involved in this preliminary investigation. As I said on Tuesday, the subsequent written report of the investigation will be made available publicly as soon as it is possible for that to be done.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I know that the Minister does not want to take responsibility for press reports, and I do not blame him for that. However, today's *News* contains a report regarding Dr. Breuning's investigation and states that there may be doubt about whether the subway intended to go under King William Street would be proceeded with. The report also states that this view is expected to follow the final report of the United States transport experts and that their final report is expected to go to the Government in a month's time. This afternoon the Minister has described this investigation as being a preliminary one. I do not know whether he meant that or whether he would like to clear the matter up. If he means that it is a preliminary investigation, can he say what further investigation he is planning? Further, will the Minister undertake that, when Doctor Breuning's report is made available to members, Government time will be provided for the House to debate the report? I am using a phrase similar to that which the present Minister of Education used last year when asking that time be provided for members to discuss the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study Report.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member, when asking a question, cannot refer to what happened last year in debate.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Thank you for reminding me, Mr. Speaker, but I am not quoting from the debate: I am merely using words similar to those the present Minister of Education used last year when asking that Government time be made available for the M.A.T.S. Report to be discussed. In the other part of my question, I asked what the Minister of Roads and Transport meant when he referred to a preliminary investigation.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Although while the honourable member was asking his question I was trying to turn up the reference in *Hansard*, I have not been able to find it. However, for the benefit of the honourable member, who apparently either did not hear what I said or did not read the *Hansard* report, I shall quote what I said in this House about four weeks ago, as follows:

The Government has engaged Dr. S. M. Breuning (Executive Vice-President of Social Technology Systems Incorporated, Massachusetts, United States of America) to carry out the following work:

(1) Conduct a preliminary inquiry into what work needs to be done for revision of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study to ensure adequate movement within the projected development of the city, leaving the way open for the maximum use (within the financial competence of the State) of developing flexible systems of public transit.

(2) Report on what work needs to be done to provide that South Australia will develop experiments in new systems of public transit, with the aim of providing an additional base for industry in this State.

The terms of reference as handed to Dr. Breuning and as reported on in this House clearly show that he was asked to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the work required to enable us to reach our desired objectives; hence my reference to the report of the preliminary inquiry conducted by Dr. Breuning and Mr. Kettaneh. I cannot answer the honourable member's second question, which is one for Cabinet decision. I will therefore submit it to Cabinet.

COWANDILLA SCHOOL CROSSING

Mr. LAWN: Yesterday I received from the Secretary of the Cowandilla school committee a letter enclosing a copy of a letter the secretary had addressed to the Highways Department on August 20, 1970, about the provision of school crossing lights at the Marion Road and Jenkins Street intersection. Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say what is the present position regarding the installation of these lights and who will bear the cost of their installation?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The honourable member having been kind enough to inform me that he would ask a question along these lines, I have received a report, which states that in July of this year the Road Traffic Board advised councils, including the city of West Torrens, that it was concerned at the safety of school crossings on roads which had been substantially widened after the installation of the crossing. The board considers in many cases that installation of centre of the road signals is necessary, and advised of simplified procedures whereby such additional installations would be approved. The school crossing on Marion Road at the intersection of Jenkins Street is an installation under the control of the city of West Torrens and comes within the category of crossings described above. The responsibility for initiation of the additional lights rests with the

city of West Torrens, and it is understood from discussions with the Town Clerk that the council is actively investigating the matter at the present time. In this case, as the Highways Department widened the road after the original school crossing was installed, the department will reimburse the council for the costs of installing the additional lights. The letter of August 20 from the Cowandilla Demonstration School Committee was written to an officer of the Road Traffic Board, the writer apparently being under the impression that the board would arrange the installation of the additional lights.

INSTITUTE COURSES

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable members for Torrens and Davenport have recently asked questions regarding the provision of librarianship and occupational therapy courses at the Institute of Technology. Rather than supply individual answers it seems appropriate for me to make a statement on the matter.

The Government has approved provision of additional funds for the institute for 1971 to enable courses to commence in librarianship and occupational therapy. The story of the introduction of these courses consisted, until the change of Government, of a series of contradictions reinforced by no action whatsoever. For some time, the institute has had on paper a librarianship course, which has received full accreditation from the Library Association. It has so far been unable to introduce it because of financial difficulties.

The Director of the institute has told me that provision of funds for the courses was requested in the institute's submission to the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education (the Wark committee) for this triennium, but an arbitrary reduction of \$429,000 by the State Government last year, without any discussion with the institute, in funds available for recurrent expenditure this triennium meant that no new course development involving librarianship or occupational therapy would be possible during the period of the triennium. So here we have stage 1 of the story. The previous Government, for reasons best known to itself and not discussed with those affected, decided to reduce the financial capacity of the Institute of Technology below the level at which it could hope to introduce new, much needed

courses. The next development in the story occurred in May this year, immediately before the election. As reported in the *News* of May 19 and the *Advertiser* the following day, the then Education Minister (Mr. Coumbe) said that the South Australian Institute of Technology would start a course in librarianship next year.

A more blatant exercise in electioneering could hardly be imagined. That statement was at no time in the life of the previous Government backed up by action to provide the institute with the necessary resources to establish that course, or indeed occupational therapy. Both the previous Ministers of Education have recently directed questions to me in this House concerning introduction of the courses. Of all people, these two honourable members should have been aware, since they were both parties to the reduction in the institute's funds, that before the change of Government there was no possibility of the new courses being introduced. The librarianship course, which will now be commenced in 1971, in spite of the inaction of the previous Government, will be a three-year course. Because arrangements for its introduction will have to be undertaken hurriedly—

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have complained previously about Ministers who ask the leave of the House to make a statement and then use it blatantly to put their own political arguments. I object.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: You should talk!

The SPEAKER: Order! Standing Order No. 136 provides:

A Minister of the Crown, by leave of the House and so as not to interrupt any other business, may make a statement relating to matters of Government policy or public affairs: provided that, without further leave of the House, such statement shall be limited as to time to 15 minutes.

As the Minister has sought and been granted leave, he has 15 minutes to make his statement. I cannot therefore uphold the point of order.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: My objection is that the Minister is using the statement as a means of replying to the remarks of some Opposition members and he is using it blatantly to put political arguments. In such a case there should be a debate, not merely a one-sided statement. I object to his having leave.

The SPEAKER: I have ruled that the Minister is in order.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Because arrangements for its introduction will have to be undertaken hurriedly, much of the lecturing will initially be on a part-time basis. There is, however, not likely to be any difficulty in providing for all students who wish to do the course. They will be accommodated in the Institute of Technology at North Terrace. The sum of \$50,000 will be made available to the institute from Commonwealth funds for libraries in approved colleges of advanced education. This money will help in the provision of books for the librarianship course. A diploma course in occupational therapy will commence at the institute from the beginning of 1971.

Staffing arrangements will also depend on what people can be obtained for next year. The initial arrangements again may have to involve part-time lecturers. Applications have not yet been called for a Director of the Occupational Therapy School and it is not likely that they will be in time for an appointment at the beginning of the year. Facilities at Glenside Hospital will be used on a temporary basis and arrangements will be made for them to be modified for the purpose. The course will be of three years' duration and will be the equivalent of any similar course in Australia. It is hoped to accept 12 entrants in 1971. This maximum number is determined by the lack of practising therapists to supervise. We are applying to the Wark committee for support on the normal \$1 for \$1.85 basis from the Commonwealth for the recurrent expenditure involved in the introduction of the new courses.

In conclusion, I point out that this application for additional support for the introduction of these new courses has to occur now in the first year of the 1970-72 triennium covering colleges of advanced education whereas, if the necessary money had been approved initially, this further application would not be necessary. We have no guarantee at this stage that we will get the necessary Commonwealth support for these courses for 1971 and 1972, the last two years of the triennium.

Mrs. STEELE: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mrs. STEELE: I believe the Minister of Education has made some statements which need to be put in their proper perspective. Long before I became Minister of Education—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has been granted leave to make a personal explanation. She must be heard.

Mrs. STEELE: Long before I became Minister of Education in 1968, I was the convener of a committee that comprised people interested in establishing a course of occupational therapy. Much preliminary work was done, and in 1967 with Dr. Donald Dowie (Chairman of the Occupational Therapists Association) I waited on the Minister of Education and the Chief Secretary of the previous Labor Government and asked whether steps could be taken to set up a School of Occupational Therapy. I was later informed by both those Ministers that nothing could be done, because no funds were available. One of the first acts that I performed on becoming Minister of Education in 1968 was, with the approval of Cabinet, to set up an expert committee to advise the Government not only on occupational therapy but also on establishing a number of other paramedical disciplines which we hoped would become part of the Paramedical Division at the South Australian Institute of Technology.

Prior to this, also as a member of the Council of the Institute of Technology, I was appointed Chairman of a subcommittee that investigated these same matters and, again, the council made representations to the then Minister of Education (Hon. R. R. Loveday). That was just prior to my becoming Minister of Education. Dr. Shea (Director-General of Medical Services) was Chairman of the expert committee, which comprised about 15 members representing the paramedical disciplines and other interested people. The preparation of that committee's report to me was delayed on several occasions, because of Dr. Shea's absence overseas on official business. However, because there was a dire need in South Australia for occupational therapists, I received in 1969 an interim report on the establishment of a School of Occupational Therapy.

The institute was approached on this matter to see what it could do. I had meetings, downstairs in my office in the House, with the President of the Institute of Technology Council, the Director of the institute and with the Treasury officer (Mr. Barnes) who deals within the Treasury with tertiary education matters. After discussions had taken place, those gentlemen were informed that the Government would see that funds were made available so that this school could begin in 1971. Those gentlemen were asked to begin organizing this course immediately so that it could commence then. I pointed out to them

that, because of the dire shortage of trained occupational therapists, they would need considerable time to find a person who would be suitable as the Director of the School of Occupational Therapy.

That was the position when we went out of office in May this year. The institute was informed that moneys would be found by the Government for this purpose, because we were well aware that no moneys would be forthcoming through the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education (the Wark committee) in this triennium for the setting up of this school, as moneys had already been allocated in respect of the institute for the 1970-72 triennium. Those are the facts relating to the School of Occupational Therapy proposed to be established at the Institute of Technology.

Mr. CLARK: What communication has the Minister of Education received from the Institute of Technology regarding its financial problems in developing new courses in the 1970-72 triennium?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I have received from the Director a letter, which I have his permission to make public. Addressed to me, it states:

Thank you for your letter of July 10, 1970, enclosing a letter from the Branch President of the Library Association on the establishment of a course in librarianship in 1971. The President's account of developments in this field is substantially correct; we have on paper a course which has received full accreditation from the Library Association, and have so far been unable to introduce it because of financial difficulties; provision of funds for this course was requested in our submission to the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education for the present triennium, but an arbitrary reduction (without discussion) in our total allocation for recurrent purposes of \$429,000 has meant that no course development of any sort is likely to be possible during the triennium.

Mr. Finlay is also correct in his statement about the sum of \$70,000 required for library development. If the institute is allocated a large part of the unmatched Commonwealth grant announced earlier this week, this, together with the provision being made within our normal budget, will probably enable us to bring our library up to something approaching the standard required by the Library Association for the purposes of this course (but not at all to a standard appropriate to the total requirements of the institute). A preliminary examination of our budget for 1971 indicates that it may well be impossible to start the librarianship course. We believe that there is a very real need in the State for such a course (and, I might add, for other courses such as occupational therapy which we have in preparation), and I would like to have an opportunity

to discuss with you our problems in this respect.

My discussions with the Director and the necessary Cabinet decisions to provide the institute with additional funds, prior to any guarantee from the Commonwealth Government that these would be supported by it, have led to the announcement I made today. I am willing to believe that the members for Davenport and Torrens may have had discussions with the institute and that they desired to start these courses, but unfortunately their colleagues, the then Treasurer (Sir Glen Pearson) and the current Leader of the Opposition, took action through the Treasury to ensure that the institute did not have the funds to start the courses.

SUBDIVISION CHARGE

Mr. McRAE: A large subdivision has been established in my district by a firm of land agents (L. H. Gardiner Proprietary Limited), which I understand is now in liquidation, together with a firm of builders (H. C. Goretzki Limited), which I understand is also in liquidation. About 60 householders living in this subdivision have each received a notice from the Salisbury council that \$60 is owing in respect of kerbing and other charges that were to have been paid by one or other or by both of these organizations. Several of these persons have approached me, being alarmed at the fact that they have been contacted by a debt collection agency, known as Commercial and Trade Collections Proprietary Limited, which has told them on behalf of the council that unless the \$60 is paid within 21 days, or unless an arrangement is made to pay this sum, legal proceedings will be taken. I do not criticize the council, because I understand that the relevant provision in the Local Government Act is such that the council has no alternative, in the case of bankruptcy or liquidation of the land agents and developers concerned, but to proceed against the householders in this way. By the same token, it seems that a grave injustice is being perpetrated here. First, will the Attorney-General investigate the situation through his departmental officers in order to ascertain what is the position and, in the meantime, also through his officers, ask that the Salisbury council postpone further action? Secondly, will he consider introducing an amendment to the Local Government Act to permit the council to refrain from taking this action? Thirdly, will the Minister in due course report to the House on this matter?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will look into the matter, confer with the Minister of Local Government, and report to the House in due course.

POLLUTION

Mr. HOPGOOD: Members may have been amused, as I was, to see in this morning's newspaper what seems to be an outburst of Republicanism that has taken place in St. Kilda (Melbourne), where the Mayor of St. Kilda has claimed that the present Australian concern with pollution has arisen out of a statement made by "that crank Prince Charles". I am aware that the Minister of Local Government, through his department, is concerned with this matter because of the appointment of the environment committee. From this statement, it appears that important sections of the community are not aware of the seriousness of the pollution problem. Therefore, will the Minister of Education in consultation with the Minister of Local Government make information available to schools so that our future citizens may be aware of the seriousness of this problem?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I agree with the honourable member that the problem of pollution is serious. If we consider the question of air pollution only, I believe that anyone who has travelled recently in the United States of America cannot fail to be appalled by the awful problems associated with air pollution in cities such as New York and Los Angeles, to name only two. Also, people who know Sydney and visit it now after a period of some years will find the increase in air pollution in that city most significant; it is starting to affect the whole quality of life there. Similar problems are being experienced in Melbourne, and already in Adelaide one often notices a brown tinge in the haze over the city indicating that we, too, can expect further trouble in this connection. As I take a very serious view of the matter, I shall be pleased to do as the honourable member suggests. I will consult with the Minister of Local Government and with the Minister of Health, who is also involved in this matter, to see what information can be prepared for distribution to schools.

Mr. KENEALLY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the A power station at Port Augusta?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Port Augusta A station was necessarily designed without any information on the behaviour of Leigh Creek

coal burnt on a large scale. Mechanical dust collectors were installed in conformity with normal power station practice at the time. When operation commenced, it was found that the flue dust was much finer than had been anticipated and, with wind from the south, this resulted in dust over Port Augusta town. As a result of this experience, the B station was designed to have electrostatic precipitators. In addition, the original A station boiler stacks were replaced at considerable expense by a single, much higher stack. These actions brought about substantial improvements. It would be difficult now to install precipitators in the A station, as they would have to be incorporated with plant not designed for them. The cost would be excessive in relation to the output to be expected from this station in future. Because of the use of natural gas at Torrens Island power station, it is intended to reduce the generation from the less efficient Port Augusta A station. The budgeted output from this station for 1970-71 is 353,000,000 kilowatt hours, compared with 566,000,000 for 1969-70. This is a reduction of 37 per cent, and the throughput of coal will be reduced accordingly. It can be expected that this decline will continue in future years. The result will be that the major portion of generation at Port Augusta will be done by the B station, which has dust precipitators. In these circumstances, the Electricity Trust of South Australia could not undertake to commit itself to additional high expenditure on the A station. It is worth mentioning that, although the A station was designed without experience in the large scale use of Leigh Creek coal, the decision to take this step led to the complete \$60,000,000 project, which has had a profound effect on the economic life of Port Augusta.

Mr. McANANEY: Regarding control of pollution of the metropolitan water shed, the department has said that, in relation to industry, it opposes the establishment of new industries having strong organic or other wastes that are difficult, if not impossible, to treat. As several industries are already established in this area, will the Minister of Works obtain a report on the policy with regard to development or expansion by existing industries?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to examine the matter for the honourable member and to bring down a considered reply.

SOUTH-EAST WATER RESOURCES

Mr. COUMBE: Last year, the previous Government graciously increased the grant

to expedite research into water resources in the South-East of the State. I appreciate that this is a long-term project that will take some years to complete, but, as it is of significant importance to South Australia and as many organizations (not only State Government departments but other organizations as well) are co-operating in this scheme, will the Minister of Works supply an interim report on what has been achieved so far on the project and include any other relevant information that may assist the House?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to do that for the honourable member. As this is a vast project, much information can be obtained on it. I think that a Bill concerning the provision of money from the Commonwealth for water measurement was introduced in the Commonwealth Parliament yesterday; of course, South Australia has made its bid for a share of this money. In some circles, it may be thought that the sum asked for by South Australia is not sufficient.

Mr. Coumbe: Has this matter been discussed by the Australian Water Resources Council?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, at the recent meeting in Sydney. This State does not have the quantity of surface water that some of the other States have to measure. Also, the Mines Department, which has much work to do, is grossly understaffed in respect of the professional people that are required to do this type of work. Consequently, we have not claimed from the Commonwealth Government any more money than we can use, hoping that that is a responsible approach and that, if and when we need more money, we shall be able to go back to the Commonwealth with a clear conscience about the matter.

INTAKES AND STORAGES

Mr. LANGLEY: As I am sure that South Australians generally will be interested to know the position at our reservoirs as a result of the recent continual rain, will the Minister of Works now give figures of present storages?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I expected such a question. I am very happy with the present water position in South Australia as I think all South Australians should be, for having sufficient water could involve a considerable financial saving to the State. Following good rains during the last 24 hours, the storage of the metropolitan reservoirs at 8.30 this morning was 30,530,000,000gall., an increase of 2,361,000,000gall. over the storage

yesterday morning. Allowing for the consumption, the intake for the 24 hours was 2,381,000,000gall. The storage on August 27, 1969, was 30,172,000,000gall. The storages are in a better position now than they were in at this time last year, even though there was a carry-over last year. This is the result of the greater intakes. With an intake of 1,290,000,000gall. since 8.30 yesterday morning, Mt. Bold reservoir has now filled and is overflowing. This overflow is being reinforced by the flow down other creeks downstream of the dam, notably Scott Creek and Baker Gully Creek. The maximum amount of water possible is being diverted by the Clarendon weir and inlet tunnel into Happy Valley reservoir, but by far the greater part will flow down the Onkaparinga River to Noarlunga, Port Noarlunga and out to sea. With an intake of 216,000,000gall., Myponga reservoir held 5,274,000,000gall. This will increase, but further rain may be required to bring the storage to the full capacity of 5,905,000,000gall. The storage of Millbrook reservoir increased by 369,000,000gall. to a total of 2,996,000,000gall. Without further rain, this reservoir should fill in the next few days. An increase in storage of 278,000,000gall. at Kangaroo Creek reservoir brought the storage to just under 1,500,000,000gall. compared with its capacity of 5,370,000,000gall. The South Para reservoir storage increased overnight by 372,000,000gall. to a total of 7,463,000,000gall. This reservoir holds 11,300,000,000gall. when full. The Warren reservoir further upstream on the South Para River does not supply the metropolitan area, but this reservoir filled overnight and at 8.30 a.m. had 12in. of water running over the spillway. This overflow water will now supplement the flow in the other creeks running into South Para reservoir.

PENOLA COURTHOUSE

Mr. RODDA: Last weekend, we were privileged to have the Attorney-General visit Penola, although his visit was only brief. Much court work takes place at Penola, where the court is held in the police station, so that witnesses and other people involved in matters before the court either have to sit in cars or queue in the street. I have raised this matter on numerous occasions in the House. Can the Attorney say whether his department will look at the arrangements at Penola with a view to upgrading the facilities there?

The Hon. L. J. KING: As the honourable member says, I was in Penola at the weekend,

and I had occasion to see the courthouse, having explained to me some of the difficulties experienced there. I am fully sympathetic with regard to the difficulties that people who have business at the court in Penola now experience. The honourable member will appreciate that, under modern conditions and with modern transport facilities, there has been a growing tendency over the years to centralize court hearings. I think it is true to say that at present the magistrate sits at Mount Gambier to determine cases in the Penola district and that the use of the Penola courthouse is confined to the justices' sittings. I appreciate that this still involves inconvenience, but I think the honourable member recognizes that the Government's first duty is to provide adequate court facilities in the centres where most of the cases, and the more important cases, are heard and where witnesses and parties are required to attend for longer periods. With that in mind, the Government has plans, which were announced in Mount Gambier at the weekend when I was there, to proceed immediately with the new courthouse in Mount Gambier, which will be completed in 1972 and will provide much more adequate courthouse facilities for the people in that area, including residents of Penola and the surrounding districts, when they are attending Mount Gambier for Magistrates Court, Local and District Court, or Supreme Court hearings. I consider that that courthouse must have the first priority in the area. However, I do not overlook the need of the Penola people for their own courthouse for justices' hearings, and I will confer with the Minister of Works about what can be done in that matter.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE

Mr. PAYNE: Has the Minister of Local Government a reply to my recent question regarding the construction of drain 6, in connection with the south-western suburbs drainage scheme?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The construction of drain 6 depends on amendments to legislation covering the south-western suburbs drainage scheme. Subject to the required amendments being effected shortly, construction of drain 6 could commence in March, 1971, and the entire drain could be completed about the middle of 1972.

LEIGH CREEK WATER SUPPLY

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the Leigh Creek water supply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The present water storage in Aroona dam is estimated at

450,000,000gall. The annual water use is about 100,000,000gall. and, after allowing for evaporation losses, there is sufficient water for at least 12 months. There are no difficulties of supply, provided that some run-off is received within the next 12 months or so.

PORT PIRIE SHIPPING

Mr. McKEE: I understand that South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited desires to acquire suitable land from the Marine and Harbors Department to extend its bulk storage at Port Pirie in order to effectively handle wheat produced in the area and to meet the needs of shipping at the port. As a result of negotiations, the co-operative has been offered land alongside the existing silo, but this land is considered completely unsuitable, as ships could not manoeuvre so as to load to capacity. In fact, recently a ship had to leave Port Pirie with

4,500 tons less than its capacity because of its inability to manoeuvre. As the co-operative requires land so as to extend onto the end of the silos, not alongside them, will the Minister of Marine consider this matter favourably, particularly because of the need for the port to handle wheat produced in the area?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to take the matter up with the Marine and Harbors Department in order to see what can be done, and to bring down a report as soon as possible.

DEBT CHARGES

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Premier a reply to my question about the benefit to South Australia of the debt charges relief received from the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The figures are as follows:

	Debt Taken	Over	Interest-Free	Grants
	Amount	Estimated relief of debt services	Amount	Estimated relief of debt services
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1970-71	26,000,000	1,500,000	27,400,000	—
1971-72	26,000,000	3,000,000	29,000,000	1,900,000
1972-73	26,000,000	4,500,000	30,600,000	3,900,000
1973-74	26,000,000	6,000,000	32,100,000	6,200,000
1974-75	26,000,000	7,500,000	33,700,000	8,300,000
	\$130,000,000	\$22,500,000	\$152,800,000	\$20,300,000

The honourable member will appreciate that these figures contain forecasts because we cannot be certain of the figures until the Loan programmes are agreed to. The Leader of the Opposition has asked me a question about relief of the State this year from the interest-free grant of \$27,400,000. The procedure in making available Loan allocations monthly to the States has been to treat them when made as being primarily advances. Interest on such advances is charged at the traditional Treasury bill rate of 1 per cent per annum until the Commonwealth actually raises Loan moneys on behalf of the States. This 1 per cent is not due and payable until the next financial year. When Loan moneys are actually raised on behalf of the States, then, to that extent, the advances at 1 per cent are replaced by loans at the full normal rates on which interest is payable on a half-yearly basis. Latterly, it has seldom been the case that loan raisings, at least during the first eight months of a

financial year, have been as much as three-quarters of the moneys advanced, so that at least a quarter (which is about the proportion of the allocation now to be grant rather than loan) has regularly borne interest at 1 per cent payable next financial year. Loan raisings during the last three or four months of the financial year would ordinarily bring no interest commitments until the next financial year, nor would any special supplementary loans made by the Commonwealth in June to make up any shortfall in public raisings, so it arises that the provision of about a quarter of former Loan allocations, interest-free, is not likely to mean a relief to the States in interest during the first year of operation. The effects will assuredly be significant subsequently when a proportion of the 1 per cent interest on advances will no longer be payable and when subsequent interest at normal borrowing rates will be avoided on the grant proportion of the allocations for capital works.

GLAUCOMA

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on July 22 regarding glaucoma and medical examinations in the Railways Department?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The tonometer test for glaucoma is not currently being conducted by the railways doctor but will be included in all future examinations.

DEBIT ORDER WORK

Mr. GUNN: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport give the House details of the amounts spent in the Western Division in the last three years by way of debit order and by way of grants, and can he say what is to be spent this year on debit order and on grants?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The actual figure has slipped my mind but I will get it for the honourable member and bring it down.

VALLEY VIEW SEWERAGE

Mr. WELLS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the urgent need for sewerage works at Valley View?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Initial requests for sewerage to properties in Jordan Street and Nelson Road, Valley View, were received about 12 months ago. Building activity was so small that the economics of the proposed extensions prepared to serve these properties were most unfavourable. This situation was explained by correspondence to the persons requesting sewerage. The petition received has grouped streets where separate sewer extensions had been examined. These are being combined to present one large scheme for 37 houses and 37 vacant allotments. Preliminary planning has been started and construction costs, with a revenue statement, will be obtained as early as possible to enable a decision to be made in the next two weeks.

PORT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Port Lincoln High School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member asked this question previously and I gave a progress report on the work. I now have the information for the honourable member and I informed him to that effect today. Plans for a new Port Lincoln High School estimated to cost about \$1,800,000 to replace existing buildings have been prepared, and Executive Council has approved today of the reference of the proposal to the Public

Works Standing Committee. I might say that, because of the situation at Port Lincoln and its high building costs and because of problems concerning the site, this will be the most expensive high school in the history of South Australia.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Mr. CRIMES: Recently the announcer on a talk-back radio programme was asked about the cost of refurbishing, reconstructing or repairing Government House and he could not get the information. He told listeners to contact their local members of Parliament. Can the Minister of Works say what is the actual or estimated cost of such repair work, reconstruction and refurbishing of Government House?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain the information for the honourable member and bring down a report as soon as possible.

MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS

Mr. BECKER: The numbers of divorces in this State and in the rest of the Commonwealth are increasing annually. Many members of Parliament, including me, are receiving complaints from women with young families that they are not receiving regular maintenance payments from the Department of Social Welfare. The fault is not directly attributed to the staff of the department. In an effort to help these women, will the Attorney-General see whether a system can be instituted within the Social Welfare Department, once the creditworthiness of a divorced husband has been established, whereby the department can continue to make regular maintenance payments to divorced women, even though it does not receive the relevant sum from the ex-husband on the due date? Under this system, the department would have the right and responsibility immediately to institute legal proceedings against an ex-husband without causing financial hardship to the wife. Will the Minister consider establishing such a scheme within the Social Welfare Department?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I intend to institute improvements in this direction, and steps are already in hand to investigate the accounting procedures of the department to see how this can be effected. There are actually two distinct questions here, one of which relates to a situation in which the husband is not keeping up his maintenance payments. In those circumstances, for the State to undertake the maintenance payments and then to recover from the husband, if possible, is undoubtedly the

ideal system, and I personally favour such a system. The difficulty about it, of course, is that it would undoubtedly involve substantial losses by the State; that is to say, it would involve a substantial charge against the State's revenues, and this brings us back to the inevitable question whether funds are available for such a reform. They are certainly not available in the present financial year. As to the future, I can only say that I hope that some day the State's finances will be such that the Social Welfare Department can institute such a system, thereby giving to a woman in a case such as that referred to by the honourable member genuine security from week to week in the receipt of her maintenance payments. The other aspect of the honourable member's question relates rather to the time of payment by the husband. Here, an element of uncertainty is introduced into the life of those unfortunate enough to be dependent on maintenance payments of this kind, because even husbands who pay often do not pay on the due date, and this means that from week to week many women do not know with any certainty whether there will be a maintenance cheque that week. It is in this area that I believe an improvement in the accounting procedures of the department can provide greater security to the people concerned. In other words, I wish to eliminate, so far as possible, uncertainty arising from that source, so that, even where the husband is perhaps a day, two days, three days, or even a week or more late in paying, the wife will receive the money on the date on which she expects to receive it. I believe that, without any undue strain on the financial resources of the State this can be implemented through suitable improvements in the administrative and accounting procedures of the department. I have already conferred on this matter with the Director, who is to take up duties next week, and he assures me that he will give it his early attention when he takes over his duties.

WHYALLA LAND

Mr. BROWN: Recently, the Parents' Association of the Nicolson Avenue Primary School approached me to have the Whyalla council upgrade the footpaths in Russell Street and Norrie Avenue in order to improve the approaches to this school. They requested this because of the bad salt content of the soil in the area. Although this work has been done by the council, the area adjacent to the footpaths, which is owned by the Education Department, remains in poor condition. Will

the Minister of Education have this matter investigated by his department with a view to upgrading this area also?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall be pleased to look into the matter for the honourable member.

STURT HIGHWAY

Mr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the alignment of Sturt Highway?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: A plan showing the proposed alignment of Sturt Highway was forwarded to the councils concerned early last year, and, following comments received by the Highways Department, certain amendments have been necessary. Although staff shortages have prevented completion of the planning over the full length from Gawler through Sandy Creek and Lyndoch to Rowland Flat, a plan showing the new alignment determined so far will be forwarded to councils shortly. The two sections not yet finalized are the Rowland Flat deviation and the Wheatsheaf rail crossing.

SALISBURY WATER BASIN

Mrs. BYRNE: I was previously informed by a former Minister of Works that action was being taken to investigate the value of the Little Para River as a means of recharging the Salisbury underground water basin and that further topographical and geological surveys would be undertaken regarding this matter. Can the Minister of Works say whether those surveys have been finalized and whether a site has been chosen for the provision of a dam?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As I am not aware of the investigation to which the honourable member refers, I shall be happy to obtain a report on this matter.

TAILEM BEND CROSSING

Mr. WARDLE: My question concerns the possibility of providing a railway crossing near the silos about one mile north of the township of Tailem Bend. The Minister of Roads and Transport will be aware that additional facilities have been installed at this point. I remember that many years ago, when I was District Clerk of the District Council of Meningie, an approach was made to have a crossing installed at this point so that farmers' trucks would not have to come through Tailem Bend. At that time, it was considered that the department was not able to install a crossing, except at the expense of the district council. Will the

Minister have a departmental inquiry made into the possibility of providing a railway crossing at this point, in view of the increased facilities that now exist?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Yes.

READERS DIGEST

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked some time ago about the method adopted by the *Readers Digest* organization, to obtain additional subscribers, of using an envelope resembling that of an urgent telegram?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Following the question asked by the honourable member, I wrote to the *Readers Digest* organization, and two authoritative officers of that organization who called on me on last Thursday morning told me that they had stopped using envelopes marked with the words "urgent gram", and they assured me that they would not use this method again. These gentlemen gave me some information that I think, in fairness to them, I should give to the House: they said that 41,875 of these letters marked "urgent gram" were dispatched to South Australian addresses, and they claimed that they had received only eight written complaints. However, they recognize that any complaints in relation to envelopes marked in this way are serious, because of the distress that might be caused to recipients. In view of the possibility of causing distress to these people, they decided to discontinue the practice.

NORTH ADELAIDE POLICE STATION

Mr. COUMBE: The North Adelaide police station, which is in Tynte Street, is one of the oldest police stations in South Australia; I assume it is well over 100 years old. Having been in the station several times (voluntarily, of course, in the interests of my constituents in that area), I can assure the Attorney-General that, if the building does not need to be replaced, it certainly needs extensive modification to bring it to the standard desirable for a station in an important part of the municipality of Adelaide. Therefore, will the Attorney-General consult with the Chief Secretary and the Minister of Works to see whether improvements to this station can be undertaken urgently?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will confer with my colleagues and see what can be done about the matter.

SERVICE INLETS

Mr. PAYNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to a question I asked earlier this week about service inlets?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The suggestion made by the honourable member is one which was reported upon in Victoria by a committee similar in organization to the Public Utilities Advisory Co-ordinating Committee in this State. I think that I referred to that committee the other day when I replied to the honourable member. The committee reported that the use of either longitudinal or transverse ducts to house various services is not generally practicable because of potential hazards and technical difficulties. As the matter would require full co-operation between the Postmaster-General's Department, the Electricity Trust of South Australia, the South Australian Gas Company and the Engineering and Water Supply Department, I have referred the honourable member's suggestion to the Public Utilities Advisory Co-ordinating Committee for consideration.

KANGAROO ISLAND FIREARMS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: There is a considerable body of opinion on Kangaroo Island that the proposed ferry service will open the island to vandals, particularly shooters. Many people have asked me whether a special regulation could be made to prevent the carriage of firearms on to the island. Of course, no-one has asked that residents and landowners should be restricted from destroying vermin on the island or that there should be any other restriction on their rights. Kangaroo Island is different from other parts of the State in that it would be relatively easy to prevent unauthorized people from bringing firearms on to the island. This is obviously a fairly complicated matter: it is not just a matter of declaring the whole island a sanctuary, for that may interfere with many necessary activities, such as pest destruction, and could affect primary production. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture to see whether there is some way in which the island can be protected from vandalistic shooters without this interfering with the lawful business of the residents?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have always been under the impression that one of the great advantages enjoyed by the people on the island is the lack of vermin. I do not know whether it is necessary for people on the island to have firearms.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: They need them.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member will appreciate that there could be some difficulty about this matter; as he

has said, it is a wide question. However, I shall be happy to ask my colleague to examine the matter, and I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

FOSTER PARENTS

Dr. TONKIN: In replying to a question I asked him yesterday, the Minister of Social Welfare was kind enough to say that, in his view, the optimum ratio for social workers should be one to a child, or a case load of one. In view of this, and as it would seem that the fostering of children provides a most useful and, I think, well recognized way of solving the problems of some of these children, can the Minister say whether there are at present sufficient people offering as foster parents to those children committed to his care and control, for the children would be better cared for in this way than they would be by being placed in institutions? If sufficient people are not offering, can he say what steps are being taken to publicize this need and to induce potentially suitable people to offer their services in this regard?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Since becoming Minister, I have not had brought to my attention any difficulty in placing children in foster homes. However, as the honourable member has raised the topic, I will obtain some specific information from the department on it and let him have it.

FUTURE RESERVOIRS

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Minister of Works obtain a report on current thinking about future water storages in the Mount Lofty Ranges?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes.

DROUGHT RELIEF

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I recently asked about drought relief?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Lands has informed me that the balance available in the Farmers' Assistance Fund is \$363,502. In regard to the question whether a subsidy will be paid on the transport of livestock from affected areas, the Government will decide the policy to be pursued when an answer has been received on the submission made to the Commonwealth Government, which submission was read to the House this week.

LEAVE PAYMENTS

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked many weeks ago about the loss of pay by a teacher

while absent as a member of the South Australian Rural Youth debating team?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I apologize to the honourable member because, although I said when he asked his question that I would consider the matter, it has been neglected. Each year numerous applications for leave of absence to take part in various activities are received. Existing policy in the case of activities not directly concerned with the Education Department is usually for leave to be granted without pay. This is done in the case of representation in South Australian sporting teams, at national rural youth seminars, at religious ceremonies, and in relation to holy days. Under this policy, leave for the teacher mentioned in the honourable member's question to take part in a rural youth debate was approved without pay. I met the teacher concerned when I had the pleasure of giving her third prize in the annual Dunlop Award for South Australian rural youth. She had once again taken leave without pay to attend the ceremony and receive her prize. I subsequently gave instructions for her to receive leave with pay for the day on which the awards were made. If in future years any school-teachers compete for the Dunlop Award, the matter will be reconsidered.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Daws Road High School Additions,
Glenelg Treatment Works (Reticulation
of Reclaimed Water),

Panorama Technical College Additions,
Virginia Primary School (Replacement).

Ordered that reports be printed.

REFERENDUM (METROPOLITAN AREA SHOP TRADING HOURS) BILL

(Continued from August 26. Page 1090.)

At 3.26 p.m. the managers proceeded to the conference, the sitting of the House being suspended. They returned at 4.50 p.m. The recommendations were as follows:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its amendment but make the following amendments in lieu thereof and that the House of Assembly agree thereto:

In clause 3 (1) to strike out all words up to and including "Act"; and after "referendum" insert "which shall be a day not earlier than the nineteenth day of September, 1970."

[Sitting suspended from 4.52 to 5.5 p.m.]

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the recommendations of the conference.

Consideration in Committee.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Labour and Industry): I move:

That the recommendations of the conference be agreed to.

The conference was of some interest because it was clear from the outset that there was little hope of negotiation between the two Houses. Clearly the matter of shop trading hours, to which the Bill referred, was not considered by the conference; the decision that had to be reached was with regard to the date on which the referendum would be held. It was difficult for us to consider any compromise, because the Legislative Council made it clear that it was not willing to have the referendum held on the same day as the by-election, no matter what was the cost or inconvenience to the public of having voting on two separate days.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I am surprised that members opposite are making strange noises, for the situation is as I have outlined it. Originally, we believed that, to save voters inconvenience and to save the State costs, it was proper to have the referendum held on the same day as the Council by-election was to be held, but the Council made it clear that it would not accept this. Obviously the Council's reason is that, if the people voted on the same day on both issues, that may not be in the interests of the majority Party of the Council. From the discussion that took place, it was clear that the Bill would lapse unless we accepted an amendment.

Contrary to what members opposite have said in the earlier debates, the Government did not introduce this Bill as a means of getting people out to vote at the by-election: our sincere and genuine intention was to find out what people in the metropolitan area thought about Friday night shopping. Despite the difficulties raised by the Legislative Council, we have decided to accept an amendment so that the views of the people in the metropolitan area on this question can be obtained. Rather than have the Bill defeated, we have been forced to accept the fact that the referendum cannot be held on the same day as the by-election is held. Originally, the Legislative Council amended clause 3 (1) which, when it left this Chamber, provided:

As soon as convenient after the commencement of this Act the Governor may by proclamation fix a day for the referendum.

We made clear that the purpose of this clause was to enable us to hold the referendum on the same day as that on which the by-election was held. However, the Legislative Council amended that clause to provide:

Not less than one month after the commencement of this Act the Governor may by proclamation fix a day for the referendum. The Legislative Council managers made no secret of the fact that their sole purpose in making this amendment was to prevent the electors from voting for both the referendum and the by-election on the same day. However, their amendment embarrassed the Government, because we could assume that this Bill might be assented to on September 3, and one month from that date would be October 4, a Sunday, and the following Saturday, October 10, would be a public holiday weekend and an unsuitable day for holding a referendum. Therefore, the Legislative Council amendment forced the date of the referendum to be not only a date after the date of the by-election but a date not earlier than October 17. We are anxious to resolve the question of trading hours quickly, and I consider that it would be necessary for us to hold the referendum earlier than that. When we put this to the Legislative Council managers and pointed out that the Legislative Council obviously desired simply to force the Government to hold the referendum later than September 12, the managers, as has been pointed out, agreed to a provision that states:

The Governor may by proclamation fix a day for the referendum which shall be a day not earlier than the nineteenth day of September, 1970.

Mr. Clark: That means that we could have voting on consecutive Saturdays.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: That could happen, but it is extremely unlikely that the Government would want to hold a referendum on September 19, the Saturday immediately following the date of the by-election. However, we have the opportunity to hold the referendum on a date after September 19. Members opposite who, a short time ago, were loud in their laughter at the statement that the Legislative Council desired to avoid having the referendum on September 12 are strangely silent now, when they realize that the Legislative Council has accepted for the referendum a date only seven days later. It is clear that the Legislative Council had no intention of denying that its one objection to

this clause was raised to ensure that the Government could not do what it intended to do, namely, hold the referendum on the date of the by-election for the sound reasons that we gave. I am disappointed that the State will be put to this additional cost and that the people concerned will be inconvenienced.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The Opposition doesn't seem to care.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The Opposition could not care less. It seems to adopt the attitude that the money involved does not matter.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: At all costs, keep the 16 to four majority for the L.C.L. in the Upper House!

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: That seems to be the Opposition's attitude, but I do not want to be political. The member for Alexandra seems to be concerned, and I think he ought to be. He is now in the embarrassing position of having to apologize to the Government, and to me in particular, because he said that I was insincere and that I did not want the referendum but that I wanted people to come out on the day of the by-election. I hope that he will apologize. I report with some reluctance and sadness that these amendments have been forced on us but, rather than have the Bill defeated and to ensure that the people of this State will have the right to express their desires in this matter, I have moved that the recommendations be agreed to.

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): This amendment and the Government's acceptance of it demonstrate clearly the utmost necessity of keeping the Legislative Council viable and in existence—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: For political purposes.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: That's the best crack of the year.

Mr. HALL: —because it has stopped the Government from doing what it intended to do: the Minister said so. The Minister spoke about everything except the real reason for the Government's insisting on September 12 as the date of the referendum. Obviously, it was going to take an advantage of the people of this State. We had two main ingredients surrounding the amendment and its acceptance. We had a scared Government, frightened of big business interests in this State—

Members interjecting:

Mr. HALL: —and frightened of union pressure that controls so much the pre-selection of all Government members. Bullied by big business and under union pressure, the Government ran to a referendum in order to take an unfair advantage. Let us consider how much of this debate, by interjection or by Government support, has been concerned with one-seventh of the people who will be asked the question. It dominated the thinking of Government members throughout the debate, but only one-seventh of the people are concerned with the Midland by-election. So, the Legislative Council has stopped the perpetration of a most undignified and incorrect procedure by this Government.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: And signed its death warrant in doing it.

Mr. HALL: The Minister could not help but give the show away. He is a lot of things and is naive with it, too. He says the Council is signing its death warrant: the sole object of the present Government is to destroy the House of Review—

Members interjecting:

Mr. HALL: —so that it cannot consider Government legislation. We know that the Government does not apologize for its vendetta against and its vindictive attitude towards the Legislative Council, as it has expressed that attitude in writing. The Minister knows that he has signed a pledge to vote to abolish the Council and to use fair and unfair techniques to try to achieve that objective. It was a small-minded measure that the Government introduced to take advantage of the present position. I know that it is an entirely unnecessary referendum. Last evening I offered to support the Premier if he introduced legislation either yesterday, today, or next Tuesday dealing with 9 p.m. closing on Friday nights, so that this measure could have been passed by the time the House rose last evening. Why has the Government refused to accept this offer?

Mrs. Byrne: Why didn't you bring it in?

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: We listen to the people.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There must be one member at a time.

Mr. HALL: The Minister of Labour and Industry does not have to go back far to look at his own policy; he said only three months ago that there would be no extension in South Australia of Friday night shopping.

Mr. Langley: What did you say three months ago?

Mr. HALL: The member for Unley will some day have to realize that he is in Government. This is one thing that members opposite have a job to understand. They are in Government, and they are charged with the responsibility of managing this State.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Because the majority of the people put us here, which is something you will never achieve.

Mr. HALL: This Government would have the Opposition's support in providing Friday night shopping on any day next week that it wished to choose. It says that it is not frightened of big business or of its union background. Why, then, does it hesitate? The Minister of Works has said that 70 per cent of the people favour Friday night shopping. Why does the Government hesitate?

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: This is terrible.

Mr. HALL: I know that the plans of the Minister of Education have suffered a severe defeat in this House today at the hands of a former Minister of Education.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Garbage!

The CHAIRMAN: Order! If honourable members do not wish to expedite this debate, I suggest that the Chair can take other action. I remind the Leader of the Opposition that the motion before the Committee concerns agreeing to the recommendations of the conference. As I think that I have allowed the Leader plenty of latitude, I suggest that he should now discuss the motion before the Committee concerning the recommendations of the conference.

Mr. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support this recommendation—in the interests of the Government, actually. As I have

said before, it is an unnecessary referendum. However, the Government is intent on wasting the entire sum that will be involved. It is an entire waste of money. The question whether another \$10,000 is involved pales to insignificance when viewed with the fact that the total exercise is a waste of resources, and this is something that will bear heavily on the Government. I know that we were criticized roundly on a previous occasion regarding the cost of about \$26,000 of a brochure to publicize an important part of Government. We are considering a figure three times as large as that sum concerning a question, the answer to which the Minister of Works says is already known and which we do not have to ask the people, anyway.

I think I have made my attitude quite plain: I agree to this amendment, because it removes the contest between this House and the Upper House or, at least, it makes the contest fair, for it was unfair previously. I am sorry that we have to face opponents who would take such an unfair advantage—

Members interjecting:

Mr. HALL: —and who would do it laughingly, if they could. Certain members in another place have prevented a miscarriage of justice and, by this amendment, we will see a fair sampling of public opinion. I support the amendment half-heartedly, knowing that, by the Government's action, we will waste at least \$60,000 of taxpayers' money.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.27 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 1, at 2 p.m.