

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, November 17, 1970

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

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, 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.

PRICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy, 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.

QUESTIONS**GOVERNMENT HOUSING**

Mr. HALL: In view of the recent report that vacant houses held by some Government departments, including the Highways and Railways Departments, remain unallocated despite the heavy demand in this State for emergency housing, I ask the Minister of Roads and Transport whether he will consult with the Premier, who is the Minister in charge of housing, with a view to arranging an efficient roster whereby the houses not required for Government purposes may be made available to people who urgently need accommodation.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Ever since I have been Minister, the question of these vacant houses has been a source of concern to me, as it has been to all members of the Government. Probably more vacant houses come under my department than come under any other department. As has previously been explained in the House, it is necessary to some extent, particularly in respect of railway operations, to have vacant houses to provide for the transfer of railway employees from one location to another. The matter has been under observation now for some time. Yesterday I asked for further information to be provided to me by the departments involved because I was concerned at the way in which the article (which is presumably the one to which the Leader has referred) in the Sunday newspaper suggested that the houses were unnecessarily being kept vacant, despite the fact that accommodation was urgently needed.

Many of the vacant railway houses are necessarily awaiting occupancy by people who have been transferred as a result of an appointment but who have not physically completed that transfer. I know of few vacant houses under the Highways Department; to the contrary, on several occasions I have contacted that department in an effort to overcome the situation of a person who has found himself or herself urgently requiring accommodation only to be informed that the Highways Department has no house available. However, it is the policy of the Highways Department that, where houses are purchased in respect of future road development and are not needed, those houses are let, provided that tenants are available. As the whole matter is being carefully considered at present, I expect soon to have discussions with the Premier, as Minister in charge of housing, to see whether there can be some better arrangement so that not as many houses are vacant at any one time as are vacant at present.

NATURAL GAS

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Premier ask the Prices Commissioner to investigate the following alterations in relation to the South Australian Gas Company and problems involved in conversion to natural gas: (1) that the number of complaints to the Gas Company concerning excessive gas accounts following conversion is reaching epidemic proportions; (2) that the company is 3,000 calls behind in investigating these complaints; (3) that some appliances, especially in Housing Trust houses about 15 years old, are not suitable for natural gas conversion; (4) that certain conversion procedures employed by the company are unsatisfactory, for example, employing four port burners that do not provide sufficient air; (5) that the differences between the specific gravities of natural gas and town gas can adversely affect the safety factor; and (6) that Gas Company service men investigating malfunctions of automatic (battery ignition) lighting of stoves are insisting that consumers purchase Toshiba batteries when other brands are perfectly suitable for the job?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have already had supplied to me by the Gas Company information in relation to some of the complaints which have been publicly aired in the last few days. However, as the Government intends that every one of these complaints be checked out in full, I will obtain a report and give it to the honourable member.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Mr. WELLS: Can the Minister of Labour and Industry give details of the employment position in South Australia? The statistics for Australia were released yesterday.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I am pleased to tell the honourable member that the employment statistics for the month of October, 1970, revealed further improvement in the employment situation in South Australia. During October the number of persons registered as unemployed fell by 569 to 5,071, or only .98 per cent of the estimated work force. There were reductions in the numbers of males and females (adults and juniors) registered for employment (the largest fall being for adult males, a fall of 332 or 11.9 per cent). The number of vacancies available fell slightly (by less than 2 per cent) from 3,133 to 3,076. Even though fewer males were registered for employment, there was an increase in the number of vacancies for males. South Australia again has experienced an improvement in the employment situation compared to the situation in Australia as a whole. For Australia, the number of persons registered for employment fell by 2,937, or 6.2 per cent compared to a fall of 10.1 per cent for South Australia. The seasonally-adjusted data also reveals a fall in unemployment in South Australia, as it does for Australia as a whole.

EFFLUENT DISPOSAL

Mr. HALL: In view of unsubstantiated reports that have come to my notice that the Government is not insisting that Apcel Limited and Cellulose Australia Limited undertake works regarding the removal of solids from the effluent from the companies' works, can the Premier say whether these reports are correct and, if the Government is doing what I thought it announced as its intention earlier this year, can he say what progress has been made in that regard?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I assure the Leader that the unsubstantiated reports have no basis upon which there could be any substantiation. The agreement with Apcel Limited, and Cellulose Australia Limited, is that the solids in the effluent should be reduced from 500 parts per million to 40 parts per million. The Engineering and Water Supply Department has carried out tests as to the result in the supply of effluent to Lake Bonney on the basis of reduced solids and has reported to the Government that, in winter months, there is no difficulty about the absorption of effluent upon

the reduced solids basis. However, the department wants to carry out experiments and checks as to the results of delivery effluents during summer months, and it intends to delay further investigation of the possibility of sea delivery of effluent until the remainder of these checks has been carried out, but the Government has insisted on the undertakings given by the companies. There is no difficulty about the negotiations proceeding; in fact the work is proceeding in accordance with the undertaking that I gave Parliament, and we are ensuring that the delivery of effluent will be such as not to cause difficulty regarding any sort of pollution of Lake Bonney.

MODBURY FREEWAY

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether a lease exists between Realty Development Corporation and the Highways Department over the land reserved for the proposed Modbury Freeway, facing Montague Road, Modbury, between Ladywood and Kelly Roads and, if such a lease does exist, can the Minister say what are the terms of the agreement, particularly the term relating to time? At present Realty Development Corporation and the South Australian Gas Company have temporary buildings and a store on this land.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As I have not got the information sought by the honourable member, I will obtain it for her.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport say what actions in addition to those already taken it is intended that the police should take to combat the mounting road toll? Last Thursday, I put to the Minister by way of a question a suggestion regarding publicity to try to combat our mounting road toll and, in the course of his reply, the Minister said he hoped that the Road Safety Council would be doing something soon to reduce South Australia's road toll dramatically. However, he did not enlarge on that statement. Since last Thursday, there has been a further spate of tragic accidents and resultant deaths in this State and there has been much newspaper comment as well as, I am glad to say, a heightened alarm about what is happening on the roads not only in this State but everywhere else. It is indeed gratifying to see this. As a result, there have been reports, one of which is on page 3 of this morning's *Advertiser*, that the police intend to introduce again (I think it has been tried

before) unmarked cars and other methods in an effort to police more effectively the traffic on our roads. When I say that, I imply no criticism of the efforts of the police so far. I should like the Minister, as Minister in charge of road safety (he has said in the House that he is such), to say what actions the police intend to take. I should be pleased, too, if he would elaborate on the reply he gave recently regarding the Road Safety Council.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to elaborate on the point raised by the honourable member. I remind him that in an earlier debate in this House he asked a similar question, which I started to answer. However, as he showed no interest in the answer, I did not proceed with it. I assume now that, because of recent press publicity on this matter, the honourable member is taking an interest in it. I am delighted if this is so, and I congratulate him. Indeed, I hope that all members will take an active interest in this matter and that they will wholeheartedly support the road safety campaign currently being arranged by the Road Safety Council. All members will recall that I recently had legislation passed in this House to amend the Road Traffic Act and the Highways Act to provide for one of the most ambitious road safety campaigns that has ever been undertaken in this State. However, this campaign cannot get under way, as the honourable member would readily acknowledge, until finance for it is available, and part of the purpose of the amending Bills was to provide this finance. If the honourable member will check back further in *Hansard* (perhaps several weeks ago), he will recall, if memory serves me correctly, that, in the debate on his motion to appoint a Minister of Road Safety (I am pleased that he is now acknowledging that this Government has a Minister of Road Safety, which suggests the futility of the motion he was moving), I outlined the campaign that the Road Safety Council desired to embark on. The council will be issuing "invitations" to people who are in what is commonly regarded as the most accident-prone age group to attend two lectures which will be supported by films, flip cards and pamphlets in an attempt to impress on them the need for road safety at all times. The most accident-prone drivers, according to statistics, are in the under-25 age group who have had less than 10 years' driving experience. The whole campaign is directed towards driver education. Again, statistics (for what they are worth, and they are all we can go on) show clearly that most accidents do not simply happen: they are caused, and they are

caused mainly by negligent, inattentive driving which is the fault of the person sitting behind the wheel. The suggestion is that many of these accidents would not have occurred had the driver been more attentive and perhaps more conscious of his responsibilities whilst on the road. Further, I hope that we will soon establish in South Australia a driver-education centre on similar lines, but modified to suit our specific conditions, to the driver-education centre at Mount Lawley, which I understand enjoys a world-wide reputation. I believe a great step forward is being taken and I expect more things to be done soon. At present, I am negotiating in another area associated with road safety but I cannot yet say what it is. During next week, however, I hope I can announce that the Government will be taking yet another step forward in the direction of road safety.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Are the Minister and the Road Safety Council co-operating with the police in their efforts to reduce the road toll? My previous question related mainly to the future policy regarding the road toll, although in my explanation I referred to the Road Safety Council. However, the Minister, when rising to reply to my question, did not really answer it at all; instead, he made a few innuendoes about me and my attitude towards road safety, innuendoes which I entirely refute and about which I need say no more. The tenor of the Minister's reply is that he is not co-operating with the police: that he and the Road Safety Council are going a different way. I welcome the plan that the Minister announced, and I suggest to him that, if we are to get the maximum value and effect from the efforts put into the promotion of road safety in this State (and this was the tenor of the motion I moved in the House on the topic), it must be through the co-operation of all agencies. I therefore ask the Minister whether he and the Road Safety Council are co-operating with the police in the plans that have been announced, or whether the council is going one way and he another.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The honourable member has complained that I did not answer his original question. However, he would have noted that when he asked the question I wrote it down and, indeed, still have it in front of me. I answered the question he asked prior to his giving the explanation, after which he asked several other questions which, in deference to you, Sir, I ignored, and I would do the same again. The honourable member has asked whether the Road Safety Council and I are co-operating with the

police to combat the mounting road toll. That question is almost undeserving of a reply but, in deference to the honourable member, I remind him that the Road Safety Council consists of representatives of numerous organizations and includes a senior and highly respected member of the South Australian Police Force. For the honourable member to ask such a stupid question (whether there is co-operation) is hardly becoming.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Minister has answered the question. His remark is entirely out of order.

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether, included in the additional measures on road safety that he has indicated will be implemented, any provision has been made for reflective paint to be placed on the side of railway vans, or whether some other system will be used, particularly on freight vans as opposed to passenger vans? The Minister will know that many accidents have occurred over the years as a result of motor vehicles being driven into vans, stationary or otherwise, on railway crossings. Although I know that this matter has been aired in the past, I am wondering whether it has been further considered.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I think the first thing that has to be taken into account is the nature of the various accidents that occur. Almost unbelievably, statistics show that the number of accidents in which vehicles hit trains or, alternatively, trains hit vehicles at level crossings is relatively low. Although I am not saying that level crossings are not the cause of accidents (in some cases they are the cause), I am saying that they are not the major cause, as many people believe they are. It is almost unbelievable when, reading the statistics, one sees how many accidents occur at level crossings even when no train is about. The placing of some form of reflective material on freight vehicles has been investigated over a long period, including the period when the previous Government was in office, but regrettably no solution has been found, for several reasons. First, the reflective material would need to be placed at such a height that the headlights of a vehicle would pick it up; therefore, it would need to be placed at about floor level of an ordinary freight waggon. As the honourable member would know, tarpaulins are placed on many waggons and, as they are lashed down over the side of the waggon, they would cover the reflective material. Whichever way the matter is

examined, no satisfactory solution has been found. That does not mean the matter is dead, for it is not: it is still being pursued in an endeavour to find a solution, but none has yet been found.

Mr. RODDA: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether it is intended that police patrols on South Australian roads will be increased? I do not think we need emphasize that we are concerned about the terrible toll on our roads but, as I have said in the House previously, some motorists travel along Duke Highway, for instance, at high speed and with a total disregard for life and limb. One of the major ways of solving this problem is to have unidentified police officers, perhaps in vehicles with radio control, who could stop the road hog. This could be done by police patrol A informing police control B, say, 10 miles along the road that a motorist driving car number so-and-so was an offender. Is this what the Minister has in mind concerning the press report in today's paper?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I said earlier that the Road Safety Council consisted of representatives of various organizations, not the least of these representatives being Superintendent Voegelang, representing the South Australian Police Force, who adequately fulfils his function and, in my opinion, does so with distinction. It is not within my province, as Minister of Roads and Transport, to have any direct contact with the Police Force: as the honourable member should know (and as I think he would know), this matter is under the control of the Chief Secretary, and it is not within my province to suggest that the force have plain cars, Q cars, or even tramcars.

PIANO SALESMAN

Mr. CURREN: Will the Attorney-General say what action has been, or is being, taken by the Government to amend the law relating to door-to-door salesmen and/or hawkers and what action can be taken by people who have had piano parts stolen to have them returned? On November 3, the member for Fisher brought to the notice of the Attorney the activities of Mr. David Christopher Morgan (a representative of Atlas Piano Services), who had been operating in the Waikerie district. The Attorney's reply indicated that a prosecution was pending in respect of an offence committed by Mr. Morgan. I have been approached by some victims of Mr. Morgan with a request that the law be amended, first, to prevent this type of activity, and secondly, to ensure that

the piano parts can be obtained from Mr. Morgan.

The Hon. L. J. KING: In reply to the first part of the question, I point out that the Government intends to introduce legislation to deal with door-to-door sales and, although it is not appropriate at this stage to disclose the details of the Bill to be introduced, I assure the honourable member that at least one measure will include provisions under which persons, who have entered into contracts as a result of approaches made at their homes, will have the opportunity to repudiate or rescind those contracts within a prescribed time; or, alternatively, they will be given an opportunity within that time to refuse to confirm contracts. Regarding individuals, it is intended to amend the law so as to tighten up the present provisions for the licensing of door-to-door salesmen. Concerning the case of the individual referred to by the honourable member and to the pianos that might have been obtained by him, I can only say that, if offences against the criminal law are indicated in various instances, this is a matter for police inquiry and prosecution in appropriate cases. Of course, police inquiries have been made in this matter and a prosecution has been launched. If other instances are brought to my notice, I shall draw the attention of the police to those instances with a view to ascertaining whether there are sufficient grounds for prosecution. The recovery of articles is a civil matter, and it would be a matter for individual persons to consult their legal advisers with a view to taking action to recover the property, if they have proper grounds for so doing.

ELECTRICITY TARIFF

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on November 5 about the Electricity Trust interruptible tariff?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: True, when consideration was being given to the construction of a gas pipeline to Adelaide, it was hoped that large industries would use natural gas as a fuel. However, it was not contemplated that industries, which from their inception had relied on the Electricity Trust for their power requirements, would install their own generators and burn gas to provide electricity. As a means of using more gas, such a procedure would obviously be futile, as the Electricity Trust itself uses natural gas to produce electricity. The cement companies, which require much energy for heating purposes, have entered into contracts with the gas-producing companies

to use natural gas for this purpose. They require a somewhat smaller amount of energy for use as motive power, and for this purpose they purchase electricity from the Electricity Trust. The trust has now offered to them an interruptible tariff which would reduce power charges to the companies and provide some cost saving to the Electricity Trust. Such an arrangement can have no possible effect on natural gas development or on the price of natural gas. It should be borne in mind that it is only because the Electricity Trust uses far more natural gas than all other users combined that it was possible to build a 22in. pipeline from Moomba to Adelaide and thus make gas available to industry at a reasonable price.

WARNERTOWN SCHOOL

Mr. McKEE: Can the Minister of Education say whether his department has made a decision on a new teacher residence at the Warnertown Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will inquire and bring down a reply for the honourable member.

PENOLA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I recently asked about the Penola Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Public Buildings Department has been asked to prepare the appropriate closing and opening of roads plan. The survey that is necessary is programmed in conjunction with other boundary survey work in the South-East for which arrangements are being planned by the surveyors.

INSURANCE

Mr. McRAE: Following the cessation of business in this State of the Motor Marine and General Insurance Company Limited, I ask the Attorney-General whether it is wise for members of the public to follow directions of the servants of that company in respect of reinsurance. I am reliably informed that servants of the company are suggesting to policy-holders with that organization that they should be insuring with another company, known as the Cosmopolitan Insurance Company, on the basis that the latter company will take up the unexpired part of the policy on a completely free basis, provided the person concerned takes out a further year's insurance with that company. The source of my information is a responsible one, indicating that

numerous persons have answered a press advertisement sponsored by Motor Marine and General Insurance Company Limited. Can the Attorney-General advise members of the public on what their correct and safest attitude ought to be?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My advice to members of the public who are involved in this matter would be that, having made one mistake, they should take care not to make another and that they would be well advised to satisfy themselves, by inquiring of people who are competent to give sound advice, that the company with which they intend to take out further insurance is a sound and established company and that there is no doubt about its ability to meet its obligations. I think that people who have been involved with the insurance company in question would be well advised not to accept at face value any advice given them by representatives of that company.

NURSES

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Chief Secretary a reply to the question I asked on November 3 about increasing the present subsidy paid to church-governed, non-profit-making hospitals?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Chief Secretary reports that the contribution made by church non-profit-making hospitals as nurse-training schools is well recognized and appreciated by the Government. As there are other major hospital projects of high priority which will absorb all available funds, an increase in the \$1 for \$1 capital subsidy for this class of hospital cannot be considered at present.

INTAKES AND STORAGES

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Works details of the present water position, and can he say whether storages have benefited from the weekend rains?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: For the week ended November 16, there was an increase in the total storage of 308,200,000gall., resulting in a total storage at that date of 35,991,600,000gall. Bearing in mind that the total capacity is 41,438,000,000gall., I point out that at 8 a.m. today the storage held was 35,985,300,000gall. I have a break-down of the figures regarding the individual reservoirs, if the honourable member cares to examine them.

X-RAY UNIT

Mr. EVANS: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question asked recently by the member for Frome, who is absent today, about

when the chest X-ray unit will visit the Cockburn district?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Minister of Health states that the State X-ray survey visited Cockburn in 1955 and again in 1961 when 26 and 30 people respectively were X-rayed. No abnormal chest conditions were detected in either of these surveys. In accordance with criteria recommended by the National Tuberculosis Advisory Council, in areas where the rate of active cases detected is low, such as in the case of Cockburn, the time between surveys would be from seven to 10 years. Although power is available in Cockburn, the existing units in the Public Health Department are not suitable for use with this supply. Arrangements are being made for the procurement of a suitable generator-powered unit for use in areas where suitable power is not available. It is expected that this unit will be available in late 1971 when it is intended to visit all outlying areas of the State for the purposes of conducting chest X-ray surveys.

SEWING MACHINE

Mr. WEIJS: Will the Attorney-General have investigated the business activities and methods of the firm in Adelaide that distributes the Janome sewing machine? A young couple in my district answered an advertisement which came to them by mail and which was in the form of a competition, requiring them to unscramble the names of several film stars. The prize for the best entry was stated to be a sewing machine, there were 12 prizes each consisting of a three-year course in dressmaking, and there were several minor prizes. Shortly after their entry had been submitted, a woman visited the home of the young couple and congratulated them, saying that, although they had not won the first prize, they had won a three-year dressmaking course with the Apollo Academy of Home Sewing and Dressmaking. The woman then said that the husband and wife would have to be interviewed together as it had to be determined whether the wife was capable of absorbing this course; after the interview it was stated that the wife was capable. Having no sewing machine, she was offered a machine valued at \$315. However, the couple were told that if they guaranteed verbally that they would recommend the machine to their friends and neighbours the price would be reduced to \$229 as a special benefit.

When they accepted this offer the contract was signed, the only sum appearing on the contract being \$229 with no interest whatever

being referred to. Eventually, when the machine was delivered, it was found to be a different model from the one on which they had decided, and the contract stated that about \$86 in interest payments was payable. On protesting, these people were told that there was nothing they could do about it, although this figure had not been on the contract when they signed it. As they thought they would have to make the best of the situation, the wife determined that the best she could do would be to take the dressmaking course, become proficient and then earn money to supplement their income. They made several inquiries at this place about how to get the three-year dressmaking course, but they were fobbed off each time. They then looked in a telephone book, finding the address of the Apollo Academy of Home Sewing and Dressmaking to be King William Road, Unley. On going to this address they found that it was a solicitor's office. Yesterday morning they put the matter in my hands. The husband telephoned me saying that the finance company had given them 48 hours to make complete payment or to finalize the transaction, otherwise the penal clause under the bill of sale would operate. I telephoned the manager of the finance company to whom I spoke in fairly firm terms. As a result, he assured me that the machine would be taken back, the contract declared null and void and the \$20 deposit, which the couple had had to pay, refunded. I still do not know the name of the firm concerned. However, I know the name of the machine and the name of the man who signed the receipt for \$20—Mr. Asikas. I also know that the name of the finance company that handled the contract is Deposit and Investment Company of South Australia Proprietary Limited of 44 Grenfell Street, Adelaide. As I understand I cannot go any further and as I am a bit hot about this matter, will the Attorney-General have a look at it for me?

The Hon. L. J. KING: As the facts recited by the honourable member are certainly extraordinary, I will have them looked into.

SOUTH-EASTERN FREEWAY

Mr. EVANS: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport take action to have increased the number of direction signs of routes through the Hills alternative to the South-Eastern Freeway and also to have the signs displayed more conspicuously? Last evening, tallow was spilt on the Mt. Barker Road (or the South-Eastern Freeway) causing much

embarrassment to police officers and Highways Department officials, as well as causing confusion among motorists who had to find alternative routes. I am told that many of them ended up a long way away from the shortest alternative routes they could have taken. Many trees had limbs broken off them by semi-trailers. There were many instances of trucks pulling into private driveways and doing minor damage to posts, culverts and drains and generally causing much confusion. The main reason for this is that there are insufficient sign posts showing alternative routes and the sign posts there are not conspicuous at night; this causes much confusion to frequent and infrequent users of the freeway. Perhaps the Minister can also say when the freeway will be open and safe for traffic to use.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will have the signs referred to by the honourable member investigated to see whether appropriate action is needed and, if it is, to have it taken.

SKELETON WEED

Mr. CURREN: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whose responsibility it is to remove noxious weeds from the verges of roads maintained by the Highways Department? Yesterday, on visiting Loxton, I noticed some vigorous stands of skeleton weed along the edges of the road. As these weeds can be spread rapidly by motor cars once they come into seed, will the Minister say what can be done to have them brought under control?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will discuss the matter with the Highways Department and find out just what it can do to eradicate these weeds.

VENUS BAY LIGHTS

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Marine ask his department to install lead lights at Venus Bay to enable prawn fishermen to enter the bay at night-time? I have been approached by the prawn fishermen who are using this bay to unload their catches, and at present five boats are operating from this port. At the peak period about nine boats operate, and 14 licences are held in this area.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will ask my officers to investigate the representations that the honourable member has made on behalf of the fishermen and I will let the honourable member know what can be done about the matter.

ASTHMA CLINIC

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Attorney-General received a reply from the Minister of Health to my question about setting up an asthma clinic using Dr. Alexander James's methods of treatment?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague has supplied the following report:

The only clinics set up by the Public Health Department are dental clinics in primary schools. Other services to individuals relate to immunization and chest X-ray surveys. The department has not set up clinics to deal with any medical diseases, because treatment is available to patients either through public hospitals or private medical practice, supported by health insurance. With regard to Dr. James's methods of dealing with asthma, the Government has noted the advice of the National Health and Medical Research Council given in the following statement in November, 1969:

- (1) The available evidence suggests that the methods used by Dr. James have been notably successful in cases of asthma treated by him. However, there is no evidence before the council to suggest that greater success could be expected using Dr. James's methods than could be achieved using other accepted methods, including physical methods, in treating asthma.
- (2) There is nothing sufficiently unique in Dr. James's methods to warrant conducting a full-scale, objective, clinical trial.
- (3) The good results achieved by Dr. James emphasize not only the value of physiotherapy in the treatment of asthma, but also the importance of gaining the patient's full confidence and co-operation.
- (4) Dr. James's methods have now been well documented and could be made available to medical practitioners who may wish to use them. There should no longer be concern that the knowledge of Dr. James's methods will be lost.

The Director-General of Public Health attended the 71st session of the council in Canberra last week, at which this matter and further submissions by Dr. James were considered. Although no official report has yet been received from the Commonwealth Minister, I understand that the council resolved as follows:

Council having given consideration to the further information submitted by Dr. James endorses the statement released at the 69th session (quoted above) on the methods used by Dr. James in the treatment of asthma.

The Public Health Department and the Government will certainly watch with interest any developments in this matter in Canberra. It is quite open to any doctor to use Dr. James's methods if he regards them as more likely than other methods to benefit his patient.

TRAM PASSES

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question about the issue of tram passes to passengers using the Glenelg service?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Government acknowledges the need for the issue of passes as suggested by the honourable member. This will apply to all passengers using all services provided by the Municipal Tramways Trust, including the Glenelg tram service. When the Premier gave the Australian Labor Party policy speech just before the last State election (at which, the honourable member will remember, this Government received an overwhelming majority of the votes cast) he said—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Minister of Roads and Transport.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Premier, in delivering his policy speech, stated:

We will endeavour to encourage the public to patronize public transport. We will require the reintroduction of periodical tickets, the provision of excursion fares, and reduced fares for travel at off-peak times.

The implementation of that part of the Government's policy is under active consideration at present.

LANGHORNE CREEK ROADS

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question regarding the roads through Langhorne Creek?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Work on improvement of roads at Langhorne Creek cannot be commenced until design details, particularly in regard to drainage, are finalized. At present, these details are still being discussed with the council and, although it is hoped that road-works will commence during the current financial year, the exact date cannot be accurately predicted.

NURIOOTPA OFFICE

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture what stage planning for the construction of administration buildings for the Agriculture Department at Nuriootpa has reached? I understand land has been acquired in the town for this purpose.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will get a report from my colleague and let the honourable member know the position as soon as possible.

WHYALLA MAIN

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Works say whether the water reticulation by the Morgan-Whyalla main is totally committed to the present distribution, or whether any quantity can be released to other areas relatively close to the course of the main? Areas that are up to about 15 miles or 20 miles from the course of the main are without water and previous discussions have been based on the idea of taking water to those areas from other reservoir systems, particularly the Warren, which arrangement would require the pumping of water to the higher areas. The question is asked with the idea of taking water off the Morgan-Whyalla main and allowing it to find its own level by reticulation downhill to these areas.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will confer with the Engineer-in-Chief on the matter, as I cannot answer the question off the cuff. However, I doubt that sufficient surplus water would be available, even at present, to do as the honourable member suggests without, possibly, having a further main. It must be borne in mind that the fairly rapid development at Whyalla, particularly, and no doubt at other cities *en route* was taken into account when the duplication of the Morgan-Whyalla main was considered. However, I will have the matter examined for the honourable member and give him a considered reply.

PRINCES HIGHWAY

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question regarding expected development of the Princes Highway?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: It is expected at present that the South-Eastern Freeway will be opened to Verdun by February, 1972, and to Callington by May, 1977. There are no current plans to construct a four-lane highway between Callington and Murray Bridge.

ROAD MARKINGS

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked recently regarding road markings near pedestrian crossings?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: All roads under the control of the Highways Department are regularly patrolled by maintenance foremen and prompt action is taken to renew worn pavement markings. However, road markings associated with pedestrian crossings on both main and district roads are the responsibility of councils. The pavement message "pedes-

trian crossing ahead" located on Unley district road adjacent to the Unley post office has been inspected by officers of the Highways Department and is certainly in need of reinstatement. The Corporation of the City of Unley has been advised accordingly.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Mr. VENNING: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked on September 23 regarding country ambulance services?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Chief Secretary reports that patients are admitted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on the basis of medical need and, therefore, pensioners needing to be transferred from country areas to the city for specialist medical attention not available in the country would certainly not be refused admission, particularly where the need for the specialist attention was clearly supported by the local doctor. (The Hospitals Department is not aware of any specific case of a country pensioner having been refused admission.) A pensioner patient thus transferred is not only freed of the cost of the ambulance transport, but is provided with public ward hospital treatment completely free of charge and also receives the required specialist medical attention without charge.

However, some pensioners, particularly part-pensioners, are relatively well off and prefer to be admitted to a private hospital in the metropolitan area where they pay for hospital accommodation, and for the attention of the specialist of their choice. In such cases, it follows that they must also be prepared to pay for the cost of the ambulance transport involved. As treatment is available in Government hospitals at no cost, it is not appropriate to grant free ambulance transport to those seeking treatment at private hospitals at their own cost. The Government is committed to a programme of providing assistance in the fields of hospital and health services according to need.

ADVERTISING

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Deputy Premier, in the absence of the Premier (who is Minister of Development and Mines), say why State Government advertising, including that relating to tourism, has been placed in the hands of an overseas-based agency rather than with a South Australian-based advertising agency? Is the agency appointed the one that handles the Australian Labor Party's advertising?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member will appreciate that the Premier, as Minister of Development and Mines, handles this matter. I am not aware of the arrangements made by the Tourist Bureau for its publicity. However, I will refer the matter to the Premier, who will no doubt give the honourable member a reply.

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General received from the Minister of Health a reply to the question I asked recently about an advertisement regarding eyesight?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Minister of Health has supplied me with the following report:

Following the report of the question in Parliament, the *Sunday Mail* wrote to the advertiser seeking comments. The Senior Pharmaceutical Inspector of the Public Health Department has pointed out to the Advertising Manager for the *Sunday Mail* that the Australian Newspapers Council rules relating to proprietary medicine advertising prepared in consultation with Commonwealth and State departments did not allow advertisements relating to the restoration of more effective eyesight by eye exercises. The Manager had overlooked the aspect that the proprietary medicines code contained a few matters including this one not related to medicines. Appropriate action will be taken by the *Sunday Mail* in relation to any future advertisements of this kind.

DETERGENTS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Will the Minister of Works say whether biodegradable detergents and their effect on our water supply are being considered? A friend of mine, who discussed this matter with me, has written me a letter about it. I will read extracts from the letter which will explain my question. The writer had been into a department store to inspect packets of detergent, and part of his letter states:

Eighteen brand names of packet-detergents (as opposed to those offered in liquid form) were for sale. Not one of these brands mentioned anything whatsoever on the packet concerning their phosphate or nitrate content, or whether they were biodegradable. A few mentioned that they were "completely safe" to use, but only in the context that they posed no dangers from dermatitis or other skin complaints to the user. None mentioned anything about possible effects upon the environment from their release into drainage waters. I also looked at the liquid detergents. There were 14 brands for sale, many of them the same as those offered in solid form. Again, none of the 14 mentioned anything about the biodegradation or other environmental effects of their products.

The new detergents (notably those "with enzymes", washing "whiter than white" etc.) are a source of concern because of their effects

upon the drainage water, especially where houses are sited in catchments. The enrichment (or "eutrophication") of reservoirs by phosphates and non-biodegradable detergents leads to the growth of filamentous algae in the water.

I am aware that the committee the previous Government set up to investigate pollution is continuing its work and that this problem might be put to that committee. Nevertheless, the Engineer-in-Chief, who has been extremely concerned about the possible pollution of our reservoirs, would have authority in respect of matters such as this and I therefore ask the Minister whether he will consider the points raised and let me have a statement from the Engineer-in-Chief on the suggestions made?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: A report has already been made by the committee that the honourable member mentioned. I shall be happy to take up with the Engineer-in-Chief the points raised by the honourable member and to give him a considered reply. If he gives me the letter it will help me.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Minister say whether the Sewerage Branch of the Engineering and Water Supply Department is still having trouble with the disposal at the treatment plant of detergents that are flushed from kitchens through the sewerage system? Is this problem being solved or is it growing? As I believe this is a world-wide problem, I ask the Minister whether he can get me an up-to-date report on it.

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

CARP

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister of Works obtain a report from the Minister of Agriculture about the possible use of carp when, as anticipated, they become more prevalent in the Murray lakes? As I understand we are importing large quantities of fish meal from overseas, I wonder whether there could be a commercial advantage in using the carp now in the lakes for this purpose.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes.

BEACH EROSION

Mr. BECKER: I ask the Minister of Marine as Deputy Premier, in the absence of the Premier, whether the Premier will include me and the member for Glenelg in his proposed inspection of suburban beaches to inspect erosion damage. As the beaches at Glenelg North and West Beach have suffered the worst damage again this season and, as no Government assistance to seaside councils is provided

in this year's Budget, I hope that I and my colleague will be invited on any tour of our beaches by the Premier.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I do not know what source of information the honourable member has, but I am not aware that the Premier is to make a tour of inspection of metropolitan beaches, although I am aware that the Minister of Labour and Industry has asked to meet me and the Premier with a deputation from seaside councils on the subject of seaside erosion. I am certain that, if the Premier were to make such a tour, he would have the courtesy of inviting the honourable member and the member for Glenelg to accompany him.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: What about the member for Brighton?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, he would be invited.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are out of order.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: If and when the Premier decides to make such an inspection, I shall draw to his attention the honourable member's request.

Mr. BECKER: In the absence of the Premier, will the Minister of Marine see that members representing all metropolitan seaside districts are included in any discussion arranged by the Minister of Labour and Industry, who is the member for Henley Beach, as this matter is equally important to the other members and as I have asked previous questions about it?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I imagine that if the honourable member had taken the initiative that the Minister of Labour and Industry has taken in this matter, he would not have included the Minister of Labour and Industry. The reply to the specific question that the honourable member has asked is "No".

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Deputy Premier, in the absence of the Premier, say whether it is expected that a beach protection authority, such as has been suggested by Professor Culver of the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Adelaide, will be formed? I refer to a request made by the seaside councils committee, of which I am a member, on August 7, when the Government was asked to set up an authority comprising representatives of Government departments, such as the Marine and Harbors Department, the Lands Department, the Tourist Bureau, and the Highways Department, as well as representa-

tives of seaside councils and members of Parliament?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I do not know whether the honourable member is aware that the Government has only received an interim report from Professor Culver: a final report has not yet been received, and it is not expected that it will be received until about Christmas.

Mr. Mathwin: Friday.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member seems to know that the report will be received on Friday, although I, the person who will receive the report, have not been told about it yet. Be that as it may, if and when it is received the Government will consider it and decide on the recommendations made by Professor Culver, and in due course it will announce its decision on beach erosion, not only in the metropolitan area but throughout the State. It was only recently that I agreed to visit the university to see some of the experiments Professor Culver has carried out.

ELECTRICITY SUBSTATIONS

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the possibility of preventing small boys from climbing the fences surrounding substations of the Electricity Trust?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The design of the fence at the Glenelg North substation already provides for the barbed wire to lean outwards at the top. However, there appears to have been some weakness in design where the fence abuts a building or other structure and this is being looked into so that it may be corrected.

BOOL LAGOON

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the control of water levels on Bool Lagoon?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Bool Lagoon is connected to the Eastern Division Diversion Drain (Drain M) by the Bool Lagoon outlet drain. The Eastern Division Diversion Drain (Drain M) incorporates two regulators or control gates which are essential elements in the control system. The control system is vital in preventing unnecessary flooding and property damage downstream from Bool Lagoon, and these regulators are operated by the board, when necessary, during the wet period for this purpose. Bool Lagoon is essentially a ponding and balancing basin during the period of winter flows.

The South-Eastern Drainage Board and the Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation have been in continuous consultation in respect to the operation of the regulator gate on the Bool Lagoon outlet drain. This year all possible water has been ponded in Bool Lagoon and there is no intention to release water. Since completion of the diversion of Mosquito Creek water into Bool Lagoon in 1968, problems relating to the successful operation of Bool Lagoon for its dual purpose have been under continuing investigation. It appears certain that further minor works will be required. The South-Eastern Drainage Board is responsible for operation of the drainage system. I think I gave the impression last Thursday, on information that I had received, that the Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation was responsible for the release of any water but, following a consultation with the drainage board, I realize that this is not so. The honourable member will be pleased to know that it is not intended that water shall be released this year.

SCHOOL FLYSCREENS

Mr. GUNN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I recently asked about providing flyscreens at the Warramboe Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Public Buildings Department reports that private tenders will be called for the provision of flyscreens at the Warramboe Primary School within two or three weeks.

PREMIER'S ABSENCE

Mrs. STEELE: I address my question to you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering whether you could use your good offices to ask the Premier to be in the Chamber to reply to questions. I had the call to address a question to him at 2.20 p.m. (an hour ago) and I am still waiting to be called to ask that question again.

The SPEAKER: It is not the function of the Speaker to control the Government: that is a matter for the Government.

Mr. Millhouse: It's pretty insulting.

The SPEAKER: It is not within my jurisdiction to do this.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT

Mr. WELLS: Can the Attorney-General, representing the Chief Secretary, say whether any machinery is available whereby a medical practitioner in South Australia may inform his patient of the waiting time prior to the patient's being admitted to a public ward in a public hospital? One of my constituents

covers himself and his wife in a medical benefits scheme to the extent of the sum required to permit them to be treated in a public ward in a public hospital in the case of sickness. Recently, my constituent became ill and, although there was no danger, his condition was painful. He was sent by his doctor to a specialist, who said that surgery would be necessary and my constituent requested that he go into a public ward in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. However, the specialist told him that this was not possible because there was a waiting time of 18 months to two years before he could go into a public ward at that hospital. The man then contacted his private medical practitioner, who confirmed what the specialist had said, and he then had no alternative but to go into a private ward in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the cost of which was far more than the sum he was permitted to recoup from the medical benefits scheme. Less than three weeks afterwards, my constituent received a notification from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that he was to attend that hospital at a certain time to be admitted for surgery. This is a case of a specialist's saying that it would be 18 months to two years before he could get in—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is debating the question. The honourable Attorney-General.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will refer the question to my colleague and let the honourable member have a reply.

JURY FEES

Mr. MILLHOUSE: When does the Attorney-General intend to answer my question of November 5? I remind him that on that day I asked him a question, following a question that I previously asked the Premier, about an increase in jury fees in South Australia and, in answer to me on that day, the Attorney-General said:

I am at present considering whether there should be increases in jury fees and the mileage rate paid to jurors, and I shall tell the honourable member when a decision has been made on the matter.

On page 4 of this morning's newspaper, I noticed an announcement by the Attorney-General that there was to be an increase in jury fees and in the mileage rate, the very things about which I had asked him. I was rather surprised that he had not done the House and me the courtesy of informing us first of the answer to the question before he put it in the newspaper. At the least, I had

expected him to inform me this afternoon that he had an answer to the question, but he has not even done that. I therefore put it to him—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Attorney-General.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The honourable member asks when I will give him an answer to the question he asked on November 5 regarding jury fees, and the answer to that question is "Now": I can inform the honourable member and the House that Cabinet decided on Monday that jurors' fees would be increased from \$8 to \$10 a day and that the travelling allowance of 10c a mile would apply both ways, and not simply one way as it applied before. Unfortunately, I am not able at present to inform the honourable member just when the new fees will apply, but I will confer with the Sheriff this month and, when I know when the new fees will apply, I shall inform the honourable member.

HOUSING

Mr. COUNBE: I desired to ask a question of the Premier, as Minister in charge of housing.

Mr. Millhouse: The Premier is not favouring us this afternoon.

Mr. COUNBE: In the Premier's absence, I ask the Minister of Works whether he will obtain for me a report on the current demand for temporary housing in South Australia, at the same time bringing down information about the waiting time and the number of applicants presently waiting for South Australian Housing Trust houses, and about the various classifications of rental and rental-purchase flats and other types of housing provided by the trust?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will ask the Premier to obtain a report as soon as possible.

FATAL ACCIDENTS

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of November 11 about the number of fatal accidents involving vehicles under hire-purchase agreements?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There have been 304 fatal accidents involving motor vehicles from January 1 until November 16, 1970. No information is available from any source that I know of that will reveal how many of these vehicles were the subject of hire-purchase agreements. I believe that low or fictional deposits could be a contributing factor to the road toll because this sales method is designed to make vehicle purchase relatively easy, and thus highly powered vehicles are within easy

reach of young and inexperienced people as well as recently arrived migrants from countries where road rules are different and, in some cases, where vehicles are driven on the other side of the road to that on which vehicles are driven in Australia. It is a very difficult matter to legislate effectively against these practices, but the honourable member can be assured that this is a matter that the Government has in mind, and if it is possible to introduce effective legislation the Government will certainly do so.

STOCK WATER

Mr. GUNN: Can the Minister of Works say on whose advice the Government had decided to allow farmers in the Kimba area, who will be relying on water that is carted by road or rail, to retain only their breeding stock? Was a survey carried out into the number of breeding stock in the area and into what effect this decision will have on farmers who, in view of the wheat restrictions, are endeavouring to diversify their farming operations?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department put forward two proposals to me that I transmitted to Cabinet, which discussed and considered both of them. One proposal, which was to supply sufficient water to maintain full stock numbers in the area, would have cost, I think, about \$400,000. The other proposal which, from memory, was to cost \$190,000, was to maintain only breeding stock in these areas. Both proposals contemplate that there is no rainfall. Cabinet decided to provide water for breeding stock only, this decision being consistent with the policy of Governments in regard to drought relief in circumstances where fodder or things of that nature are considered necessary to help people in drought-stricken areas. In the past, we have provided only sufficient to maintain breeding stock on properties in such areas, so the decision to provide only sufficient water for breeding stock is consistent with previous decisions made. As honourable members have been notified, at the end of December people who are using this water will be required to reduce their stock numbers to breeding stock only. The Government would very much like to have been able to provide the additional water. However, not only was there the added cost involved but this would also have created a precedent that could lead to great embarrassment at times of future drought. That is why this decision has been made.

LITTER

Mr. MATHWIN: In the absence of the Premier, can the Minister of Works say what action is contemplated with regard to litter-bugs? I refer the Minister to local newspaper reports of the possibility of on-the-spot fines.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will refer the honourable member's question to the Premier. No discussion has taken place on the matter, to my knowledge.

Mr. Millhouse: It's on page 3 of the newspaper.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I take this opportunity to say that the Premier is engaged on extremely important business with people from another State, hence his absence from the Chamber. I think honourable members will appreciate that he does not leave the Chamber unless there is good reason. This was the only time that these people had available. I expect that members would not want the Premier to miss the opportunity of conferring with these people on what could be an important matter for the State.

CHEMICAL FIRMS

Mr. HALL: Does the Attorney-General know of the operation in this State of any chemical sales firms or chemical-producing firms that conduct any type of business activity related to that reported in the press about five weeks or six weeks ago in Victoria concerning what I think was called the Magna Group? If he does know of these activities, what action has he taken following the publicity given to activities in that State, mainly about gifts allegedly supplied by that company to officers of firms or Government departments who bought that company's goods? I have received representations from people closely associated with the Association of Sanitation Chemical Manufacturers of Australia, which operates in this State. Subsequently, I was given 12 instances of what were considered to be unfair or unethical trading practices in relation to the sale of sanitation chemicals in South Australia. It is alleged that at least two companies (I think one connected with the company in Victoria) operated in this State four weeks or five weeks ago. I should like to refer to some items, with the relevant names deleted (as I do not want to cause any personal embarrassment).

A country caravan park ordered 9 x 5gall. disinfectant detergent and was sent 9 x 45 gall.; material cost was about \$2,000. A suburban manufacturer was demonstrated a

barrier cream which was claimed to be safe against all industrial chemicals: the salesman applied the barrier cream to his arms and plunged them into a sulphuric acid bath. He suffered third degree burns to the hands and forearms. At a country hospital, a drain cleaner was demonstrated but, when a quantity ordered was delivered, it was found to be ineffective. A salesman demonstrated to a council an insecticide which was claimed to be safe on the skin, etc., when used as a repellent. The salesman sprayed the material onto an employee's face and the employee was forced immediately to seek medical attention for a very uncomfortable skin irritation. A country council purchased a product recommended to be safe for cleaning terrazzo. This material was highly acid and ate holes in the terrazzo floor. A suburban hotel ordered 1 gall. of disinfectant cleaner but received 10gall., with an invoice for \$70. A suburban council swimming centre purchased cleaner for tiles and, having completed the prize order form, sent this to the company, which provided a condiment set. A suburban racecourse purchased 5gall. of disinfectant cleaner and was offered prizes for purchases, but refused to accept this. The product proved ineffective. A senior employee of a large Adelaide manufacturer was offered prizes for purchases but declined and asked the salesman to leave. A large city emporium ordered goods from the company, but refused to accept delivery of these when the very high prices were indicated on the accompanying invoice. An Adelaide football club purchased 5gall. of drain cleaner and received an invoice for \$80. At a Government garage battery terminal anti-corrosive, marking ink, and various pressure packs were purchased and prizes were received as a consideration. This matter is apparently still concerning these people greatly and I shall be pleased to give the Attorney the names of those who have made the representations to me. I think it was evident from the allegations made of conduct in another State that the practices are not those that we would like to have continuing here. I also understand that the prices are often three times or four times the price of local products that are superior to those imported at the higher price.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have had no information about the operation of the companies to which the Leader has referred but, if he gives me the particulars of the allegations that have been made to him, I shall certainly have them inquired into.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour and Industry and, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, and the concurrence of the House, briefly to explain it. When does—

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: What is the question?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: When does the—

The Hon. L. J. King: You asked for leave to explain a question you hadn't asked.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I had started to ask the question.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: And you drop your voice so the Speaker cannot hear you.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: When does the Minister intend to introduce the new workmen's compensation Bill, and what will it contain? Now, if I may make the explanation for which I sought leave—

The Hon. L. J. KING: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The member for Mitcham commenced his remarks by saying something that was not a question: he asked leave to explain a question, and he then proceeded to ask a question. I take the point that, when he asked leave, the House was in no position to judge whether leave should be granted: the House did not know what the question was. As the question has now been asked, I submit that, in accordance with your ruling, the honourable member should now seek leave to make an explanation if he wishes to do so.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Mitcham will appreciate that "Question" was called, and it would be appropriate now if he sought leave to make his explanation, having asked the question.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Well, I will certainly do that, if it is your wish, Mr. Speaker, and that of the Attorney-General. I shall do it.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Why?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Because I am courteous, but I still point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that the form I have used on this occasion is the form I always use and I have done it with previous questions that I have asked this afternoon, but I'm quite happy—

The SPEAKER: Order! If the member for Mitcham would kindly co-operate, without debating the issue, I think everything would go along better.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I only point out that I had asked for leave, but I am pleased to ask again, if it pleases you, Mr. Speaker, and

other members. I seek your leave and the permission of the House to explain the question that I have framed. On Sunday I read the report of the Minister's comments and his announcements regarding the Workmen's Compensation Act and, according to him, its many defects, and the Government's intention to introduce amendments, which were set out in some detail. This report was followed by a report in the *Advertiser* yesterday in the same vein. I point out to the Minister that, traditionally, this is the place where such announcements are made first, and I had expected that the Minister would give notice today of his intention to introduce the Bill. However, he has not done that so far, and I therefore ask him the question. Is he willing to say here, in the place where it counts most, what the Government has in mind by way of revision, re-enactment and amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: Regarding the time when the Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Bill is likely to be introduced, I replied in the House only last week to a question asked by the member for Torrens as to what we intended to do about the introduction of industrial measures this session. I pointed out then that I expected that the Apprentices Act would probably be dealt with before Christmas and that the Workmen's Compensation Act would probably be dealt with during the autumn session. This may have led to the honourable member's asking a question about the press report that the Bill might be introduced this week. However, that report was incorrect. When the Bill is introduced, the honourable member will be informed of its contents.

DIPHTHERIA

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health whether the Public Health Department intends to increase the promotion of the prophylactic diphtheria vaccination? Members will be aware that over the weekend the District Council of Munno Para, through its Health Officer, indicated that a student from the Smithfield Plains Technical High School had contracted diphtheria. Concern was expressed in Gawler, as some school-children from the local primary school who had been booked into the Adare Hostel at Victor Harbour for a three-day educational tour were subsequently told that the girl suffering from diphtheria had been at Adare last week. It has been stated that students resident at Adare this week are not subject

to any danger. However, all these problems are associated with the fact that too many people fail to have prophylactic vaccination of their children carried out.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will refer the question to my colleague and let the honourable member have a reply.

NORTH ADELAIDE ROADWORKS

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister of Works supply me with details of the work that is now proceeding in the middle of O'Connell Street, North Adelaide, opposite the North Adelaide reservoir? As extensive departmental works are proceeding, and traffic hold-ups are occurring, I should appreciate a prompt report.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain that information for the honourable member.

AGED COTTAGE HOMES

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Has the Attorney-General a report on his so-called negotiations with Aged Cottage Homes Incorporated? About six months ago the Attorney-General attended a public meeting at which, by implication, he insulted the members of the board of Aged Cottage Homes. Later, in the Address in Reply debate, he held up the administration of that organization as an example of something evil. He has since said that he would straighten out whatever problem existed. However, the Minister has at no time said what the problem was, nor has he at any time (although, admittedly, it is a matter of opinion) been courteous enough to explain that the members of the Aged Cottage Homes organization are a group of unselfish, wise and voluntary administrators of a most worthwhile charity.

The Hon. L. J. KING: When I attended the meeting referred to by the honourable member, I did not insult anyone, either by inference or in any other way. Also, when I made my maiden speech I did not hold up the management of Aged Cottage Homes as an example of something evil. The honourable member no doubt read the speech, and I have already told him, in reply to two or three questions put by him, what I said; the meaning is plain, and I think the honourable member understands it very well. He has consistently tried, since I made that speech, to suggest that I was in some way attacking the reputation of some individuals connected with the management of that organization. What the honourable member's motives are in persistently continuing with that line, instead of accepting the

plain meaning of what I said and my subsequent reiteration of what I said, only the honourable member knows. Regarding the subsequent events, I have explained to the member for Mitcham as recently as a few days ago what is taking place, and I have nothing further to add to that at present. However, I make no apology at all for the fact that I was and still am deeply concerned about the anxieties suffered by old people who are in no position to cope with them. I only regret that the members for Alexandra and Mitcham, and any other member opposite who thinks the same way, do not share my concern for those anxieties.

COOBER PEDY MAIN STREET

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport have the Highways Department immediately carry out the sealing of the main street of Coober Pedy? I understand that the Highways Department has been preparing to seal this street for some time. The residents of Coober Pedy have expressed much concern to me because of the dust problem which occurs there in summer and which is occurring now, when it is impossible for people in the main street to keep the interiors of their shops and dwellings clean because of the dust.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The answer is "No": I will not have the department do this immediately, as it is not practicable for it to do so. However, I will examine the matter to see whether the work can be done as expeditiously as it is reasonable to expect.

HIRE-PURCHASE

Mr. CURREN: Will the Attorney-General have the matter I am going to explain investigated?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must state the matter that he wants investigated because I have ruled that that type of question is out of order, and he will not get away with it.

Mr. CURREN: It is rather difficult to frame the question in any other way. Will the Attorney-General have an investigation carried out into the dealings between Mr. L. G. Owen of Barmera and Custom Credit Corporation Limited relating to a hire-purchase agreement?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There are far too many interjections. The honourable member has asked his question; I have decided it is

in order; and I do not want members to interject.

Mr. CURREN: On this hire-purchase agreement there is an item "Add sickness and accident insurance \$43.50" and that is included in the sum that is the subject of the agreement. Mr. Owen sustained an injury to his hand which necessitated an absence from work of two weeks. When he claimed on the company for sick and accident payments, he received the following reply:

We refer to your letter of the 2nd inst. and advise that we have checked our records again and advise that there is no cover for sickness and accident. The amount of \$43 referred to is a pre-delivery fee included by the dealer. Yours faithfully, W. G. Lang, Credit Officer.

The Hon. L. J. KING: If the honourable member gives me the papers I shall certainly consider the matter. On the surface it seems to be a matter of private legal rights which the honourable member might possibly take up with the person concerned or in respect of which he could advise his constituent to obtain legal advice if he cannot otherwise obtain redress.

At 4 o'clock, the bells having been rung:

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

KIMBA MAIN

Mr. GUNN (on notice):

1. What is the Government's detailed programme for the Polda-Kimba main?
2. Will the trunk main be built before the branch mains, or both together?
3. What are the expected dates of completion of the trunk main and the branch mains?
4. What routes will the branch mains take?
5. Will these mains be connected to the Government tank and, if so, when?
6. What is the latest estimate of cost of the main?
7. Will the annual allotment to the main be increased to provide for cost increases or will completion of the scheme be delayed?
8. Is there any possibility of additional money being allotted to this scheme to hasten completion?
9. When will it be made known whether the appeal to the Commonwealth Government for funds for this scheme has been successful or not?
10. How will the granting of this appeal affect the programme and which areas of the scheme will the Commonwealth Government be responsible for?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

1. If no Commonwealth grant—it is expected that the work as approved at present, consisting of the trunk main to Kimba and the two branch mains in the hundred of Darke, will be completed by the end of 1974.

2. Under this approval the trunk main to Kimba would be completed before a start made on the two branch mains.

3. The trunk main should reach Kimba midway through 1974 and the two branch mains be completed by the end of 1974.

4. The two branch mains under the present approval will be laid as follows: (1) from the southern corner of section 51, hundred of Pascoe, to the southern corner of section 88, hundred of Darke; and (2) from the southern corner of section 61, hundred of Smeaton, to the southern corner of section 7, hundred of Darke.

5. The trunk main will be connected to the township supply tanks at Kimba when completed to the town in 1974.

6. The latest estimate of the cost of the approved scheme is \$2,550,000.

7. This would depend on availability of Loan funds in any one year. Completion of approved scheme could be delayed somewhat by cost increases.

8. It is unlikely that additional funds could be made available from State Loan funds, and an earlier completion date to Kimba would depend on the receipt of a grant from the Commonwealth Government and on any conditions attached to the grant.

9. It is not possible to say when it will be known whether the Commonwealth Government will make any funds available for this scheme or not.

10. If a grant is made, subject to any conditions laid down by the Commonwealth Government, it should be possible to increase the rate of expenditure on the scheme. The scheme submitted to the Commonwealth Government provides for an additional 155 miles of branch mains over the 15 miles comprising the two branch mains already approved. It will not be known until a grant is received whether it will apply to the trunk main and branch mains or to the branch mains only. The location of the proposed additional branch mains will not be finally decided until the views of the farmers that would be affected have been ascertained and further information regarding levels is available.

REMEDIAL CLASSES

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (on notice):

1. How many remedial classes for handicapped children and slow learners are established in South Australia in primary schools?

2. How many such classes are established in secondary schools?

3. At which schools do they exist?

4. What is the average size of these classes and what is the size of the largest class in primary schools and secondary schools?

5. What special training is given in teachers colleges to those who will teach these children?

6. How many teachers are being trained specifically for this work in teachers colleges at present?

7. What promotion possibilities are provided for these teachers?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The replies are as follows:

1. There are 15 separate remedial classes in primary schools in South Australia. There are, additionally, 55 opportunity classes and nine special senior classes in primary schools.

2. There are no remedial classes in secondary schools. However, 22 special secondary classes for slow learners have been approved.

3. Remedial classes have been established at the following primary schools: Darlington, Morphetville Park, Dover Gardens, Elizabeth Field, Elizabeth South, Forbes, McRitchie Crescent, Millicent North, Mount Gambier East, Pennington, Port Augusta West, Willsdon, Port Pirie, Thebarton and Victor Harbour.

Special secondary classes have been established at the following technical high schools: Port Pirie, Whyalla, Angle Park Boys, Angle Park Girls, Brighton Boys, Dover Gardens Girls, Elizabeth Boys, Elizabeth Girls, Goodwood Boys, Kensington-Norwood Girls, Mitcham Girls, Mitchell Park Boys, Mount Gambier, Norwood Boys (two classes), Salisbury North, Seaton Park Boys, Smithfield Plains and Strathmont Boys.

High schools: Glossop, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln.

4. The size of these classes varies from time to time. Remedial classes in primary schools function on a sessional basis of no more than 12 pupils per session. Special classes are kept to a maximum of 20 students.

5. At present a course in applied psychology for students from Western and Wattle Park Teachers Colleges is given for teachers who wish to work in special education. The course has 30 third-year primary-trained students. As from the beginning of 1971 a course to be known as the Education and Psychology of Exceptional Children will be mounted as a post-diploma course at Western Teachers College. This will cater for up to 20 students. From the beginning of 1971 a conversion course to enable teachers and ex-teachers to work in special education will be mounted at Western Teachers College. The course, which will last for one term, will cater for 30 teachers.

6. Thirty teachers are being trained specifically for this work in teachers colleges at present.

7. Teachers working in the classes outlined above have the same promotion prospects as other assistant teachers, provided that they gain the appropriate qualifications.

CHILD-MINDING CENTRES

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Has any estimate been made of the cost of control of supervision of child-minding centres by the Public Health Department?

2. If so, what is it?

3. If not, when will such an estimate be made?

4. What extra staff will be required by the Public Health Department to exercise such supervision?

5. What will be their duties?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The reply is as follows:

1 to 5. The Public Health Department will not be involved in the supervision of child-minding centres other than that such centres are regularly inspected by public health nurses of the department, together with an officer from the local board of health responsible. These inspections are carried out to check the standards of sanitation and the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases. The work involves about half the time of one public health nurse at present. No extra staff is required by the Public Health Department to continue this work unless there is a marked increase in the numbers of child-minding centres. Supervision by the Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs Department on the basis of present numbers would cost about

\$11,000 a year. Time occupied in the work would be the equivalent of two full-time social workers plus some clerical assistance. It is envisaged that several of the department's social workers would specialize in this area, doing the work in conjunction with other duties. This estimate does not take into account any impetus Commonwealth moneys might give in this area or the cost of training activities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): I seek leave to make a personal explanation. Leave granted.

Mr. HALL: In this morning's press the Premier is reported as having said that "renovations were not planned by our Government but by the Hall Government". This was in relation to a question which I understand he was asked regarding a proposal to spend \$3,000,000 on Parliament House. As I only have the reported statement before me, I make my personal explanation in relation to it alone. The direct inference to be drawn from it is that the Hall Government had a policy to spend \$6,000,000 on this building. In fact, the Hall Government had never decided to spend that amount or any other amount on Parliament House. Indeed, no plans were prepared by the Hall Government: plans had been prepared by the Public Buildings Department, but they were not approved by the previous Government. Also, no approval had been given by the previous Government for the expenditure of \$6,000,000, \$3,000,000 or even \$1,000,000 on this building.

PORT AUGUSTA WEST SCHOOL

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Port Augusta West Primary School (Replacement).

Ordered that report be printed.

SOUTH-WESTERN SUBURBS DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Roads and Transport) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the South-Western Suburbs Drainage Act, 1959, to repeal the South-Western Suburbs (Supplementary) Drainage Act, 1966, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The legislative grandparent of the south-western suburbs drainage scheme was the Metropolitan Drainage Works (Investigation) Act, 1957. In pursuance of the powers conferred by that Act, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works produced a report that formed the basis of the principal Act (the South-Western Suburbs Drainage Act, 1959), which gave birth to the scheme. The works authorized by the scheme were set out in section 6 (1) of the principal Act and were further delineated on the plan that was attached to the report of the standing committee. In 1966, it was desired to proceed forthwith with the construction of Drain No. 10 referred to in the report. This drain was not authorized under the principal Act although a delineation of the drain appeared on a plan attached to the report. Accordingly, a special Act (the South-Western Suburbs (Supplementary) Drainage Act, 1966) was introduced. Amongst other things, that Act provided that half the cost of Drain No. 10 would be borne by the municipal councils of Marion and Brighton in the proportions of 43 per cent and 57 per cent, respectively.

The method of financing the scheme as provided by the principal Act was that in the first instance the Government would bear the cost of the scheme and the councils that were enumerated would refund to the Government half the cost, repayments to be spread over 53 years. Each of the enumerated councils is required to make payments based on a table of percentages set out in section 6 of the principal Act. It was intended that the scheme proposed by the standing committee would be completed in two stages, Stage I being the works recommended and set out in the principal Act and Stage II being a matter that would be the subject of later legislation. In the nature of things, Stage I works underwent some modification and, as I have said, at least one intended Stage II project (Drain No. 10) was brought forward in the terms of the special Act. With the substantial completion of Stage I, on November 28, 1968, the matter, among other things, of proceeding to Stage II was referred to the Public Works Committee. This report was completed on June 11, 1970, and the object of this Bill is to give effect to the recommendations of the committee.

In summary, the committee recommended (a) that the revised Stage I of the scheme be agreed to; (b) that Stage II of the scheme be proceeded with; (c) that the cost of the Patawalonga works be borne wholly by the

Government without a contribution by the councils; (d) that a previously approved remission of \$1,000,000 off the total cost of the works be enacted into law; (e) that the percentage contributions by the councils should be varied somewhat; and (f) that the special Act be repealed and the works done on Drain No. 10 be considered as part of the main scheme. The method by which this Bill gives effect to the recommendations of the committee will, I think, become clear when the clauses of the Bill are considered in some detail. For convenience, I shall refer to the report of the Public Works Committee as "the report".

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 repeals the South-Western Suburbs (Supplementary) Drainage Act, 1966, and assimilates the construction costs of Drain No. 10 into the overall costs of the scheme. This follows the report (clause 7 (9)). Clause 4 provides a new definition of "the plan" and will enable a new plan to be used showing the present and future development of the scheme. A copy of this plan is available for perusal by honourable members. The definition of "the report" has been struck out since, because of the substantial revisions that have been made and agreed to by the committee, that report no longer forms a useful frame of reference. Two additional definitions are provided: that of "the Patawalonga works" and that of "the prescribed amount". Clauses 5 and 6 merely make formal amendments consequent on the passage of the Land Acquisition Act, which replaced the Compulsory Acquisition of Land Act. Clause 7 amends section 6 of the principal Act and provides for all the works comprised in both Stage I and Stage II of the scheme to be delineated on the one plan. It may be helpful if I indicate the state of development of the works delineated on the plan. In fact, all the works delineated on the plan, with the exception of Drains Nos. 2, 6, 8, 18 and 20, the Patawalonga works and the Sturt River works, these being the works which form the substance of Stage II of the scheme, have been completed or substantially completed.

In addition, the undertaking of the Patawalonga works is authorized by this clause. An indication of the scope of the Patawalonga works is set out in the schedule inserted by clause 13. Clause 8 amends section 7 of the principal Act by relating the total liability of the councils involved to an amount referred to as the prescribed amount. This amendment is appropriate, since the total cost of the

works, on which the council's liability was originally founded, is now subject to an abatement of \$1,000,000 together with an amount equal to the cost of the Patawalonga works. In addition, the revised contribution rates for the enumerated councils have been inserted to conform to the recommendations in clause 6 of the report. Clause 9 effects appropriate amendments to section 8 of the principal Act, which provides for interim repayment arrangements until the final cost is known.

The assumed cost of the work for the purposes of calculating interim repayments has been altered to relate to the prescribed amount, and the figure used has been derived from the estimate set out in clause 7 under the heading "General" in the report. Appropriate powers have been given to the Treasurer to recalculate payments in accordance with the changes referred to above. Clause 10 sets out the method of deducting the rebates from the total amount spent on the construction of the works recommended in the report at clause 9. The calculation is in accordance with the formula set out in proposed subsection (2). Clause 11 inserts a new section 13a imposing a liability on the municipal council of Glenelg in relation to the Patawalonga works in accordance with the report at clause 7 (8). Clause 12 is merely consequential upon the amendments adverted to above. Clause 13 is a drafting amendment. Clause 14 enacts a schedule to the principal Act which sets out in some detail the Patawalonga works. This Bill is a hybrid Bill and will, in the ordinary course of events, be referred to a Select Committee of this House.

Mr. MATHWIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council intimated that it did not insist on its amendment.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 12. Page 2658.)

Mr. CUMBE (Torrens): In principle, I support the Bill, many of the provisions of which my predecessor (Mrs. Steele) and I considered when we were Ministers of Education. Had the Hall Government remained in office, it intended to introduce many of the amendments to the principal Act contained in this Bill. For convenience, I will deal with these matters in the order in which the Minister dealt with them in his second reading

explanation. In Committee, I will seek further information about several matters that are not clearly explained either in the Bill or in the Minister's second reading explanation. Doubts arise with regard to the implementation of some of the details in the Bill and the machinery of their operation. First, I shall deal with the part of the Bill that concerns the delegation of powers. I agree that the load presently carried by the Minister and senior officers of the department is heavy indeed and that their powers should be delegated. At the same time, the Minister retains his power to dismiss a teacher, and I think that is essential. However, I recall vividly the amount of paper work involved in the transfer and promotion of officers, and I support the delegation of these powers.

The Bill provides that the same conditions relating to long service leave as apply to public servants shall now apply to teachers. Honourable members should realize that, although people occupying administrative positions in the Education Department have similar conditions to those of public servants, teachers are not members of the Public Service and do not come within the ambit of the Public Service Act. At present, to qualify for long service leave, teachers must have served for 15 years. The Bill provides for a reduction in that time to 10 years, as applies to officers of the Education Department who work in administrative and inspectorial positions. I have looked at this matter carefully, examining the provisions in the Bill and those in the Public Service Act. The words in the Bill are exactly the same as those in the Public Service Act except that "teacher" is substituted in many cases for "officer". Under the Bill, the conditions applying to public servants with respect to long service leave will now apply to teachers. This also extends to the provision of pro rata leave after five years with regard to resignations. As I can see no reason why a teacher should not have the same provisions apply to him as apply to a public servant, I support this part of the Bill. As Parliament has passed certain long service leave entitlement provisions for public servants, and as these apply to administrative officers in the Education Department, it is logical that they should now apply to teachers.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The administrative officers didn't enjoy the privilege if they had previously had teaching service.

Mr. COURCEL: I am talking in general terms. All members of the department, whether administrative, inspectorial or teaching

members, will now be on the same basis. The Minister then dealt with the provisions relating to a teacher's retirement. These matters have caused problems in the past, as the member for Davenport, the present Minister and I know only too well. As the Minister said in his explanation, he recently introduced the regulations dealing with this matter. The Bill provides that, for the purpose of assessing the service of a teacher, a year of service will date from February 1 to January 31 instead of the present January 1 to December 31. In other words, the school year will be used rather than the calendar year. The Minister says that the aim of these amendments is to bring retirement provisions into line with the new regulations that he recently introduced. The Minister also says that it is a financial inducement to student teachers to think of their profession as being on a full-year basis. If it is so regarded, I completely agree. In my opinion, teachers should regard their profession as being on a full-year basis.

Unfortunately, in the past we have had, apart from special hardship cases (which I do not want to deal with now) many premature and, perhaps, deliberate resignations at the end of the first term. Doubtless, some teachers resign then so that they can receive entitlements from January 1 to the first day of the first term, because the present regulations provide that resignations during December shall take effect on December 31 and the Minister may impose a penalty of not more than two months' salary if the resignation takes effect between December 31 and the last day of the first term in the following calendar year. The Minister, as well as all other members, hopes that what is being done will overcome the number of mid-year resignations of teachers and the consequential disruptions. I think we all realize what disruptions occur because teachers resign part of the way through a school year. This presents problems not only for the department but also for individual teachers.

I have had experience of teachers being moved at short notice from a school in the city to one in the country, or vice versa, or from one country town to another. This creates personal hardship and disruption for the person concerned and, if the Bill overcomes only some of the problems, it will have my support. On the other hand, the new procedure could, or should, assist the department financially. That is because the machinery that the department must go through to replace teachers who resign at short notice is expensive for

the department. Whether the Bill overcomes the present unfortunate teacher resignation rate is another matter. I am not sure that it will do that, but I hope it will.

Mrs. Steele: It could be a contributing factor.

Mr. COURCE: Yes and, if it is, I support the proposal. I remember that last year my predecessor, Mrs. Steele, was criticized because of the rate of resignations from the teaching service in this State. I recall that, although the Minister explained the position clearly, the present Minister was one who attacked her. Because of that, I was interested to hear the Minister, when speaking recently about resignations, do almost a *volte-face* by admitting that there was a problem about resignations. It is difficult to see the improvement that is said to have occurred.

I wish the Minister and the department well in their oversea recruitment campaign. Of course, that recruitment campaign did not start this year: it had been operating for some time. I also know that in the last few years many teachers have migrated to Canada, and many disillusioned teachers now returning to South Australia found that things in Canada were not as bright as they had been led to believe, mainly because of the cold weather, the outlandish places to which many of them were sent, and the extremely high cost of living. Others to whom I have spoken have told me that South Australia is not a bad place, after all, and they have said, "This will do me."

Mr. Venning: It's deteriorating. Do they still say it?

Mr. COURCE: I am referring to teachers to whom I have spoken, and I have obtained this general impression from teachers who have returned. They have said that the teaching service in South Australia is fairly good and that, having seen what has happened in other countries, they consider conditions here to be much better. They say that they appreciate the position in South Australia. Whilst I encourage travel by young executives and teachers so that they can gain experience, I think many young teachers may have been a little carried away about travelling. I think more and more teachers will return to work in South Australia. The next section of the Bill is most interesting. It enables school committees or councils to borrow money. I considered this matter when I was Minister and I think it was mentioned in my Party's policy speech. Under this proposal a school, through its committee or council, may borrow money to build an assembly hall, swimming pool, or

other amenity. The Bill intends that the committee or council can deposit with the Government not less than half the sum that the facility will cost, and then the project can be proceeded with.

Many committees and councils have done a magnificent and unselfish job in raising money for projects, and I commend them for this. Unfortunately, the children of many parents who have worked so hard on these projects have left the school by the time sufficient money is raised, so their successors gain the benefit. This matter was investigated thoroughly when I was Minister of Education. When we considered a scheme such as that proposed by the member for Peake (that is, a scheme similar to the co-operative scheme that operates in Victoria), this was rejected because we thought it would be too cumbersome. I consider the proposal we are now considering to be the better of the two. It will be far easier to administer and will give more tenure to the parties concerned. The basis that my Party put forward in our policy speech was that a school committee could pay 50 per cent of the money and form an incorporated body, with perpetuity, and then the Government could proceed with the project. This helps the Government, because it gives it money. It helps the school committee, which can start the project. The Bill contains safeguards, which are necessary if this type of operation is to be carried out.

A School Loans Advisory Committee is to be established. I should like the Minister to tell me in the Committee stage what form this body will take and what officers or representatives will be on it. What will happen when costs increase between the time of lodging of deposit and the completion of the project, which may take 18 months or two years?

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Or longer.

Mr. COURCE: Yes. What will happen when wages rise and the cost of materials and so on increase? I assume that up to half the cost of a project can be lodged only after the assessed cost of the project has been approved. There must be some give and take in this respect. Will the added cost be shared equally, or will the Government bear all of it? I certainly hope the school committee will not be asked to bear it. In his second reading explanation the Minister referred to rising building costs, and here we have a new principle being introduced whereby the school committees can get on with the job earlier. A technical high school in my district has been raising money for about 15 years

to enable it to build a hall, but it still does not have enough money to start the job. Had this plan been in operation some years ago that hall would have been built now, as the school, being able to meet its commitments, could have obtained the balance from the bank. Its students would therefore have had the benefit of that hall.

The next section of the Bill deals with curriculum boards. At the moment four such boards (for primary, technical, high and area schools) are operating; it is proposed that there be only two, one dealing with primary education, the other with secondary education. Although I agree with this idea, I think it is essential that the scope of the boards be widened. I do not want to re-hash the arguments that occurred earlier this year regarding these boards, which are outside the Minister's jurisdiction, although this illustrates the need to widen the representation on the board. The amendment will enable the schools, parent bodies and industry, as well as the Education Department and teachers, to be represented. I hope the Minister will exercise his discretion widely and wisely because, with a wide community representation, a fairly broad type of curriculum, instead of a narrow, parochial one could be made available to our pupils. This could overcome the danger of a teacher forcing his own narrow views on to the children in his presentation of a certain textbook or curriculum.

The next section deals with the appointment of teachers to tertiary institutions. We have better and more highly qualified teachers in our colleges today, and I am indeed concerned at the Minister's decision to take away from teachers their right of appeal to the Teachers Appeal Board in respect of their appointment to tertiary institutions—a right they have enjoyed in the past. It has been decided that where tertiary institutions are concerned (and I presume we are only speaking of teachers colleges)—

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: There is no right of appeal in respect of appointments to the universities and the Institute of Technology, anyway.

Mr. COURCEL: I realize that. In any event they are outside the Minister's jurisdiction, so we must be talking about teachers colleges.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: And the School of Art.

Mr. COURCEL: Yes. We are speaking of teachers under the Minister's control. I have grave doubts about taking away from teachers their right of appeal. The Minister has said

that in these colleges special abilities and qualifications are required of applicants, and these qualifications and abilities may be found in young men who lack seniority. Positions may be advertised in this State or anywhere in the world, yet the Minister has decided to take away the right of appeal from teachers already in the service, a right that they should continue to have. I appreciate the Minister's difficulty when a position is advertised overseas. However, it is more important for us to look after the teachers in South Australia. Our teachers, who are qualified to teach in these colleges, should have rights equal to those of anyone overseas, provided they have the necessary qualifications and can do the job. The appeal is to the Teachers Appeal Board, which is set up under legislation. This is a matter about which I have the greatest doubts, because I believe it could involve hardship to teachers in this State and, if the Minister has a way of getting over this hardship, I shall be pleased to hear him, although I point out that we are considering this Bill only and not any intention the Minister may have to introduce an administrative measure. I protest at the exclusion of South Australian teachers regarding the right of appeal.

I support the provision regarding the appointment to a teachers college of people holding positions at the university. We can forget about the reference to marking the roll book, for that is a machinery matter. Having touched on most of the main points to which the Minister has alluded, I indicate that the Bill has my support in principle, and I repeat that if I were still Minister of Education I would have introduced many of the provisions contained in this measure. Concerning the matters about which I have expressed doubt, the Minister will have an opportunity to explain, and I have indicated to him the matters on which I should like some information when we get into Committee. I should like the Minister to give us some idea of the cost to the State of reducing from 15 years to 10 years the period applying to long service leave. I support the Bill, with the reservations I have indicated.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I, too, support the general provisions of the Bill. The member for Torrens has indicated that many of the provisions included in the measure were mooted during the life of previous Governments but, whoever is responsible for them, these provisions are necessary. It is not an easy task to wade through the Education Act and the subsequent amendments, and I believe

it is a fairly expensive business to consolidate the various provisions.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The statutory amendments in this Bill will permit a reprint of the consolidated Act, and that will be a great help.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: That will be an advantage, and I commend the person responsible for this decision. Having considered the ramifications of the Bill, I commend those responsible for introducing it. For some time now, there has been a strange difference in leave provisions as between teachers and public servants, and I could never see any cogent argument for retaining that difference. Although the view may have been widely held that teachers have generous holidays, I think anyone who has been involved in the teaching profession, as has the member for Elizabeth, will know that mid-year breaks are essential. Teachers are required to attend conferences that are now held during vacation periods, and this requires much preparation and additional work. Indeed, it places a considerable burden on teachers who are required to use their vacation time to keep up with the many new changes occurring.

Mrs. Steele: Teachers recognize the value of these conferences.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Yes. Having been to several conferences in the January vacation, I know that they are extremely well attended. A penalty has in the past been imposed on teachers who transfer from the teaching profession to other branches of the Public Service, and I could see no justification for this penalty, which the Bill seeks to remove. I accept the fact that such a penalty should not have applied to those teachers who were promoted to an administrative position within the Education Department, where the chief progression of teachers to the Public Service takes place. I agree wholeheartedly with the intention to remove the anomaly that has existed in this regard. I think that, when all the various matters are weighed up, there will be general satisfaction within the teaching profession with the measures now proposed. The Bill provides that any long service leave to which a teacher is entitled shall be taken by that teacher at a time, in the opinion of the Minister, convenient to the Education Department, and I believe that this is an eminently sensible arrangement. Reference is made to four or five instances in which pro rata leave shall be granted: first, in the case of a teacher who dies, obviously there will be no benefit in this respect other than to his

dependants. However, I question the provision that pro rata leave shall be granted to a teacher who retires under section 18d, which involves a person over the age of 65 years who has been in the employ of the department. I see the sense in the other instances cited, involving illness or pregnancy, for in these circumstances it seems reasonable that the teachers concerned should be granted pro rata leave after five years. This case concerns someone of relatively old age who is retired under the terms of section 18d.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: I think that the argument is that, for these people, superannuation should be as normal as possible. Unless there is carry-over of present superannuation—

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are out of order.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The Minister may be able to explain this later. However, even though these people may not be covered adequately by superannuation, they are almost at the retiring age, and there does not seem to be any justification why they should have an advantage over those who have served the department at a younger age. I have referred to the fact that an anomaly existing with regard to people who transfer from the teaching profession to other branches of the Public Service has been removed. I also have a query with regard to the matter of resignations, and the regulations introduced earlier. I think it is only fair that any payment for the month of January should apply to those who retire as well as to those who resign. It appears to me that, if any teacher resigns, he will be paid for the month of January. The member for Torrens referred to the end of the school year being January 31. The position has always been that teachers are employed from January 1, any promotions taking effect from that date; I believe that position still applies. The only justification that appears to exist for the provision in the regulations is that it will perhaps cut out some of these mid-year resignations. I believe unequivocally that we must make the teaching profession as attractive as possible, doing everything possible to retain teachers.

However, it is difficult to justify this provision in terms of salary justice. As the Minister said, the justification is that it will tend to induce teachers to stay until the end of the year so that they can receive the extra month's salary. This appears to be a matter of convenience. I do not deny for one moment that the mid-year resignations create havoc for administrators in the department and for

senior teachers at the school. The necessary rearrangement of time tables involves great work for senior teachers in the schools, and undoubtedly much work is involved in Flinders Street. This appears to be an inducement to keep teachers in employment, simply to avoid this confusion. I do not want to be misunderstood, but I do not think this can be justified in terms of salary justice. In the case of people who want to resign, I do not think this provision will make much difference. It will make a difference in the case of those who remain for the first term to get the holiday pay. The only merit in this provision is that it will make it less difficult for those in administrative positions. Perhaps the Minister will comment on this aspect later.

The member for Torrens also referred to the provision dealing with appeals against appointments to tertiary institutions. There has been some discussion about people within teachers colleges having some say about appointments. In general, the scheme of appeals has worked well to my knowledge. Special provisions have been made and Education Department lists are drawn up and the most suitable person is appointed. If anyone feels aggrieved, he has the right to make out a case appealing against the appointment. As the Minister will know, not frequently but occasionally appeals are won. Therefore, as I believe the appeal board has more than justified its existence, I hope some safeguard will be made in the case of tertiary appointments so that those who are not appointed will not feel aggrieved. I also welcome the appointment of two advisory curriculum boards. As we know, there has been a change in the administrative structure of the Education Department whereby all secondary schools are now under the Director of Secondary Education. In these circumstances, it seems sensible that the various boards should be amalgamated so that there is now only one board to advise about curricula for secondary schools and one board concerned with primary schools.

It is also pleasing to see that representatives from independent schools and parent bodies are to be included on these boards. Perhaps the boards may even be able to comment on some of the controversial matters, such as certain books under discussion recently, and so on. Be that as it may, representatives from independent schools have much to offer in this regard. I have attended conferences during vacations where these people play a significant part in the discussions held. Independent schools were always well represented, and I

am sure their representatives will add much to these boards. The inclusion of representatives from parent bodies is also desirable. The Bill also provides for the incorporation of school committees and councils so that they may be able to borrow money. I believe the Bill lacks a little detail in this regard, its provisions being fairly broad. These bodies can borrow money for any building or project, no mention being made of any sum involved. I wonder whether we should fix some lower limit, projects costing less than that sum not to be considered by the committee. I believe that the provision in the Bill visualizes projects such as the construction of school halls, gymnasiums or swimming pools, which are larger projects. Perhaps some lower limit could be fixed as it is in the case of the Public Works Committee. The advisory committee should not be burdened with having to consider projects costing fairly trivial sums. However, the Bill covers most matters fairly well, the safeguards provided appearing to be adequate. It has been said that marking roll books is not important. However, this can be important, because I understand that in court cases these books are sometimes called for, and because of this it is necessary to be accurate in marking them. For a long time the old method of marking roll books has been regarded as irksome.

Mr. Clark: It could be a real burden.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: It depends on how enlightened the headmaster is, of course. Some took what I consider a reasonable view of the matter, and I think the changed regulations merely give effect to what has been the practice in many places for a long time. As I have said, the roll book is a fairly important document, because it can be called for in such prosecutions as for truancy and shop stealing. This provision will receive the general approval of the teaching profession.

The Bill also makes realistic changes in the penalties for truantries. The fine for a first truancy offence was 50c, a trivial amount, and the fine for a second offence was \$4. These penalties have been increased considerably. The delegation of authority is a long-accepted principle in any large organization. The Minister and his senior officers would be accepting the advice of regional officers in any case, and I think that the delegation of authority is desirable. All in all, we have not much to complain about in this Bill. I congratulate the former Ministers, who doubtless had much to do with many of the matters dealt with in the measure.

The Government also deserves support for including major parts of the Bill as it stands.

Mr. CLARK (Elizabeth): I do not intend to speak at great length on the Bill, which deserves a speedy passage. Most members can support almost everything in it, although some members may have minor reservations about a few matters. The member for Kavel was good enough to mention that I had been a schoolteacher for many years. In fact, more than half of what I regard as my professional life was spent as a schoolteacher, as most members would know. Occasionally the member for Mitcham refers to me as being an "old schoolie". I do not mind his saying I am old, because I am no longer young. However, I am not wrapped up in the word "schoolie", and persons in the teaching profession are not, either. That seems to be a juvenile expression. Perhaps it was common in a school the honourable member attended. That honourable member was rather entertaining when he first became a member. However, he is older now, and I should not be talking about that matter at this stage, anyway.

I support the Bill. When the Minister was giving his second reading explanation, I could not help thinking how things have changed in the teaching profession since I entered it in 1926, a long time ago. I remember when the school inspector's visit to a school was regarded with fear and dread by the headmaster and all teachers, whether they were experienced or newcomers to the profession. Happily, this has changed. The relationship between the teachers and the children, between the headmasters and their staff, and between the inspectorial staff and the teachers is now much different. When I gained preselection by my Party to stand for Parliament, the first telegram of congratulation that I received was from my District Inspector, who was not only my inspector but also a friend. When I left the department, it was customary for inspectors and senior teachers, anyway, to be on Christian name terms. However, when I entered the department it would be wrong to dare to use such terms when speaking to the inspector.

Fortunately, things had changed by the time I left the department and I understand that since then they have changed further, for the better. This Bill emphasizes the changes that have been made. Even 20 years ago, these changes were unheard of, but what has been done is for the good

of the service. I want to mention one or two matters that have more than usual interest. As other members have said, the long service leave provisions seem admirable. Teachers will be entitled to 90 days' long service leave after 10 years' service, and subsequently long service leave will accrue at the rate of 9 days for each year of service.

One of the most important aspects of the provision is that in certain circumstances pro rata leave will be granted after five years' service. At present, long service leave accumulates up to 15 years' service, but a person is not entitled to collect payment until he has served 15 years. There is no provision for pro rata payment. Another important provision deals with the preservation of long service leave for a person transferred to another branch of the Public Service. These transfers occur more often than some people think and the Bill removes anomalies that until now have probably inhibited people who would otherwise have entered the profession.

I was interested in what the member for Kavel said about retirement. It seems to me that the provision in the Bill is useful. Men who resign after reaching 60 years of age and women who resign after reaching 55 years may work on until the end of the year and be paid to January 31. Over the years I have seen much disruption in schools because headmasters or senior teachers have retired in September or October and the routine of the school has been upset because these persons have not completed the school year. The new provision is good. New headmasters or teachers coming in will be senior officers and much disturbance will be avoided. I think that this provision for payment will be an added inducement. Most people, when they are near the age of retirement, are pleased to have a few extra dollars to make their retirement easier.

I am extremely interested in the provision about financing by school committees or high school councils of big projects. This has been a bone of contention at many schools. The Elizabeth High School, which I understand to be the largest high school in the State, recently had the honour of being visited by the Minister of Education, who spoke to the teachers and students. The council of that school is extremely anxious to build a school hall, which is certainly needed, as there are about 1,800 students attending at the school. One fact that has worried school councils and parents is that, in working for such a project, people who have children attending at the

school now will not see the benefit of the project while their children are at the school. Many parents believe that they would be more satisfied to work for a large project if it could be starting whilst their children attended at the school. I believe that this scheme will assist many schools, but I see some difficulties in it.

School councils and committees will have to be incorporated and this action will give them certain rights. It will give them the right to borrow up to half the value of a project, provided the project is endorsed by the School Loans Advisory Committee. This system may cause some difficulties in areas where finance is difficult to obtain. In other areas money is not hard to raise, particularly for definite projects, but in certain districts no matter how hard people work and how generously the supporters of the school give, it takes a long time to raise half the amount needed to complete the building of an assembly hall. This system will assist schools wishing to build large projects, but many such projects will be too expensive for people in certain areas. I believe that this is a most worthwhile idea and will be taken advantage of and used for many purposes in schools. However, I often wonder whether there is a way of assisting schools in areas where it is difficult to raise money.

I was interested to hear what the member for Torrens and the member for Kavel said about appeals concerning appointments of tertiary teachers, as these are to be abolished by this Bill. It seems that the basic idea is to ensure that teachers, who would be considered ideal for such appointments, would apply for them. At present, because of the appeal system (and I am saying nothing against that system: it has worked perfectly adequately in the past), there could be a tendency for certain teachers, who would be welcomed at teachers colleges, not to apply for these positions. From a cursory examination it may seem a detrimental move to abolish the appeal rights of tertiary teachers, but it could well bring to our colleges many ideal people of the type we want on the staff of these colleges who may not apply whilst the present appeal provisions exist. I am sure the Minister will say something about this issue in his reply, and I look forward to hearing what he has to say.

Concerning the marking of rolls, those who have not been teachers do not realize that this can be a burden for teachers. I can remember, as a teacher in charge of weekly and monthly returns, that the constant totalling of figures could become a chore, particularly when some

teachers took a long time to send in returns, and some would not be completely accurate. It seems that only the absence of a child is to be noted, and I think that this system could cover any legal possibility or any other situation that may arise. I like the Bill. Having been a teacher for a long time, I still feel some of the impulses that activated me when I was a teacher. I have heard people say that once one has been a teacher the idea of it stays in one's system. When I visit a school I feel tempted to take up chalk again, but from what I see in our schools I am sure that after being away from that profession for 18 years I would be rather lost now. I believe that the profession has improved so much in so many ways since I left it in 1952, and that these amendments will lead to further improvements.

Mrs. STEELE (Davenport): With the reservations that have already been referred to by the member for Torrens (which, incidentally, I share) I support the Bill. I will be interested to hear the Minister's replies to the questions asked by the member for Torrens concerning the leave to appeal clause referred to also by the member for Elizabeth, and also about details of the actual cost involved in putting into effect the long service leave entitlements, which is one of the main features of this Bill. It will be particularly interesting to hear the Minister's comments, because he is the nominal employer of probably the largest group of people employed by any Minister of the Crown. I do not know the present figures, but the number was nearly 15,000 when I was Minister of Education, made up of 10,000 teachers plus over 4,000 students in training. I do not know the present number of trainee students, but I hope, in the interests of the profession, that it has increased as a result of the various means and devices that have been used to attract young people to the teaching profession.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation: the honourable member must be heard.

Mrs. STEELE: I listened with much interest to the speech of the member for Kavel, because we are learning, through the experience of a person who has been actively engaged for some years, his feelings about these amendments to the Education Act. When he was speaking I was reminded that he was one of the new members who added to the breadth of the Party, to which I have the honour to belong, after the last election, when we added to our numbers a pharmacist, a doctor, a

farmer, a teacher, and members of other professions and trades. I could be unkind and say that this did not happen amongst members opposite, a number of whom represent only one section of the community.

Mr. Langley: A lot of them don't.

Mrs. STEELE: If the honourable member had not been so anxious to reply, I would have said—

The SPEAKER: Members are out of order when interjecting.

Mrs. STEELE: Yes, Sir, so I need not reply to them, but I would have gone on and said that members opposite represent other people as well, although most of them represent only a certain section of the community.

Mr. Langley: You know that isn't true.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs. STEELE: I am also interested in the Bill because, prior to the Hall Government's going out of office, I had held the Education portfolio. As the member for Torrens said, many amendments were being considered by the Liberal Government, at a time when a departmental committee (which I imagine still exists) was considering amendments to the Education Act. I remember asking the Director-General how the work of this committee was proceeding, in reply to which he said its work had slowed up considerably because of the appointment of the Karmel committee, which no doubt would, in the course of its deliberations and investigations, critically examine the Education Act and submit its recommendations to the Minister. The present Minister of Education has decided to amend the Act; when one looks at the amendments, one realizes just how comprehensive they are, as they bring up to date many provisions that have needed updating for some time. Indicative of these are the amendments that arise consequentially on the introduction of decimal currency.

I will approach this Bill differently from the way other members have approached it, and will link my remarks with the various sections of the Act that are amended by the Bill. I should like first to refer to the delegation of powers and the appointment of officers. I assume that the former will affect the responsibilities of regional officers and that these officers will have the responsibility of making appointments within their own regions. Perhaps the Minister will say whether this is so. This was one of the earlier developments that took place when I became Minister of Education in 1968. I remember having a long discussion to

convince the Treasurer in order to justify the expenditure of the money involved in setting up regional offices and appointing senior and experienced men to occupy the positions of regional officers. I believe events have shown that this was a wise innovation and that it has tended to relieve the Minister and senior departmental officers of making decisions in areas remote from the city where people on the spot are better able to judge the effect which certain aspects of the education system have on those areas. The appointment of those regional officers helped provide a better understanding of education for the people in these areas. I think this is a worthwhile amendment. Like the member for Torrens, I have recollections of voluminous paper work that had to be done by the Minister and of the many times that I took home, or had sent to me here, cases of dockets that I had to sign. This probably applies more to a Minister of Education than to any other Minister. I am in accord with the Government's intention to bring teachers' long service leave entitlements into line with those of other public servants, for I believe that this is a good thing in the interests of teachers and a provision that was needed.

I am interested in the provision in clause 9 which inserts a new subsection to the effect that any long service to which a teacher is entitled under section 18a or section 18c of the Act shall be taken "at such time as in the opinion of the Minister is convenient to the Education Department". Perhaps the Minister, when he replies, will say what is implied in this entirely new provision. It may be consistent with the Public Service Act, but at this stage I do not know. I am disappointed in the provision in clause 12 that perpetuates the idea of men retiring at 65 years and women at 60 years, bearing in mind that men may retire at 60 years and women at 55 years if they wish. As it has been established that, generally speaking, women live longer than men, and bearing in mind that at 60 years many women are retiring at the peak of their powers, it seems to me a great pity that they do not have the right, if they wish, to continue until they are 65 years of age.

Many women, who retire at 60 years, re-enter the profession and serve until they are 65 years, and I know that their services are welcomed by the Minister, for in many instances these women are first-class teachers. These days, a woman may well have to provide

for a family or perhaps look after sick parents and it would be of great assistance to her if she could continue until she reached 65 years of age. I am sorry to see this distinction spelt out here, because I think it is time that we looked at the matter realistically. As I have said, many women make good teachers, because they have a sense of vocation in regard to teaching, and I think it is a pity that they should not be able, if they wish, to continue until the age of 65 years.

I agree that everything must be done to help stop the mid-year resignation of teachers from the profession. I, as well as the Minister, know what a real headache it is to try to stem the tide of resignations from the service at a time when it is always difficult to find replacements to fill the vacancies. If changing the school calendar year will help keep people in the profession and deter them from resigning in mid-year, it is indeed worth while. Probably one of the major amendments contained in the Bill is the provision giving power to school committees to be incorporated and to borrow money. I believe this provision was inspired by the member for Peake who, I remember, during my term as Minister, led a deputation as, I think, President of the High School Councils Association. The project discussed at that deputation was considered at some length and discussed in Cabinet but, as the member for Torrens said, we turned down the proposal, because it was based on the Victorian system and was not, we believed, applicable to South Australian conditions. In fact, the scheme now introduced was the one favoured by my Government when in power.

I remember that at the time the deputation left with me some most impressive designs of school halls, and these included a series of plans for schools of varying enrolments, incorporating many desirable features. However, some of the assembly halls I have seen in South Australia in recent years are also most impressive. In fact, last Friday afternoon, as the Minister may know, the new Norwood High School assembly hall was opened. I was sorry that the Minister himself was not present. However, he generously conceded to the Director-General of Education the honour of opening the hall, because he had a sentimental interest in the Norwood High School. I might say that, in the whole time that I have been member for the district in which the school is situated, I do not recall a Minister of Education visiting the Norwood High School. Although I never visited that school when I was Minister, I have been a frequent visitor to the

school over the years. The hall that has been established there is magnificent, and I was personally delighted to see it come to fruition.

Mr. Coumbe: There was some difficulty there.

Mrs. STEELE: Yes, it took considerable contriving, as it were, to establish and finance the hall, by incorporating it with additions and alterations that had to be made to the school itself. I believe that the hall, as it now exists, justifies whatever was done, and it is certainly an addition of which the school, parents and students can be proud. I was one of the honoured guests at the school on Friday, because of the small part I had been able to play in establishing the assembly hall and I had the pleasure of speaking to the students. I reminded them that, unfortunately, many of them would not benefit from the project; although second-year and third-year students would benefit, senior students would not benefit, because they would soon be leaving the school. However, I pointed out that generations of parents and students had worked assiduously to raise funds for the school and that, if it was any consolation to present students, many future generations would benefit from what they and their parents and others before them had worked so hard to provide. Anyway, I am glad to see this new provision in the Bill. It will be watched with interest by all members to see how many schools take advantage of the facilities provided.

The appointment of curriculum boards for primary and secondary education is worth while and will have a streamlining effect, being in line with the creation in recent years of various divisions within the Education Department. The provisions for representation on the boards of various outside organizations and private schools is good indeed. As no reference is made to how many people will be appointed or to who they will be, I wonder whether the Minister will specify them in the same way as appointments to the Public Examinations Board are specified, and say how many there will be. I believe that the broad nature of the representation on the boards will help education generally. With other members, I am a little concerned about taking away the right of appeal with regard to appointments to tertiary institutions. The case may be as was suggested by the member for Elizabeth. I believe that we must sometimes cut across red tape in order to appoint the best man or woman to the job irrespective of seniority. However, we must ensure that

not only is justice done but that it is also seen to be done with regard to the right of teachers to appeal.

When I read the clause dealing with compulsory attendance at school and the fine to be imposed in regard to non-attendance, I immediately recalled the difficulty in respect of absenteeism by children from the Point Pearce Reserve attending the Maitland Area School. I imagine that that problem is as great now as it was six months ago. One of the difficulties facing the Headmaster and teaching staff of the Maitland school was that so many children who resided at Point Pearce failed to turn up, this contributing to the poor scholastic record of some of the children from Point Pearce. Originally, the fine was 50c and \$4 for a subsequent offence, and those sums were not hard to find. However, the increase of the fine to \$5 with \$20 for a subsequent offence may do something towards deterring absenteeism and may encourage the parents of children at Point Pearce Reserve to make sure their children attend school as they are supposed to do. Like the member for Elizabeth, clause 22 makes me want to reminisce a little. Incidentally, when he was speaking I realized that he, the Premier and two other Government members are the only Labor members still members of Parliament who were members when I came here 12 years ago. Not too many members at present on this side were here when I came here in 1959. As the member for Elizabeth said, this makes one realize that one is becoming a senior member of the House. There have been so many new faces since I became a member.

As I said, clause 22 makes me reminisce, as it deals with blind, deaf, mute, and mentally defective children. In 1945, I first became involved in deaf education, becoming President of the Oral School, a position I held until I became Minister of Education. I remember the agitation then that the Education Act should be altered so that deaf children in particular should be able to attend school at a much lower age, for it was generally accepted that for handicapped children, particularly for deaf children, schooling at a lower age was most necessary. Today education for a deaf child begins almost from the time that a baby is found to have a hearing defect. The Oral School has taken children as young as 18 months of age, which seems to be an amazingly young age at which to try to inculcate learning of some kind into a small child. Children who can hear normally assimilate sound from the moment they are born:

their whole world is a world of sound and, as they grow, they hear things and imitate them. We all imitate the things we hear, and this is an element of learning. In 1945 there was tremendous agitation by the parents of rubella victims that the Education Act should be altered to provide for schooling at a much lower age; today this is tacitly accepted. The interesting thing now is that the Education Department is responsible for education at Townsend House, which has a nursery school. As the Minister knows (because he has represented the district), children are taken at Townsend House from a very early age.

Mr. Clark: I agree with that, too.

Mrs. STEELE: It is most necessary. The Bill does not reduce the age of six years, which for many years has been the age at which parents are compelled to send children to school. Parents now realize the worth of getting handicapped children, particularly deaf children, to a school at an early age. I remember an incident that happened during the sitting of the Select Committee on the abortion legislation. I was a member of that committee, which was one of the most interesting Select Committees that I have ever been on. One witness was a young man who, I remembered, had been one of the first children to be enrolled at the Oral School. He came as a witness with his wife and small child. It was quite moving, and its impact was not lost on members of the committee. Certainly, I am meandering from the Bill. This young man's wife was also deaf, but they had a child that had perfectly normal hearing, which was a great joy to them.

This young man had, as a child, faced all the difficulties that existed in the early 40's, when the attitude to education of the deaf was not as enlightened as it is today. But he had gone through a successful apprenticeship and is now doing extremely well. Many deaf people in the community today have benefited because their parents realized the advantage of early education and made sacrifices in many cases to secure it. Although the provision in the Act does not require a deaf child younger than six years to go to school, thank goodness many parents realize it is important for these children to go to school at an early stage.

Just as the member for Elizabeth has been reminiscing, when I first read the Bill the matters that I have been mentioning to the House came to my mind. I support the measure. Many amendments are well worth while and, if we had continued in office, we would have introduced them. The report of

the Karmel committee will probably make recommendations regarding amendment of the Act, but I consider that the major amendments being made now are good. I shall be interested to hear the Minister's reply to the specific points that have been raised by members on both sides.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Education): I want to deal first with matters that have been raised by honourable members regarding appeals and the removal of the appeal provisions regarding appointment to tertiary institutions. I wish to make two general points. First, we are now appointing to tertiary institutions a significant percentage of persons from other States and from overseas. The present appeal provisions are extremely cumbersome and, in many cases, have meant that a prospective appointee as, say, a lecturer at a teachers college has refused to wait until the full consequences of the appeal system have been worked out. For example, we may wish to appoint, as a lecturer at a teachers college, a person from the United States, Canada, or England. At present we cannot make such an appointment unless we tell the appointee in that country, "This is only a provisional appointment and we cannot bring you here until all appeals have been considered."

The appeals that have been involved in this procedure have meant that some provisional appointments have not been proceeded with, because the prospective appointees have said that, in these circumstances, they are not interested and cannot afford to wait so long. The purpose of the removal of the appeal provision (which, I may say, has the support of the Institute of Teachers) is to hasten the whole procedure of appointment to tertiary institutions. The protection comes from appeals being made under a committee system, such as operates at universities and the South Australian Institute of Technology. Indeed, the removal of appeals is a precursor to the future autonomy of teachers colleges. Clearly, when they become autonomous, the appeal system must disappear, and we are considering the problems involved in that matter.

Mr. Coumbe: The Bill doesn't mention anything about that.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: No, but this would necessarily apply. If a decision to appoint is taken in a certain institution and that decision is final, clearly it will involve a number of people in making the decision, so that the rights of applicants are fully protected. If we wish our tertiary institutions to be

based broadly and not completely inbred from appointments from our service, we must eliminate the appeal system from the tertiary institutions and see that appeals are made on a committee basis.

Mr. Coumbe: Can the Minister assure me that the local teachers with equal ability will have equal opportunity to apply?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Most definitely, they will have full opportunity to apply, and a local person who is able and competent to do the job, on today's market, certainly has no difficulty in getting a lecturer's job at a teachers college: he is taken on immediately. As I desire to raise other matters, I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Later:

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The existing arrangements provide that long service leave has to be approved by the Governor in Executive Council, but this is the only long service leave of a Government employee that has to be considered in Executive Council. That provision gives a discretion to Cabinet whether the leave should be recommended. Whilst we are removing from the Government the right to authorize leave, it is necessary to include a provision that gives discretion to the Minister or to the Director-General to determine whether arrangements at a school will be managed suitably if leave is granted. There could never be an absolute right to take leave at the exact time the teacher wished to take it, because circumstances could easily arise where the working of the school would be completely disrupted.

The teacher has an absolute right to the leave or, ultimately, to a cash payment in lieu, but it is necessary for the effective working of the scheme that, whenever leave is applied for, arrangements are made that do not disrupt the working of schools. Concerning the cost of this proposal, the best way to tackle it is to recognize that long service leave amounts to the provision of an extra three days' leave a year of service compared with the present position. That means that the deferred commitment created by this Bill is equivalent to .8 per cent increase in salary, but it is not an immediate increase. It would be if each year every teacher took his leave. Of course, some teachers will never qualify for long service leave because they will not serve the required period, and that situation reduces the effective commitment.

I estimate that about one-fifth of the additional cost would have to be met in any one year for the next five or six years and would be a cost to the Budget of \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year, but in time this would build up. At present we have a teaching force that has a youthful age distribution but, if that age distribution becomes older as times goes by, the percentage of teachers who are reaching retirement and taking long service leave or taking it towards the end of their service will build up and the commitment will consequently increase substantially over a period of some years.

We considered an immediate amendment to the Act to provide for the retirement of women at the age of 65 years, but to have done so at this stage would have required a series of consequential amendments to the Superannuation Act, because superannuation entitlements would have to be altered. It was not possible to prepare the amendments and still introduce this Bill at this stage, and I believed that it was necessary for this Bill to be introduced before Christmas. Next year there will have to be a further wholesale revision of the Education Act, particularly when other measures we are considering at present have been introduced. I should hope that this was one matter on which there might be agreement, because the point made by the honourable member that women live longer than men is well taken, and there is no real basis for saying that women should be forced to retire five years earlier than men retire.

I should now like to refer to one or two other matters raised by honourable members and possibly avoid questions in the Committee stages. The member for Torrens said that he thought there would be a saving to the department through the change in the resignation regulations, but I think there is likely to be a net cost to the department as a consequence of this change. While there will be a saving in salary for every teacher who now resigns at the end of the previous year, instead of going on until the end of the May vacation, that is offset by the fact that for every teacher who would normally resign at the end of the school year, anyway, there will be an extra four weeks' salary, and the likely consequence of this, particularly as we are going to pay increments as from January 1, is a net cost to the Education Department.

Mr. Coumbe: Why will you pay the increments from January 1?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: First, increments have always been paid as from that date and, secondly, the computer programming of incremental adjustments in salary is such that, with so much other work that the computer has to do at that time of the year, it would otherwise have meant that we would not get the increments into the hands of teachers until the end of March or possibly early in April. That put the proposal out of court; we simply could not tolerate a situation in which teachers did not receive increments until April. So many objections would have been taken, quite rightly, by teachers who were waiting for salary increments that the net benefit of any scheme concerning the morale of the teaching service would have been lost. Concerning the school loans proposal, first, we have to specify the form of the School Loans Advisory Committee by regulation, and these regulations will, of course, come before the House. I imagine an advisory committee would consist of, say, three Government representatives, a representative of the School Committees Association and a representative of the Technical High School Councils Association. That kind of arrangement would be appropriate. True, we provide in the Bill that loans can be made to assist committees and councils with the construction of any facility or the provision of any amenity; it was framed that way, because, when it comes to the matter of, say, parents connected with the school providing a hall, part of that project will be the equipping of the hall, and the equipment for the hall (the chairs and other equipment necessary) may come later.

Clearly, when a school council takes on the provision of a hall, it is likely to be a little short of funds for a while, and it may well be necessary that it has the right to borrow in order to equip the hall. That possibility is not excluded by the terms of the Bill. It is expected that normally loans would be available for capital projects but, in order to take account of the fact that other equipment in relation to a capital project has to be provided, the broader term has been used. I should think that the School Loans Advisory Committee would have to rank projects for loan purposes in order of priority, because if the loans scheme is successful in bringing forward the date on which projects commence it also brings forward a financial commitment of the Government to provide its 50 per cent of the costs of the project. So there will be a financial limitation

on the number of loans that can be approved for Treasury guarantee in any one year.

Mr. Coumbe: There will be a rush of applicants.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Yes, initially. I hope that over a period the scheme will settle down. Members know that the normal provision of Loan money for these purposes has for a few years been \$200,000 and that this year we have increased it to \$300,000: it is already clear that this financial year we are going to be well in excess of that figure, and that means that we will be starting off the scheme with an annual rate of expenditure that is considerably higher than it has been for some years. I believe this will help the scheme get off the ground. Concerning the assessed cost of the project, a matter raised by the member for Torrens, I believe that the way in which the scheme should work is that the committee should be required to provide 25 per cent of the estimated cost of the project in cash and the remaining 25 per cent of the estimated cost, apart from design and supervision costs, by way of loan.

If, when we go to tender, the Government has made a mistake in the case of the project, some reasonable arrangements have to be entered into with the school committee or council concerned; and normally, I think, as both the member for Torrens and the member for Davenport will appreciate, these arrangements are entered into so that the project can proceed, and the school committee or council is not put under any hardship as a consequence of a mistake in judgment by the Government. The member for Kavel referred to the pro rata leave provision with respect to a teacher who has retired under section 18d of the Act—"where a teacher has had not less than five years' continuous service as a teacher and retires or is retired under section 18d". This would typically be a case of a teacher who entered the service at, say, the age of 58 years and had to retire on his 65th birthday or at the end of the year in which he reached 65 years, thereby having given seven years' service to the department. Such a teacher, of course, is normally under great difficulty when it comes to providing properly for superannuation for himself, because he has joined the service at an advanced age, and the kind of contribution necessary at that advanced age to provide any sort of decent superannuation pension is high and usually beyond the ability of the teacher of an advanced age to provide.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Do you think that is a good argument in the case of a teacher employed at, say, 45 years of age?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The difference in the degree of superannuation contributions required is significant as one moves from 45 years to 50 years, and so on.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Do you think this should be the concern of the Government?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the kind of superannuation that an employee is likely to have on retirement is the concern of the Government. Many employers have schemes to try to build up the superannuation contribution for such people. The cases involved are not likely to be significant, but where they arise I believe the case for pro rata long service leave is sufficiently sound for it to be made available. I agree that this is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Would you consider any lower limit in the borrowing for these school halls?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think this will come about through the workings of the School Loans Advisory Committee. Mainly it will be concerned with capital projects.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Costing thousands of dollars.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Some thousands of dollars will be involved in the borrowing. However, in principle, I do not think we could set a lower limit below which the School Loans Advisory Committee cannot go. We could get the case where a hall had just been built and the school committee was having great trouble in financing equipment for that hall. It might need to buy \$2,000 worth of equipment and might have only \$500 in hand, so that it might need to be able to borrow the extra sum in order to equip the hall. However, generally the case will be that that sort of low-level inquiry will not be considered. I do not think this is a matter of hard principle that can be put out of court altogether. The job of the School Loans Advisory Committee will be to establish priorities and to ensure that those who get on the waiting list first do not have too long to wait; that will govern the sort of allocation made. In future years the stage may be reached where applications for loans may be such that the committee may be able to lower considerably the limit it normally applies. I believe that this is a case where the common sense applied by the committee will solve the problem effectively. The member for Kavel

raised the question of the basis for the provision that a teacher who has given at least two terms' service and who gives 28 days' notice before the end of the year gets paid until January 31.

Mr. Goldsworthy: No, the case was of a teacher appointed on January 1 under the normal provision. There is no real justification for this pay in terms of salary awards.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: How does one distinguish between a teacher appointed on January 1 and a teacher appointed on February 1? As the honourable member will appreciate, most teachers are so depressed by the end of the year that they need a long break.

Mr. Goldsworthy: I was only questioning the principle behind the decision.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The main purpose of the decision is to try to minimize the number of mid-year resignations so that the difficulty that normally arises (not just the administrative difficulties) for teachers in being transferred to fill gaps created in country areas and the resentment caused thereby will be overcome.

Mr. Goldsworthy: A fairly shaky principle.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I do not think so, because the interests of everyone is involved in minimizing mid-year resignations. This involves the interests of the department in getting rid of one of the worst administrative headaches we have; the interests of the teachers in avoiding the transfers at short notice that occur during the year; and the interests of students in avoiding the situation where there is an excessive changeover of teachers during one year. We have all heard the traditional complaint that little Johnny has had half a dozen mathematics teachers in one year. The interests of students and teachers are involved in this.

Mr. Goldsworthy: In a unique way?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is unique only in the sense that the regulations and retirement provisions are providing a carrot as well as a stick. If a resignation causes maximum difficulty to the department we impose a penalty. If a resignation shows maximum consideration of the department, the fellow teachers concerned, and the students, there is an inducement or benefit given. I am grateful for the attention members have given to the Bill, and I hope that the remaining stages can be proceeded with speedily.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 8 passed.

Clause 9—"Long service leave."

Mr. COUMBE: I support this provision. The Minister has said that its application will cost \$80,000 to \$100,000 in a full year. Judging from the experience in industry and in the Public Service when the period for qualifying for long service leave was reduced, I believe there may be a rush of applicants to take long service leave, so that the sum given by the Minister could be exceeded in the next several years, until the position settles down. Also, we already have problems with the shortage of teachers and, if there is a rush by teachers who will now qualify to take leave sooner than they would previously have been able to take it, greater staffing problems could arise.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Education): Normally, there is not a tremendous difficulty in the way of allowing teachers to take long service leave during the first term. Because of mid-year resignations and the pattern of appointments, schools are staffed relatively well in the first term and relatively poorly as the year goes on. It depends on the number of applicants as to how much difficulty we will have in meeting the payments. However, some teachers with six years' or eight years' service may decide to give further service rather than resign before they have had 10 years' service, and a reduction in resignations may offset a rush of applications. There may even be postponement of pregnancies to take advantage of pro rata long service leave after five years' service. To enable schools to be staffed we are covered by the provision requiring approval to be granted for the leave to be taken.

Mr. COUMBE: I understand that the leave is to be taken at the discretion of the Minister and at the convenience of the school. I point out to the Minister that long service leave does not affect annual leave, and a teacher may obtain a long break by using the Christmas and May holidays with his long service leave.

Clause passed.

Clauses 10 to 12 passed.

Clause 13—"Enactment of sections 27a to 27b of principal Act."

Mr. COUMBE: If a project is estimated to cost \$60,000 and the actual cost is \$70,000, can the Minister say whether the school committee or council will be required to pay this excess or will other arrangements be made?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I should think that where the borrowing limit under a particular provision had been reached we would go 50/50, but we would want to adopt procedures that did not delay the project further. It is possible that the tendering climate was so unfavourable and the increase in cost so huge that the project could be delayed because it would have to be further considered. However, I do not wish to make a commitment that will tie my hands completely for future determination of policy on this matter. I assure the honourable member that, when a project has gone to tender, we would as a normal practice adopt methods, if there was an excess cost after tenders had been received, to ensure there would be no further delay in completing the project.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Minister assure the Committee that this type of project will not affect the present subsidy system?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The present subsidy system applies to the provision of Loan money and there is no connection between the moneys available for capital projects (such as assembly halls, swimming pools, and canteens) and money available through the normal budgetary arrangements, that is, a \$1 for \$1 subsidy for the purchase of equipment for schools. Loan funds provide for capital projects and, if further money is required, it must come out of Loan funds. This situation may affect the school-building programme, but it will not affect the Budget or the subsidy arrangements.

Mr. SIMMONS: I congratulate the Government on introducing this measure to provide borrowing powers for school councils and committees. For some years, school councils have been trying to obtain a provision regarding amenities such as assembly halls and, in fact, it was not until the last Labor Government was in office that it was possible to get any subsidy even for this purpose. Initially, \$100,000 was provided by the Labor Minister at the time (Hon. R. R. Loveday) and the following year it was increased to \$200,000. This year, I am gratified to say, the present Labor Minister has increased it to \$300,000. However, as costs have increased considerably in the meantime, I am sure that the Minister will find, particularly regarding this borrowing power, that that sum will soon be inadequate. I trust that the requirement that the school council or committee has to provide 50 per cent of its share will not be used to ration funds to too great an extent.

The provision of amenities and facilities, as described by the Minister, out of these borrowings is a desirable one, for I am sure that the capital cost of a hall itself will take the whole of the amount that is available from the subsidy and most of the school funds. Therefore, such items as seating, which, I believe, in one high school recently has cost about \$17,000, will have to be met. It is just not practical to have a hall without chairs indefinitely, and therefore I think it is desirable that this borrowing power should extend to providing facilities such as furnishings and seating. Finally, I think it might be desirable for the Government to consider, later at least, allowing lending institutions other than banks to make funds available for this purpose. If the loan carries a Government guarantee there seems to me no reason why it should not be regarded as a trustee security, and I believe there are substantial funds outside the banking system that could be invested in loans of this type if they were trustee securities. I think this matter could be considered later. However, in the meantime, the important thing is to get the scheme off the ground. I believe that within a space of five years we are now in a position where, instead of practically no high school being able to provide an assembly hall, the Minister will be faced with a rush of applications from high schools wishing to provide this facility.

Dr. EASTICK: Referring to new section 27b, is it possible for a school to borrow the total sum that is to be spent on providing a facility? Having regard to the fact that the Government would guarantee only 50 per cent of this sum, provided the school could offer collateral to the banking organization concerned would it be able to proceed immediately in respect of the 50 per cent it was to contribute, that is the total sum being borrowed at that stage? New subsection (1) provides that a school committee or council may borrow money in whole or in part. Am I correct in assuming that, provided it were able to satisfy the School Loans Advisory Committee that it could fulfil its commitment in regard to servicing 100 per cent of the loan, the school committee concerned would then receive the Minister's approval regarding the 50 per cent proportion of the cost referred to in new subsection (3) (b)?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the honourable member is correct in principle, in that the school could borrow the entire amount of its share, subject to the Minister's approval,

of course, because that is required under new section 27b (1). If the loan were approved by the School Loans Advisory Committee, 50 per cent of the loan would be the subject of a Treasury guarantee. I do not think that that situation is likely to develop in the initial years, for the reasons given by the member for Peake, namely, that there is likely to be a rush of applications, and some priority will have to be established by the School Loans Advisory Committee; because, as each loan is granted, the Government subsidy is also committed, and the amount of the Government subsidy provided under Loan funds, is likely to be the limiting factor in the number of loans approved in any one year. The Minister would normally give his approval to the kind of suggestions made by the member for Light only where he was completely satisfied that the income of a school would fully cover the interest and capital repayment commitments that were being entered into by the school committee. With members opposite, I, too, recognize the role of the member for Peake, when he was President of the High School Councils Association, in bringing about this sort of scheme, and we greatly appreciate the work he did on this matter.

Clause passed.

Clause 14—"How courses of instruction to be determined."

Mr. SIMMONS: I congratulate the Minister on including this provision, the High School Councils Association having tried for many years to get these reforms. About two years ago the association was asked to submit ideas on the revision of the Education Act and regulations; in August, 1968, we made certain submissions, one submission being that the advisory committees, which at that stage consisted entirely of representatives of the Education Department, should be broadened to include at least one person from outside the teaching profession. These advisory committees control various sub-committees that are set up to deal with certain subjects, and we thought that the presence of one outsider would be some guarantee that when the sub-committees were set up in fields such as book-keeping, for example, suggestions could be received from an accountant. I think that the provision for representatives of private schools and other organizations, as may be determined from time to time by the Minister, is a good one, which when implemented will give effect to the submissions made by the association previously.

Mrs. STEELE: Can the Minister say how many representatives from each body concerned will be appointed to the advisory curriculum boards?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: As it is clear that these board should not become too unwieldy, this will mean some limitation in membership. Also, it is usually the case that there are certain people outside the Education Department who fit the bill perfectly for appointment to one of these boards. As the availability of these people can vary from time to time, this clause provides that the constitution of the board can be determined from time to time by the Minister, acting on the recommendation of the Director-General. I imagine that we will have about three or so members (perhaps more) from outside the Education Department. We want to get the committee operating, and we do not want a number on the committee that would cause difficulties with regard to the length and arrangement of meetings. We would want one representative from parent organizations and one from industry. It may be that the one representative may have broad enough connections to represent effectively both industry and parent organizations. I imagine that there will be a couple of representatives of independent schools. If we have various subject matters under discussion, the full range of flexibility will apply with regard to the subject subcommittees. At the board level, one wants to have sufficiently broad and balanced representation to ensure that each of the subject subcommittees operates effectively and makes use of outside expert knowledge where it is available.

Clause passed.

Clauses 15 to 21 passed.

Clause 22—"Blind, deaf, mute and mentally defective children."

Mr. SIMMONS: I hope that this provision will be considerably modified when the foreshadowed revision of the Act takes place next year. As I understand it, the existing section puts the entire responsibility for children suffering from these handicaps on the parents. In fact, the wording of the provision requires parents to meet the bill; if they do not accept this heavy responsibility and if the Government provides for it, parents can be forced to pay. As I think this is deplorable, I hope that action will be taken next year in connection with it.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (23 to 27) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Education): I move:

That the sitting of the House be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Members will realize that a conference is to be held at 8 p.m., and the House will not resume sitting until the conference has completed its work. I say that because some members are involved in other matters on the Notice Paper and they will want to know what is the position.

Mr. Coumbe: We're not resuming at 7.30 p.m.?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: No. We will return to normal business when the conference concludes.

Motion carried.

[*Sitting suspended from 5.59 to 8 p.m.*]

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT
BILL (MINISTRY)

(Continued from November 11. Page 2585.)

At 8 p.m. the managers proceeded to the conference, the sitting of the House being suspended. They returned at 10.4 p.m.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I have to report that the managers have conferred, but that no agreement was reached.

Later, the Legislative Council intimated that it did not further insist on its amendment to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.

STOCK EXCHANGE PLAZA (SPECIAL
PROVISIONS) BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 12. Page 2659.)

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens): I support the Bill which, as it is a hybrid Bill, will be reported on by a Select Committee to be appointed by this House. The Bill will permit substantial expansion within the city of Adelaide, where we see more and more development all the time. In fact, several announcements of big projects have recently been made. The stock exchange plaza has captured the imagination of many people.

The Bill contains a schedule illustrating the proposal. Basically, the Minister is seeking to permit the Adelaide City Council to depart from the provisions of the Building Act in

order to allow it to construct buildings to a greater height than the 200ft. limit at present imposed. Last week when we discussed the Building Bill I asked the Minister for the Crown to be bound by provisions of that Bill. Now, the Minister is asking for a dispensation on behalf of a semi-government body. I do not hold this against him because he is not always consistent: he is consistent in his inconsistency.

When I was an engineering student many years ago part of our lectures embraced the limit on heights of buildings. At that time the permitted height in the city of Adelaide was the width of King William Street, because it was considered that no building should cause a shadow to be thrown upon buildings on the other side of this street. Today, we use more modern methods. I agree that with this plan a pleasant aspect should be presented in the same way as is done near Princes Bridge station in Melbourne and in certain parts of Canberra. The Minister spoke about the floor area index, and I completely agree that the index relating the floor area of the building on the plaza to the area of the plaza should be used. The provision is subject to the permission of the planner.

It is important that sufficient pedestrian ways and open spaces are provided in order to make this a beautiful area, not only because of the high building but also because of the garden area, and that the necessary roadworks and car-parking space be made available. I assure members that if they try to drive around narrow streets like Commercial Street and McHenry Street they will have some difficulty. Financial aspects of the project are not discussed in the Bill, which seeks permission for the council to depart from certain height limits provided in the present Act. On behalf of the Opposition I support the Bill, which will be referred to a Select Committee.

Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. G. T. Virgo, Messrs. Hall, Millhouse, Simmons, and Wells; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on November 26.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11.7 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, November 18, at 2 p.m.