

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, November 19, 1970

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Constitution Act Amendment (Ministry),
D. & J. Fowler (Transfer of Incorporation),

Motor Vehicles Act Amendment (Fees).

QUESTIONS

BEACH EROSION

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister of Marine say whether the special five-man Foreshore and Beaches Committee, whose appointment the Minister announced today, is being appointed instead of the beach protection authority suggested by Professor Culver, of the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Adelaide? If it is, will the Minister ensure that the Parliamentary representatives of metropolitan beach areas are given adequate representation on this committee? I was pleased to read in this afternoon's newspaper that the Minister had announced the formation of a committee to act as a safeguard against the destruction of metropolitan beaches. Honourable members will recall that on Tuesday I asked the Minister whether a beach protection authority recommended by Professor Culver would be formed soon. I was concerned that it should be formed and that all bodies concerned with preserving and promoting our seaside areas be given adequate representation. The Minister replied that he had not yet received a full report from Professor Culver, he would not act until he had received that report, and he did not expect to receive it until Christmas. I am interested to know whether the Minister has received this report since Tuesday and has announced the committee today as a result of Professor Culver's recommendation. As I have said, I am concerned that the committee announced today does not include any Parliamentary representative, and I should like an assurance from the Minister that the members who represent seaside areas, which boast the best swimming beaches in Australia, will have representation on this committee with a view to safeguarding our beaches.

The SPEAKER: I do not know which question the honourable member has asked. Does the Minister of Marine desire to reply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Several questions were asked. The first question, I think, was whether having a Parliamentary representative on this committee would be considered. This is a sub-committee, which will be responsible to the State Planning Authority, and it is therefore expected that some remuneration will be paid to its members for work that they do. If a member of Parliament happened to be on this committee and received that remuneration he might find he was without a seat in Parliament, because of the provision relating to an office profit under the Crown: the honourable member will understand that.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There are too many interjections. The Minister is replying.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member referred to the final report of Professor Culver. I said on Tuesday that that report was not yet to hand, and that is the position today: I have not yet received that report. The honourable member on Tuesday referred to a beach authority: the committee announced today is not a beach authority but, as I have already said, a special sub-committee that will report to the State Planning Authority, which, in turn, will be responsible to report to the Government. The main reason for setting up this committee is that no special legislation is required because the Planning and Development Act contains all the necessary statutory authority to do the sort of things we need to do for the conservation and preservation of our beaches. There is power to make regulations, and to do various things. On this committee will be a representative of the State Planning Authority, a representative of the Marine and Harbors Department, an officer of the South Australian Tourist Bureau, and a representative of the councils involved, as well as a person who is expert in beach conservation and preservation. However, I wish to make it quite clear to the honourable member that the committee will not supplant in any way the present council, which is representative of the 11 councils experiencing problems through having beaches in their respective areas. Before the white man came to this country, our beaches were stable and in good condition, and I believe that it is through lack of planning that they are now in their present condition. If this is

the case (and I am sure it is), I believe that the State Planning Authority should have the necessary control in this matter to restore the beaches to a desirable condition. It is for this reason that the State Planning Authority will handle the matter. The committee will, in the first place, inspect the beaches from Sellick Beach to Port Gawler, and it will make recommendations to the Government on uniform planning in regard to what is required. In addition, when councils come up with propositions, the committee will examine them and then report to the Government whether or not it considers they are worth while. At the same time, it will recommend to the Government whether or not the Government should participate financially in these ventures. I am confident that the new committee will do what is necessary to put right what lack of planning has caused to happen to our beaches over the years.

Mr. BECKER: Did the Minister of Marine visit beaches in my district and in the district of Glenelg this morning to see the effects of beach erosion? If he did visit these beaches, why did he not extend the courtesy to the member for Glenelg and to me of asking us to accompany him on his visit? In view of the many questions asked recently by the member for Torrens and me on beach erosion, and in view of the notice I have given of a motion calling for an advisory committee to be formed, I consider that I should have been extended the courtesy, irrespective of how short the visit, of being invited to accompany the Minister on his tour of the beaches.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I considered I was being courteous to the honourable member, because I was down at the beach at 7.45 a.m. and I thought the honourable member would still be in bed! I was invited by the Minister of Labour and Industry to visit the Henley Beach area this morning, and that was the purpose of the visit. Therefore, I do not consider that I was being discourteous to the member for Hanson or the member for Glenelg in not notifying them that I was going to Henley Beach. I purposed visiting the Torrens outlet at Henley Beach, and the inspection took place there. I was about to leave the site at about 8.40 a.m., when the Mayor of Henley and Grange (Mr. Edwards) suggested that I look at the boat ramp near the yacht squadron's premises, which I believe are in the honourable member's district. This was a last-minute request and I said I had an appointment, in fact, at 8.45 which allowed me only five minutes to reach my office in the

city. The Mayor said, "It will only take you five minutes." Therefore, no discourtesy was intended to the honourable member. Had I known I was going to the boat ramp, I assure the honourable member I would have informed him. I do not believe this is a matter into which politics should enter, because I think members on both sides are extremely concerned about the condition of our beaches, particularly our metropolitan beaches. I was not being discourteous to the members for Hanson and Glenelg and, if and when the opportunity presents itself for me to inspect beaches in those members' districts, I shall be happy to have them come along with me and I will give them full details in advance of any itinerary that may be drawn up. I hope the honourable member understands that this was a last-minute request that I did not consider it proper to refuse at that time, even though I was running late.

SUCCESSION DUTIES

Mr. JENNINGS: Has the Premier examined certain tables put forward by the Leader of the Opposition in another place (Hon. R. C. DeGaris) while he was discussing the Succession Duties Act Amendment Bill and, if he has, can he give the House information about them?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I saw the publication of the tables by the Hon. R. C. DeGaris. He stated six cases. The first three cases would appear to be calculated correctly, if the inheritors concerned were adults: that is, not dependent children. In relation to the other three cases referred to there is quite a wide departure from the facts. I will cite the sums concerned. In the case of a daughter who is inheriting the modest sum of \$22,780, the duty under the present Act is \$2,417. The figure arrived at by the Hon. R. C. DeGaris is \$1,894. The duty under the Bill would be \$2,568, whereas the figure calculated by the Hon. R. C. DeGaris was \$2,427. The increase actually taking place on an inheritance of \$22,780 is 6 per cent, whereas the increase suggested by the Hon. R. C. DeGaris is 28 per cent. In the case of a nephew inheriting \$7,705, the duty under the present Act is \$955, whereas the duty suggested by the Hon. R. C. DeGaris is \$1,918 (more than twice as much). Under the Bill, the duty would be \$1,148, whereas the duty suggested by the Hon. R. C. DeGaris is \$2,168, an increase (according to the Hon. R. C. DeGaris) of 13 per cent, whereas the actual increase is 20 per cent, but the money figure is about half. In the case of

a widower inheriting \$23,856, the duty under the present Act is \$2,578, whereas the amount suggested by the Hon. R. C. DeGaris is \$4,692. I do not know how that sum could be calculated. Under the Bill, the duty would be \$2,750, an increase of 7 per cent, whereas the duty under the Bill calculated by the Hon. R. C. DeGaris is \$5,748, an increase of 22.8 per cent. I suggest that the honourable gentleman make a recalculation.

MOONTA BUS SERVICE

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport assure me that there will be no interference with the contracts governing the private passenger services that have replaced the rail passenger services discontinued about a year ago? As an example, I refer to the Moonta bus service, which has operated since April 1969, when a licence was issued for a private bus service to replace the train service to Moonta. Since then, there has been a dramatic increase in passenger patronage of the service. Indeed, whereas in May, 1969, 2,793 passengers used the service, 4,179 passengers used it in May, 1970, and the revenue received increased from \$2,310 in May, 1969, to \$3,340 in May, 1970. The adult single fare from Moonta to Adelaide on this bus service is \$1.80, compared with the previous rail fare of \$3.25. Also, pensioner concession fares apply on the bus service. The bus takes three hours to complete the journey compared with 3½ hours taken by the train.

The operator of the bus service has a responsibility not only to maintain his equipment and his fleet of vehicles (on which, I believe, he spent \$45,000 last year) but also to urgently improve the condition of his Adelaide terminal. Therefore, the operator needs a decent length of tenure to enable him to continue to provide a satisfactory standard of service on this route, which is so popular with the people in the area. His concern has been aggravated by persistent rumours in the district where the service operates that the Minister intends to re-introduce the antiquated service previously provided by the railways, the fare on which was nearly double that now charged by the proprietor of the bus service and the duration of the journey on which was much longer than that taken by the bus. I therefore seek an assurance from the Minister that this district will continue to enjoy the benefit of the greatly improved service it has had since the rail passenger service was terminated.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I was interested to hear the Leader describe the Bluebird service provided by the Railways Department as an antiquated service, whereas it is, as the Leader would readily acknowledge, the finest rail service in Australia.

Mr. Venning: Why didn't the people use it, then?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will ignore that remark, as it is not pertinent to the point I am making.

The SPEAKER: The interjection is entirely out of order.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Leader has obviously been approached by the bus proprietor and is willing to state a case in this House on his behalf without first obtaining the views of local residents, who have made repeated requests for the restoration of the rail service on the grounds that it should never have been taken away in the first place, and I entirely agree with that view. The cancellation of the service was an attempt by the previous Government to so smash the rail system that nothing would have been left of it. Indeed, had the Labor Party not come to office when it did, the Mount Gambier service would have been the next to go, as the Leader well knows. I have had discussions with the proprietor of the Moonta service, but not because of any persistent rumours circulating in the district concerned. I have told the proprietor (and I repeat it in the House now) that the Government considers that the service previously given the districts of Moonta, Angaston and Eudunda should never have been taken away, and that it is currently considering the situation it has inherited with a view to seeing whether it would be practicable to restore to local residents the service they so obviously desire. When the investigation has been completed, the Government's intention will be announced.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Mr. RYAN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning the installation of lights at the intersection of Torrens Road, Addison Road and Cheltenham Parade?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The installation of traffic signals at this intersection in its present form would lead to unacceptable delays to traffic. However, signals will be installed when the necessary property has been acquired and the intersection reconstructed with appropriate channelization. This is expected to take approximately two years.

PORT PIRIE STATION

Mr. McKEE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question about an accident that occurred at Port Pirie railway station?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The accident referred to by the honourable member is still the subject of a coroner's inquiry and, therefore, I am not able to comment on the circumstances surrounding this unfortunate accident. However, I am informed that the situation at Port Pirie so far as broad gauge passenger trains is concerned is the same as at other stations on the broad gauge lines of this State. The height of the step of the car above the platform is about 1ft. 1in., and the horizontal distance from the platform coping to the step is about 4in. This position has existed for many years. Fortunately, accidents of the kind described by the honourable member have been very rare and, in view of the many passengers carried, it appears to be not unreasonable to conclude that the cause of such accidents is not primarily due to the relationship between the platform and the car steps. Nevertheless, the matter has been brought to the attention of the Railways Commissioner, who is considering the problem further.

ORTHODONTIC SERVICES

Mr. McRAE: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health for a report concerning the provision of orthodontic services for children at Government-assisted dental clinics? I understand that, although many children badly need orthodontic service, their parents cannot pay the large fee, which varies from \$350 to \$600. These children need this service, not only to maintain their dental hygiene but also to prevent, perhaps, severe psychological reactions because of their appearance.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I shall be pleased to do that.

MEASLES IMMUNIZATION

Mr. PAYNE: Has the Attorney-General received a reply from the Minister of Health to the question I asked last week concerning measles immunization?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states: In South Australia, demand for measles vaccination has been slow. This is partly because of the fears of severe adverse reactions, such as were reported following the administration of measles vaccines available about 12 months ago. The parents of each child who has received the vaccine are supplied with a questionnaire which seeks information on reactions following measles vaccination. So far, only some 190 questionnaires have been

returned (about 1,600 doses have been administered). The information returned can be set out as follows:

No reaction	84
Mild reaction	58
Moderately severe reaction	18
Severe reaction	nil

The severest reactions reported in South Australia have resembled a mild attack of measles. Such reactions are very rare and no reports have been received of convulsions or encephalitis. Measles in children who have not been vaccinated is not always severe, but it still produces each year a number of severe complications, including chronic disease of the lungs and ears. An important benefit of vaccination is the avoidance of these persistent severe handicaps. The Public Health Department is concerned that many parents do not take advantage of the measles vaccination offered by local boards of health because of these fears. The Schwarz strain of measles vaccine introduced in this State in April this year is a highly-attenuated live virus vaccine, which has a very good safety record both overseas and in Australia. In overseas countries more than 35,000,000 doses have been administered over the past four years and very few severe reactions have been recorded. The Schwarz vaccine is considered by the United States authorities to be one of the safest vaccines available.

MINISTRY

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have to inform the House that tomorrow, at a special meeting of Executive Council, the Hon. Glen Broomhill will be sworn in as Minister of Conservation and Minister assisting the Premier, and that Mr. David McKee, M.P., will be sworn in as Minister of Labour and Industry.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I presume that the duties of the Minister of Conservation will include the oversight of such organizations as the National Parks Commission and matters under the control of the Minister of Lands, such as those relating to the Zoological Gardens and the Botanic Garden. Also, I presume that he will have charge of the Fauna Conservation Act, including the Fauna and Flora Advisory Committee and the Fauna and Flora Board. I am wondering about the wild life section of the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department and, of course, there will be other matters that I have not thought of at present. I should like to know what is the general disposition of the Minister's duties and whether any legislation will be required. I take the opportunity here of congratulating both the new Minister of Labour and Industry

and the new Minister of Conservation, who I think has an extremely important task to perform.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The new Minister of Conservation will immediately have committed to him administratively the administration of the National Parks Commission and the Acts relating to fauna conservation and wild life, and he will have transferred to him the fauna conservation section of the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department and the administration of national pleasure resorts. The Minister will immediately have working with him the Environment Committee, which will be recommending legislation in several important areas. The Aboriginal and historic relics preservation provisions and control over the museum will also come under the new Minister's control. We have received a report from the Public Service Board on proposals for legislation that may well be introduced next year to co-ordinate all of these activities, instead of their existing under a series of separate Acts and administrations. This legislation will be similar to that now existing in New South Wales. In addition, the relationship between the new Ministry and the State Planning Office is being considered, but that matter has not as yet been resolved. The Minister, as Minister assisting the Premier, will be responsible for several duties within the portfolios that I hold, and this will relieve me of certain administrative burdens. The only area of national pleasure resorts left in my hands, in consequence, will be the administration of the entertainment facilities.

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

Mr. SLATER: Will the Minister of Works find out whether the Public Buildings Department is using lead-based products, paints, fillers, etc., when painting and otherwise maintaining schools? I understand that this practice is being adopted at present and I need not emphasize the potential dangers and health hazards to those using lead-based products.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to have an investigation carried out and to bring down a report for the honourable member.

GOODWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. LANGLEY: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding paving of the Goodwood Primary School yard?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Public tenders for paving of the Goodwood Primary School have been called and close on December 22.

This provides for new paving and resurfacing of existing paving as well as repairs to fencing, etc.

POLICE FORCE

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my recent question about requirements for entry to the Police Force?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Youths are required to be between 16 and 20 years of age. They must be of excellent character and able to produce three references from reputable citizens. The physical standards required are as follows:

Age (years)	Height	Weight
16	5ft. 8½in.	9st. 7 lb.
17	5ft. 8½in.	9st. 10 lb.
19	5ft. 9in.	10st. 8 lb.

The candidate must be physically fit with normal hearing and speech and an unaided vision of 6/6 in each eye. Defective colour vision is a ban to employment. He is required to pass a medical examination by the Police Medical Officer and a chest X-ray arranged by the department. Those candidates aged between 16 and 18 years of age should have at least three years' secondary education. Those candidates between 18 and 20 years of age should have had four to five years' secondary education. Candidates are required to pass a pre-entry educational test before acceptance.

MOONTA BUS SERVICE

Mr. HALL: Before I ask my question, I should like personally (and I am sure, on behalf of other members of my Party) to congratulate the Minister elect referred to in the Premier's statement. Sir, it is always a matter of great satisfaction, not only to a member personally but also to his colleagues, for him to be appointed to an important post in which to serve the State, and I extend sincere congratulations to the member for Pirie on his nomination for the position to which he is to be appointed. Of course, these congratulations do not extend to the new Minister's policy.

Members interjecting:

Mr. HALL: He can expect to experience the full thrust of politics perhaps rather sooner than might otherwise have been the case, because he has been a member for some years. However, I wish him the best in personal health and the enjoyment of his promotion, which I know has brought much satisfaction to him and to his colleagues. I now direct my

question to the Minister of Roads and Transport, and it is a supplementary question that I have been waiting to ask while noting that several Government members have been called consecutively.

The SPEAKER: Order! I wish to explain to the Leader that the Speaker has to administer the procedure and determine the calls, and I have stated that, as far as possible, members on the Opposition front bench have first preference. However, members wishing to ask their first question, irrespective of which side they represent, should be able to do so before a member asks his second question. The Leader of the Opposition has already asked one question and, if he checks with *Hansard* later, he will see that I have been scrupulously fair in calling for questions.

Mr. HALL: With respect, I do not agree with your course.

The SPEAKER: What is the question?

Mr. HALL: My question is addressed to the Minister of Roads and Transport, it is supplementary to the question I asked previously, and I have waited patiently until this time to ask—

The SPEAKER: What is the question?

Mr. HALL: It is in three parts, as follows: what individuals have made representations to the Minister for the reinstatement of the rail passenger service from Adelaide to Moonta; what positions do they hold in the local community; and will the Minister inform them that, if the fares are to be the same in respect of any proposed reinstated service, the increase in fares will be 8 per cent? The patronage on the Bluebird service to Moonta was appalling, and I understand that the losses on that service amounted to about \$200,000 a year. After receiving due consideration in the past, the service was replaced by a road bus service, which, receiving the acclaim of people living in the district, enjoys a greatly increased patronage than that of the rail service.

Mr. Venning: And it has to pay its way!

Mr. HALL: I refer to the patronage of a service that takes three hours to reach Adelaide and not 3½ hours, which was taken by rail. The single bus fare is \$1.80, compared to \$3.25 in respect of the superseded rail passenger service. Many people in the local community would be appalled at the thought of having to pay, as a result of this Government's action, an 80 per cent increase in fare to travel to the city.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Repeated representations have been made, particularly to the Premier when he has been in the district,

and I understand that he has also received a deputation and petition on this matter. I am not aware of the position in society held by the people concerned; I do not think their status in society is the least bit important. The people concerned are residents of the district, and it is on this basis that the matter is being investigated to see whether it is practicable to restore the rail service.

Mr. Hall: And you refuse to answer; is that correct?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Heavens above, what have I been doing over the last two minutes?

The SPEAKER: Order!

POLICE RECORDS

Mr. PAYNE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Chief Secretary a reply to the question I asked on November 10 about police records?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Chief Secretary reports that the purging of traffic records is a continuing process. This is done to conserve storage space and to keep the files at manageable levels by removing record cards of persons who have not been convicted for a traffic offence within a certain period. Generally the removals are made on the basis of the statutory periods in which there is compulsory disqualification of a driving licence for a second offence, but it is at the discretion of the Officer-in-Charge, No. 7 (Prosecution) Division, to retain any card indefinitely for special reasons. Traffic records are destroyed in these three main categories:

1. In cases where there is no compulsory disqualification for a second conviction or where the period for disqualification is three years, the record is destroyed as soon as practicable after the expiration of three years.

2. In cases where the period for compulsory disqualification is five years, the record is destroyed as soon as practicable after the period of five years.

3. In cases where the frequency or type of convictions tend to show a disregard for the law or an unsuitability to hold a licence, the record is retained indefinitely.

KANGAROO ISLAND FIREARMS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I recently asked about the possibility of controlling the use of firearms in the possession of visitors to Kangaroo Island, particularly after the new ferry service has commenced to operate?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No existing legislation could be adapted to provide for the use and possession of firearms by selected personnel only in a specific area. Such a situation could be created only by a new provision in one of the Acts regulating the use of firearms. A slightly similar situation must have been considered when the Firearms Restriction (River Murray) Act was enacted in 1929 to control the use of rifled firearms by all persons on vessels on the Murray River. This restriction was included in the consolidated Firearms Act of 1958 and now applies to the whole of the Murray River in South Australia, Lake Albert, Lake Alexandrina and all adjoining waters within 100 yds. thereof (by virtue of a proclamation in the *Government Gazette*, August 27, 1959, at page 513). It seems that the situation envisaged in the question by the honourable member can only be dealt with by some similar type of legislation prohibiting the carriage, use and possession of firearms on Kangaroo Island by persons other than those whose usual place of residence is on the island. The legislation would have to be specific to prevent its being exploited by holiday-house owners and other temporary residents. Furthermore, the increasing ease of access to the island by private and commercial means would make this legislation difficult to police. Acts of vandalism committed with firearms in other parts of the State are at present dealt with under section 43 (relating to wilful damage) and section 51 (relating to the careless and dangerous use of firearms) of the Police Offences Act. These sections would have equal application on Kangaroo Island.

TOWNSEND HOUSE

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Minister of Education say what plans he has for providing a new school for deaf and blind children near Townsend House? I am aware of the plans for Townsend House, and I know that Mr. Wood of the Education Department returned from overseas about six months ago and that subsequently another officer investigated this matter. I am referring to another school near Townsend House to be used for the unfortunate children who are not inmates of Townsend House as they do not board there.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am not clear about the honourable member's question. He will be aware that several children who are residents of Townsend House attend the Brighton school speech and hearing centre or the Seacombe High School speech and hearing centre, and that the movement is for those who are

not profoundly deaf or for those who are partially sighted to be accommodated, if possible, in the normal school environment. Therefore, the new buildings that will be constructed at Townsend House will be for those who are residents of Townsend House and who are now being educated within the old Townsend House building. I cannot say just what will be done, although I hope that some time within the next month I shall be able to make a statement about the precise plans we have for providing up-to-date accommodation to replace the old Townsend House buildings which are now used for the teaching of blind children and the profoundly deaf children who are resident at Townsend House.

Mr. Coumbe: I am referring to day scholars.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Any day scholars who are to go to Townsend House for education and who are not residents of Townsend House will be educated in this school and would already be attending Townsend House in the old buildings. The honourable member may be confused by the fact that the Townsend House board of management has built several houses with the aid of a \$2 for \$1 subsidy from the Government and that these buildings are to provide living accommodation for those who were resident at Townsend House. That project has been completed, and the next stage is the replacement of the school there. This, however, would accommodate mainly those who are boarders at Townsend House but also, I presume, several day students who will attend the same school.

ROAD SAFETY

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether the South Australian Road Safety Council or the Police Department has considered, as a step towards reducing the road toll, the use of a light aircraft or helicopter highway patrol over proven high-risk sections of highways and main roads? While in Canada earlier this year, I saw at first hand the use of light aircraft in detecting not only speed offences, by the use of road markings, but also instances of dangerous driving. It was considered that the use of this overhead observation of dangerous driving (overtaking on blind corners, on hills, and so on) was a tremendously effective way of cutting down such irresponsible behaviour. I believe that it was considered that the irritation and anger, which was in many cases caused to other drivers by thoughtless and dangerous driving, contributed to the excessive road toll.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As it primarily comes within the province of the Police Department to determine whether or not it is desirable to use this type of detection, I will refer the question to the Chief Secretary and obtain a report.

VERMIN CONTROL

Mr. RODDA: I understand that the Minister of Roads and Transport has had for three days a reply to the question I asked him on October 15 about vermin control. Will he give that reply?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I have had this reply here for three days, and I have another here that I have had for three days. The South Australian Railways has treated the burrows in the Glenroy station yard. In fact it has treated every burrow on South Australian Railways land from two miles south of Penola to 15 miles north of Penola.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister is answering a question. Interjections across the Chamber must cease.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I understand that the council has praised the co-operation it received from the railways in this matter. The honourable member may already have received a letter from the council bringing his attention to that co-operation.

SEAWEED

Mr. VENNING: Will the Premier take up with the Agriculture Department the possibility of South Australian seaweed being suitable for the Japanese market and, if the department reports favourably, will he, as Minister of Development and Mines, take up with the Commonwealth Minister for Trade (Mr. McEwen) the possibility of developing this industry further? A recent press report states that the market for seaweed (or nori) in Japan is worth about \$100,000,000 annually and that increasing reliance is being placed on imports, principally from South Korea. Nori is as common in Japanese households as porridge and cornflakes are common in Australia. Between now and the end of the year, three Japanese scientists are expected in Australia to carry out a full feasibility study on the possibility of growing nori in commercial quantities.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will ask for a report on the matter. As far as I am aware from previous reports I have seen, we are not able to supply this market. The honourable member may be aware of the fact that,

in Tasmania, a considerable seaweed harvesting factory was set up when our present Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation was Director of a similar department in Tasmania, and he is well aware of the possibilities of this market. However, as far as I am aware, South Australia does not have a similar potential.

MURRAY RIVER LEVELS

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister of Works give details of the expected high level of the Murray River in the lower portions of the Murray Valley during the next week or so? All members, particularly the Minister, will be aware that last weekend there was some concern about the breaching of a private levee in the lower reaches of the Murray and that, with the help of volunteers, this gap was largely bridged. Unfortunately, a high wind across Lake Alexandrina banked up the water near Wellington, where the Murray enters the lake.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As the honourable member was good enough to inform me that he intended to ask this question, I have obtained the following information for him. The high river peaked at Renmark at 21ft. 2in. on the gauge on November 16 and 17, and today Thursday, November 19, it is at 21ft. 0½in. The second peak that occurred in the upper reaches early in October has combined with the first peak before reaching South Australia. The peak at Morgan should occur on about November 24 and may be about 1in. less than the 20ft. predicted. It is still expected that the additional water coming down the river will give gauge heights of 111ft. 3in. at Mannum and 110ft. 3in. at Murray Bridge on November 30 and December 2 respectively. It must be realized that wind effects can be considerable in the lower reaches of the river and can affect river heights by more than 1ft.

WEEDS

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works received from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked on November 10 regarding weed eradication in the lower foothills?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Agriculture reports that the Director of Agriculture has arranged for a Government-authorized weed control officer to examine the infestations of African daisy in the Burnside council area, and a detailed report will be submitted in a week.

WHEAT

Mr. FERGUSON: Has the Minister of Works received from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to my recent question about a press release he made on wheat quotas?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Agriculture states that the practice of the Wheat Delivery Quotas Inquiry Committee, at all meetings held in wheatgrowing centres throughout the State, has been to hold the meetings in public. Evidence has been taken in the first instance from representatives of groups of wheatgrowers, then from growers who had prepared evidence, then from any other person in the audience who wished to comment upon evidence already given, or who wished to present fresh evidence. On occasions, when time permitted, evidence was taken after the public meeting was closed from growers who wished to give further information in private to the committee. On every occasion it was stressed that the committee was not able to alter individual quotas or to recommend alterations to individual quotas. It was also stressed that the committee was only interested in evidence concerning individual cases where that evidence would throw some light on the general situation concerning the quota system. The committee is of the opinion that all of the evidence so received up to date is valuable in throwing light on the general situation regarding quotas.

PORT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CARNIE: Will the Minister of Education say whether he is still confident that the \$1,800,000 high school, which he announced in this House would be built at Port Lincoln, will be built, or is there a possibility that these plans will be drastically reduced?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Public Works Standing Committee has raised certain questions regarding the plan, particularly in relation to the percentage of teaching space in and the cost of the proposed complex. The plans are being re-examined and a further submission will be made to the Public Works Committee. As a consequence, the plans will be modified. However, the department wants to proceed with this project as quickly as possible to ensure that some relief is given the teachers and students who are currently operating under unsatisfactory conditions.

FLINDERS HIGHWAY

Mr. GUNN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on October 29 regarding construction work being carried out on the Flinders Highway?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Talia to Port Kenny section of the Flinders Highway was programmed to commence construction during 1969-70. However, this, together with other projects, was deferred to enable the District Council of Elliston to continue and accelerate construction of the Elliston to Talia section. The sum of \$440,000 was spent on this section during 1969-70, of which \$200,000 had been provided for in the works programme. The complete section from Elliston to Talia will be sealed during December, 1970, ahead of schedule. Further, because of the need to complete construction and sealing of the Streaky Bay to Murat Bay Main Road No. 406 (Streaky Bay to Ceduna), owing to the nature of the terrain and high maintenance cost, it has been necessary to accelerate the rate of progress on this section of road rather than commence stage construction of the Talia to Streaky Bay section of the Flinders Highway with funds currently available. It is considered that construction and earthworks and sub-base between Talia and Streaky Bay can be carried out more economically by inviting tenders, and it is intended that this section of work on the Flinders Highway will be carried out by contract.

WINE TAX

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Has the Treasurer a reply to my recent question on providing overdraft finance for wine co-operatives to enable them to pay the Commonwealth duty on wine?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have received a report from the Chairman of the State Bank Board, who indicated to me when the Commonwealth duty was imposed that he felt sure his bank would make any essential provisions that its co-operative clients might require. He believes that adequate financial arrangements have been made for all of the bank's customers who have sought assistance in this regard. Some representations have been made to the Commonwealth Minister by the industry to approve arrangements for reasonable deferrals to be given by the Commonwealth department in paying the duties, but in the meantime the co-operatives have sufficient finance available to meet duties. The situation has been specifically checked in relation to co-operatives in the honourable member's district.

PARA HILLS EAST SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Education request officers of his department to intervene concerning a safety problem involving

children travelling between the Para Hills East Primary School and the Murrell Road area who have to share a dirt track with buses? I have received a letter from the school committee, part of which states that this track has for several years been used as a bus route by Lewis Brothers Coach Services, and that the construction of this school has created a safety problem. The writer of the letter states that this area is hazardous at any time, and that in wet weather it is extremely dangerous. If I give the Minister this correspondence, will he have it examined with a view to finding a satisfactory solution?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall be pleased to assist the honourable member in any way possible.

PROSPECT ROADS

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question regarding the widening of the Main North Road in the city of Prospect?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Subject to funds being available at the time, it is intended to provide funds in the 1971-72 Highways Department programme for the widening of the western side of the Main North Road between Regency Road and Edgeworth Street. Whether work can commence in the latter part of 1971 will depend largely on progress made in land acquisition of the remaining property and the design of the Regency Road intersection.

KENT TOWN INTERSECTION

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on November 5 regarding the reconstruction of the Dequetteville Terrace and Rundle Road intersection, Kent Town?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This intersection is scheduled for reconstruction in the 1971-72 programme of works, and traffic signals are planned to be installed on completion of the reconstruction works.

KAPUNDA ROAD

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say what safety treatment is intended for the major crossing created by the new Gawler-Kapunda road with the existing Freeling-Daveyston road? In an updating of the road system, the main road to Kapunda and the areas beyond is to be re-routed via the Gawler-Kapunda road rather than via Greenock, and an almost exact right-angle crossing has been created at a point about half a mile east of the Freeling township. There was an old dirt road at this point; it is now a major

highway to Kapunda and the people who have used the Freeling-Daveyston road for many years would appear still to have the idea that they are on the major highway. A fatality occurred a short time ago and there is considerable concern in the minds of the people of the district as a result of the situation that has been created.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I know the road to which the honourable member is referring. When members of the public realize that a new road has been built, they will certainly use that in preference to the old road because of the vastly improved travelling conditions. Perhaps one criticism that can be offered is that one may now get to Kapunda in probably 10 minutes less than the time taken on the old road.

Mr. Nankivell: Without speeding?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Yes. I am not aware of any plans the department has for protective devices other than (and I think they are there at the moment) the normal warning signs that an intersection is ahead, but I will take up the matter with the Highways Department to see whether it intends to install any safety device or whether the council intends to do so.

BUSH FIRES

Mr. EVANS: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my recent question about the setting up of a committee to investigate the prevention of bush fires, and can he say whether it will be possible to put all fire-fighting organizations under the authority of the one Minister?

The Hon. L. J. KING: On November 11, the Chief Secretary met a deputation of interested parties connected with the Emergency Fire Services, and Ministerial control of the E.F.S. and the appointment of a commission were discussed. The matters raised by the deputation are currently receiving consideration.

LAMEROO SCHOOL

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked some time ago regarding air-conditioning at the Lameroo Area School?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Present planning does not provide for air-conditioning at this school. The fresh-air ducts as planned are not suitable for use in an air-conditioning system if it is later decided to air-condition. It is not possible at a reasonable cost to modify

the proposed system to provide for installation of air-conditioning later should Government policy change.

OPAL MINING

Mr. GUNN: Will the Premier, as Minister of Development and Mines, undertake to consult with the opal-mining interests at Andamooka and Coober Pedy to obtain their views before any amendments are made to the Mining Act concerning opal miners? Concern has been expressed to me by representatives of the Opal Miners Association that amendments will be made to the Act without adequate consideration having been given to the views of interested parties.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not know why that representation should have been made to the honourable member. The draft of the Mining Bill was sent to members of the Opal Miners Association at both Andamooka and Coober Pedy, and the association was asked to make representations. Certain representations, particularly those in relation to the size of a proposed opal development claim, have been given effect to by the Government in the redrafting. The only outstanding matter concerns the back filling of bulldozer cuts.

Mr. Gunn: Is that dealt with in this Bill?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is not under the Mines and Works Inspection Act: it is in the Mining Bill, set out specifically, and this, not the provisions in the Mines and Works Inspection Act, is the matter raised by the opal miners. On this matter I told the opal miners' representatives, after they had seen me, that I could not accede to their representations and did not intend to do so. In fact, the honourable member came to see me, with a pastoralist who has a lease in the Coober Pedy area, pointing out the deprivations upon the area as a result of bulldozer cuts and the necessity for back filling. A Legislative Council member for the district also came with the pastoralist and forcibly put the case about the need to restore the area, and I agreed with that case. I do not agree, however, with the representations that have been made by certain opal-mining interests (by no means all of them) about the cost of back filling. Quite frankly, I think the costs they are putting up are not well based and are absurd. I have checked with representatives of the opal-mining industry and with those who were concerned with the opal miners about leases given and proposals made by the previous Government, and these original representations have been given effect to in the draft Mining Bill. I also checked

with Mr. Ron Loveday, who had been a member for the district for many years and was directly concerned in the representations made by opal miners during the period that the previous Government was in office. He was entirely satisfied with the proposals in the Bill, as were many opal miners, including those who had made representations to me originally when we were in Opposition.

Mr. Hall: Do you use the word "many" advisedly?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not mean all of them, because some, particularly those concerned with large-scale bulldozer operations, seem to think that all they need do is tear up the countryside and leave it, but I do not think they represent the total opal-mining industry or that they are being fair about preserving pastoral interests in the area. It is certainly not correct to suggest that this Government has not carefully considered the opal miners' representations, and I point out to the honourable member that the major original upset amongst the opal miners related not to the proposals in the present draft Mining Bill but to the grant of a lease to Gem Explorations Proprietary Limited. Perhaps the honourable member also knows that, after this Government had taken office, it refused to give to that company undertakings about its future continuation of the vast lease that had been granted to the company, and the company has withdrawn, to the satisfaction of the whole mining industry.

ADVERTISING

Mr. EVANS: Has the Premier a further reply to my question about the advertising and sale of watches?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have a report from the Fraud Squad, which states:

A firm known as Advertising Merchandising, of 5364 Pacific Highway, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, recently offered a limited number of watches for sale, in a publication circulating in South Australia. Conditions of sale required the purchaser to forward a certain sum to a Queensland address and the watch would then be sent to the purchaser. A number of complaints was subsequently received from persons claiming they had sent their money as required but had not received watches. A radio message was sent to Queensland requesting information on the *bona fides* of the firm and the following reply was received at this office on October 17: "*Bona fides* in doubt but to date watches dispatched either before or after police inquiries." Information has been received that watches are now being sent to persons in this State and at least one of the complainants has advised that he received his watch on October 27. Further, on this same day an article appeared in the *News*

Action Line column, stating, "The watches have now started arriving in South Australia. We have been told the firm got about 6,000 orders throughout Australia and did not have enough watches to go around. They sent for more." It would appear from information received to the present time that the firm is making an effort to fulfil its obligations to purchasers in this State. However, if this position should alter in the near future, inquiries will continue.

JURY FEES

Mr. BECKER: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my recent question about jury fees?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Instructions have been issued to arrange for the payment of jury fees on a fortnightly basis as from January 1, 1971.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS SCHEME

Mr. McANANEY: Recently, I received an evasive and incorrect reply from the Treasurer about who paid for the Snowy Mountains scheme. If, during the last 10 years, the Commonwealth Government has had an annual average deficit of \$324,000,000 (which is made up by Loan funds and national credit), would this not supply the money for the Snowy Mountains scheme, with an average expenditure of \$39,000,000 a year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member seems to be acting on an extraordinary hypothesis. Last year the Commonwealth Government did not have a deficit of about \$300,000,000: it had a surplus of about \$500,000,000.

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Treasurer explain the \$500,000,000 surplus that he said the Commonwealth Government had last year? I have the relevant Commonwealth receipts and outlay of Commonwealth Budget figures, and they show a deficit of \$7,000,000.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As the honourable member seems to have difficulty in distinguishing between the capital and current accounts, I will obtain an explanation for him.

STATUTE CONSOLIDATION

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my question about what progress is being made in consolidating the South Australian Statutes?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The South Australian Government, on October 3, 1967, entered into an agreement with the Law Book Company Limited for the consolidation and reprint of the Statutes, and Mr. E. A. Ludovici (Parliamentary Draftsman) was appointed Commissioner of Statute Revision to carry out the work involved. Up to the present 20 Acts

have been reprinted, 20 more have been completed and are awaiting printing, and work has reached various stages on another 222 Acts. The printing of a new consolidation of Statutes will be undertaken by the Law Book Company Limited when the individual Acts have been consolidated. There is an enormous amount of work involved in this undertaking and it will be several years before a new set of consolidated Statutes is available.

INDUSTRIAL COURT

Mr. RODDA: Can the Attorney-General say whether the Industrial Court has taken up its new quarters in Investment and Merchant Finance Corporation House (formerly known as the Craminster building) and, if it has not, when it will do so and whether rent is currently being paid for the space in that building to be occupied by the Industrial Court? When we were in office, protracted negotiations took place in order to find space for the Industrial Court, and I do not need to tell the Attorney-General that this space is needed, as the new intermediate courts require the space in the court complex occupied at present by the Industrial Court. Although the space in I.M.F.C. House is about the most expensive in Adelaide, it will meet a need, and it was hoped that the Industrial Court would occupy it, if not in September, early in October. As time has passed and the need is becoming greater, I should be pleased if the Attorney-General would tell the House what has transpired.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Although the Industrial Court is within the Ministerial responsibility of the Minister of Labour and Industry, I am interested in new premises being found for the Industrial Court, because the old accommodation is required for the local and district criminal courts. However, I understand it was found that certain additional space in the new building beyond what was originally planned would be required for the Industrial Court. This has necessitated certain alterations in the plans and has delayed the move. However, it is expected that the new premises will be available for occupation early in the new year.

Mr. Rodda: Is rent being paid now?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I am not sure, but I will obtain that information for the honourable member.

RUBBER COMPANY

Mr. HALL: Has the Premier any further information in reply to the question I asked last week about the report I had heard that the

Goodyear rubber company was to establish in or near Sydney a large multi-million-dollar manufacturing enterprise to produce goods mainly for the Western Australian market and about the reason for that company's not coming to South Australia?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Industrial Development Branch had no prior knowledge of the announcement by the Goodyear rubber company that it was thinking of establishing a plant in Sydney and, therefore, no steps had been taken to contact the company. However, even if there had been some warning, probably the branch would not have contacted Goodyear, because the rubber industry is already highly developed in this State and already one company has rung the branch to say that it would resent an attempt to attract further rubber manufacturers to the State. The company concerned said that, with the exception of one line, it was already able to provide the needs of the mining industry (and this one line it could obtain from elsewhere), and from its point of view the problem was not one of supply but was one of communication with the mining companies to convey to them that it was able to supply their needs. The Director of Industrial Promotion is hoping, with the assistance of the Director of Mines, to ensure that the consulting engineers advising mining companies understand the capacity of the rubber industry in South Australia.

STOCK REBATE

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport consider making rebates available in respect of stock leaving the Adelaide abattoirs? At present, stock coming into the abattoirs from country markets or country railway stations is subject to a rebate of, I think, 25 per cent provided two trucks of stock or more are involved. However, when the situation is reversed and stock is leaving the Adelaide abattoirs for the country, this rebate does not apply.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to have the matter investigated.

WATER RATING COMMITTEE

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Works and, with your permission, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, and the concurrence of the House—

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ryan): Question!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Minister received the report of the committee on water rating, which was set up by the previous Government

and which has been continued by the present Government? I understand that the appointment—

The Hon. L. J. King: Are you going to ask for leave to make an explanation?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I thought I had.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: You had not, and you know you had not.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I thought I had, but the Minister of Roads and Transport tells me I had not—

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the honourable member seek leave?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes. I understand that the appointment has been announced of Mr. A. K. Sangster, Q.C., as acting judge and justice of the Supreme Court. As he was the Chairman of the committee, this would lead one to believe that the task of reporting on water rating had been completed prior to the announcement of his appointment. I therefore ask this question of the Minister, wondering whether, if the report has been received, it is to be laid before the House and otherwise made public and, if it is to be made public, when.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member is to be congratulated on his powers of deduction. The report was presented to me on Friday afternoon last by Mr. Sangster, Q.C. It is in draft form only and, although I have managed to look at it, I have not yet looked at the working papers. I have now referred the report to the Director and Engineer-in-Chief for his comments, and I will subsequently refer it to the Premier for his examination and comment. At this stage, I do not intend to make the full report public.

Mr. Millhouse: At all?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member heard what I said.

REMEDIAL TEACHING

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about remedial teaching?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Courses and experience in teachers colleges train and prepare teachers by making them familiar with the kinds of problem that will be met in schools. The decision as to when children should be referred for psychological assessment usually rests with the headmaster of the school concerned, who would have had regular discussions with his class teachers and parents. However, parents have the right of referral of their own children to the psychology branch. In this case, they usually have the support of a medical practitioner.

They are encouraged to make their referral through the headmaster of the school that the child attends. Statistics of the average age of referral are not kept. Within our present resources, every effort is made to ensure early attention. Liaison between the Chief Psychologist and the Kindergarten Union gives the psychology branch early knowledge of some children prior to their entering departmental schools.

NARROWS CHANNEL

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Marine yet received a reply from the Marine and Harbors Department to my question whether or not it has any obligation to maintain the channel through The Narrows between Lake Alexandrina and Lake Albert? If he has not, will he do so soon, as I am anxious to know about this matter? If the department does not have this obligation, will the Minister find out whether anyone is responsible?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I believe that I replied to this question, saying that I had referred the matter to the Marine and Harbors Department as I wanted to be certain whether or not any provisions existed whereby it could do any work in the channel. Although I have not yet received a reply, in view of the honourable member's question I will ask the department to expedite the matter.

NORTH ADELAIDE ROADWORKS

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about roadworks taking place in O'Connell Street, North Adelaide?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: To ensure a satisfactory quantity and quality of water from the North Adelaide tank, it is necessary to clean and cement-line the 16in. outlet main, which runs from the tank across O'Connell Street and down Childers Street for about 2,100ft. As this is a gravity main, it is laid quite deep where it crosses O'Connell Street. In places it is about 20ft. deep. To excavate for the cut-out holes, etc., it is therefore difficult and time-consuming, and, as all these excavations have to be made before the main can be cleaned and cement-lined, a number of these holes in the roadway will have to be open for about three weeks. Traffic arrangements while this work is in progress have been co-ordinated with the Adelaide City Council and the Police Department. A maximum possible progress rate will be aimed at on this job, and excavations in the roadways will be restored as soon as practicable. The whole project should take

about one month to complete, the section in O'Connell Street being open for about three weeks.

NARACOORTE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked recently about a boys' craft centre at the Naracoorte High School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: No precise indication can be given at the moment of when the composite wood and metal craft shop can be provided for the Naracoorte High School. However, it has been given a high priority, which should ensure that it will be ready for occupation by the beginning of the 1972 school year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. GUNN: Can the Minister of Local Government say when he expects to receive the report, of the committee, which was headed by Mr. Murray Bray and which some time ago took evidence from district councils with a view to including in council areas pastoral areas that were not covered by local government?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am not aware at this stage of what progress the committee has made, although I understand it is considerably bogged down. This matter was dealt with in the report of the Local Government Act Revision Committee. As the honourable member has a copy of that report, I assume that he has read it and understands what is in it. I will discuss the matter with the Chairman of the committee to see whether any information can be brought down.

ADELAIDE RAILWAY STATION

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether the Highways Department or any other Government department has recently considered building a subway under North Terrace for railway patrons to use to cross North Terrace in front of the Adelaide railway station, and, if this has not been considered, will the Minister look into the feasibility of such a subway? I realize that this matter was considered many years ago. However, at present there is on the western side of Bank Street a vacant allotment that provides an ideal opportunity for this excavation to be made without too much interference being caused to traffic in the area. If this under-pass is to be built, the time to build it has now arrived. Such an under-pass would be desirable as it would eliminate much pedestrian traffic which presently interferes

with vehicular traffic in the area. This matter should be seriously considered.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The honourable member has said that this matter has been considered on many occasions.

Mr. Evans: I said that it had been considered many years ago.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: That is what I am trying to say.

Mr. Millhouse: You didn't say that; you said something else.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am indebted to the member for Mitcham for correcting me.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: He's a gentleman.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Be that as it may, this matter has been considered many times. However, reasons have always been advanced why it should not be built, the main reason being finance. That position would probably apply as much today as it ever has. I should very much like to see some form of protection provided, either by over-passes or under-passes, at all busy intersections. In this instance, I should like to see a subway built, as that appears to be a natural solution for this site. I will discuss the matter with officers of the Railways Department to see when it was last considered, what were the results of such consideration, and whether it merits further consideration, and I will inform the honourable member accordingly.

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport obtain from the Railways Commissioner information regarding car parking at the Adelaide railway station? From time to time over a number of years suggestions have been put forward by members of this House and by members of the public that the platform area of the Adelaide railway station could be roofed over to provide car parking in a very convenient position on North Terrace for which the Railways Department would be reimbursed. This idea could now be facilitated with the advent of diesels and the disappearance of steam locomotives, although I realize that some fumes are produced by diesel locomotives. Will the Minister ask the Railways Commissioner whether a feasibility study could be made in relation to such a scheme?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to discuss the matter with the Commissioner in the first instance to determine whether further steps should be taken, and, if they should be, to pursue them. I will inform the honourable member of any action that is to be taken.

TRAFFIC ISLAND

Mr. BECKER: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked on October 15 regarding traffic islands?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The provision of a median opening on Anzac Highway between Adelphi Terrace and Tapley Hill Road was proposed by local shopkeepers and the Corporation of the Town of Glenelg in 1968. This was refused by the Road Traffic Board as it would have created undesirable traffic movements and reduced the existing centre-of-road parking area. The Corporation of the City of Glenelg has now intimated that it will accept a reduction in parking and several alternative suggestions for openings in the immediate vicinity are being considered for early reference to the council.

MUTTON SLAUGHTERING

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Premier say what is the present position regarding export licences for mutton slaughtering in any South Australian abattoirs? The Premier will recall that, on his return from Canberra recently, he told the House that he had discussed with the United States Consul, among other things, the situation relating to the export of meat, particularly mutton. Subsequently, on October 27, he said he had no further information on the subject other than what he had been told 10 days before.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have not received a final report on our export killing capacity. I told one member (I am not sure whether it was the member for Light) that the experts had not left Australia. When I was in Canberra, considerable concern was expressed to the United States authorities, not only by me but also by the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry, on the basis that export abattoirs in this country were being ruled out. I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

UNIVERSITY ACT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: When does the Minister of Education intend to introduce amendments to the University of Adelaide Act? In the last week or so, I have received a copy of the November, 1970, issue of the *Graduates' Gazette*, and I have read in it that a final draft (I think the third) of the Bill has been forwarded to the Government for consideration. The Liberal Government waited for it during its whole term of office. This draft has now been forwarded to the Government, and I presume that means the Minister of Education.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation. It is not possible for me to hear what the honourable member is saying.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Would you like me to repeat what I have said, Sir?

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: No.

The SPEAKER: I should be pleased if the member for Mitcham would repeat his question, as I have not been able to hear it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Does the Minister of Education expect to introduce amendments to the University of Adelaide Act? I have been looking at the November, 1970, issue of the *Graduates' Gazette*, and I notice that a third draft of the amending Bill has been forwarded to the Government for consideration.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Why are you going through this again?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am repeating my question, as the Speaker asked me to. As the Government has the third draft, I guess the matter is well in hand.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A draft has been received from the University of Adelaide, which has requested the redrafting of the entire University of Adelaide Act. Government attitude on this matter has still to be determined.

Mr. Millhouse: Would you say—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member has already asked one question, and if he wants an answer he had better wait for it. He can then be called on again and ask another question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I will not continually call members to order. The Minister of Education is replying to a question, and has the right to be heard in silence. I should like to hear what he is saying.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am considering the draft, and a recommendation will be submitted to Cabinet in due course. It will then go to the Parliamentary Draftsman for final drafting of the measure. Although the Government may introduce the Bill before Christmas, it certainly will not be able to get it through the Upper House by then. Therefore, the final passage of the Bill will probably have to wait until the extended part of the session in the new year.

ADVERTISING

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport say what is the position regarding advertising by the Australian Labor Party on public notices of its Senate team, especially

on railway billboards at Elizabeth and Gawler? This morning, when I was coming into the House I met people coming from the railway station, some of whom asked me what was the position in this respect. I told them that I knew there were A.L.P. and Liberal and Country League advertisements at the Adelaide railway station but that I did not know about country railway stations. Will the Minister therefore say how these signs got there: whether they are paid advertisements on South Australian railway billboards, or whether they just happened to get there?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: They obviously didn't just happen to get there: they were put there by the Advertising Branch of the South Australian Railways under a contract arranged between the Australian Labor Party and the South Australian Railways, and a fee is payable on a weekly basis for each sign so displayed. This is completely in accord with what has occurred in the past. Indeed, during the past four Commonwealth elections at least, the South Australian Railways has on every occasion been most co-operative in displaying these advertisements, in the same way as it displays advertisements for any commercial undertaking. The South Australian Railways receives a fee for the display, and it is only too happy to receive a fee.

Mr. Becker: What is the cost?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The honourable member should know the cost because, prior to the last State election, he had signs erected on tramway property, and the advertising agent for the Municipal Tramways Trust is the agent for the South Australian Railways, so I can only assume that, if the honourable member does not know the cost, he must have had them put up without having paid for them, and I will have to look into that matter. The L.C.L. has signs displayed, but I do not know where they are on this occasion. Prior to the last State election, the L.C.L. had signs on Government property on Marion Road, and I can only assume that the former Minister of Works gave approval for the L.C.L. to put them there.

OIL POLLUTION

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to my recent question about a disaster plan in the event of oil pollution of our gulf waters?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Emergency plans are being formulated by the Commonwealth and all State authorities to deal with major oil spills both inside and outside territorial waters. Most of the preliminary work

has now been completed involving lengthy meetings in Melbourne and Canberra and a preliminary draft of a "National Plan to deal with Oil Pollution at Sea" has been prepared and has been circulated to all State marine authorities. Work is proceeding as fast as possible on the finalization of such a plan but as questions of Commonwealth and State jurisdiction, the extent of territorial waters, liabilities for cost and other complicated matters are involved, progress cannot be as swift as one would like it to be.

For Port Stanvac a disaster plan entitled "Emergency Procedure" was formulated and distributed by the refinery authorities when they started operations and this is still operative. Copies of the Port Stanvac "Emergency Procedure" and the draft "National Plan to deal with Oil Pollution at Sea" are held by the Marine and Harbors Department.

HOUSING TRUST POLICY

Mr. BECKER: Will the Premier, as Minister in charge of housing, consider purchasing houses that are for sale on the open market, to overcome the present shortage of emergency houses? I have asked questions previously about emergency housing, not only for migrant families but also for large Australian families and, as the Housing Trust cannot satisfy applications from these people immediately, I suggest that the Government use some of its money to purchase houses on the open market, and so assist these families.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The only way the trust could purchase houses on the open market would be by decreasing the amount of money that is now used to construct houses, and that would not solve the emergency housing problem.

RECEIPTS TAX

Mr. McANANEY: Can the Treasurer make a concise and simple statement about the refund of receipts tax? I think he said in October that, if one objected to paying this duty, one could ask for and receive a refund. However, I understand that a person who gets such a refund is immediately liable to pay the amount of the refund to the Commonwealth Government. The position is confusing.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In the case of payment made before the date last year in respect of which the Commonwealth legislation operated, if these were payments either made under protest or payments which, according to the statement by the then Government, it would treat as having been made under protest—

Mr. Venning: They were all made under protest.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They were not all made under protest.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer has been asked a question by the honourable member for Heysen and, if other members are not interested in the matter, they should try to observe silence.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In relation to the period before the operation of the Commonwealth legislation and during the period specified by the previous State Government, repayments of duty are payable. In relation to the period of operation of the Commonwealth Government's imposition of duty, which I think is until the beginning of October, duty of all kinds is payable. As from the beginning of October no duty is payable. The only repayments of duty involved are those in respect of a period before the operation of the Commonwealth legislation and in respect of excise duty, either where protest was entered or under conditions in which the previous State Government had said it would treat any payment of excise duty as being paid under protest.

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

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: MR. LAWN
Mr. LANGLEY moved:

That a further month's leave of absence be granted to the honourable member for Adelaide (Mr. S. J. Lawn) on account of ill health.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Adult Education Centre, Murray Bridge,
Fulham North Primary School.

Ordered that reports be printed.

APPRENTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Labour and Industry) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Apprentices Act, 1950-1966. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Major amendments were made to the Apprentices Act early in 1966, following which the

Apprenticeship Commission was established in May of that year. Last year the Chairman of the Apprenticeship Commission and the Director of Technical Education suggested that several amendments be made to the Act in the light of experience gained since the commission was established. These matters were considered by the then Minister, who sought the views of the United Trades and Labor Council of South Australia, South Australian Chamber of Manufactures, and the South Australian Employers Federation. This Bill has been prepared having regard to the comments received both at that time and subsequently.

The main alteration in the Bill is to reduce the maximum term of indentures of apprenticeship from five to four years. This is similar to legislative provisions in New South Wales and Queensland and is similar in effect to the position which now exists in Victoria and Western Australia, although the reduction in those States has been effected by other means.

It is now generally accepted that, because children stay at school for a longer period than was the position some years ago, and reach a higher educational standard, it is possible for a person to acquire the skills of a tradesman in a shorter time. Of the apprentices who attended technical college or technical correspondence school in this State for the first time this year, 80 per cent had completed the Intermediate year at secondary school and 38 per cent had completed the Leaving or Matriculation years. This latter percentage is double what it was in 1966.

The period of apprenticeship should be no longer than that which is necessary to enable a person to be trained to be a skilled tradesman. Because of the higher educational standard of apprentices generally when they commence their training and the improved technical training techniques, the Government is satisfied that the period of apprenticeship can be reduced without affecting the quality of training. This will mean an acceleration in the rate at which skilled tradesmen can be added to our work force. The other amendments contained in this Bill are made as a result of experience gained since the Apprenticeship Commission was first appointed in 1966.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 authorizes the making of a temporary appointment in the absence of a member of the commission. Clause 3 will authorize the commission to suspend the indentures of an apprentice for a period determined by the commission. This

power is given to the Apprenticeship Commissions in the other States and it is found that the suspension of indentures for a short period (during which time the apprentice is not paid) is much more effective than prosecuting an apprentice for failure to attend technical college. It will also permit the commission to suspend indentures of an apprentice who has committed a misdemeanour. Provision is also included in this clause to permit the commission to delegate certain of its powers to the Chairman. The commission normally does not meet more frequently than once a fortnight. It is continually necessary for the Chairman to consider applications for cancellation, suspension and transfer of indentures of apprenticeship (in fact, so far this year, 300 of these applications have been made).

At the moment, all that the Chairman can do is to make recommendations to the commission as to what action can be taken and invariably the commission adopts the Chairman's recommendation. This is a cumbersome procedure which is not very effective because these applications need to be dealt with promptly. The new provision will enable the commission to delegate power to decide these matters and, if the commission considers it necessary, to give an aggrieved party right to appeal against the Chairman's decision. Clause 4 is consequential upon the change of title made some time ago of the Superintendent of Technical Schools to Director of Technical Education.

Clause 5 makes a similar consequential amendment and will permit full day-time training arrangements to be introduced in different areas at different times. Under the Act as it stands at present, it is only possible to introduce full day-time training arrangements in respect of a trade for which training facilities exist throughout the whole of the State. Accommodation exists in the four country technical colleges (at Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla) for full day-time training to be introduced in all trades and, if this Bill is passed, it is proposed to introduce these arrangements as from the beginning of next year. The amendment also relates an apprentice's obligation to attend technical school to the date of commencement of the requisite course of instruction rather than the date of his indentures. This removes the possibility of anomalies where indentures are signed an appreciable period in advance of the commencement of the required course of instruction. Clause 6 makes a further consequential amendment. Clause 7 provides that

an apprentice who fails in any subject at technical college need only repeat the subject or subjects which he has failed and not all of the subjects for that year.

Clause 8 makes further consequential amendments. Clause 9 makes it clear that the four-hours study time given during normal working hours to an apprentice undertaking his technical education by correspondence will apply for up to three years after the apprentice has commenced his correspondence course. At present the Act provides that this study period applies during the first three years of the apprenticeship, but it often happens that the apprentice has served for some months before he undertakes a correspondence course. Clause 10 makes machinery amendments to give effect to the present arrangements whereby the Education Department and not the Apprenticeship Commission notifies apprentices that they are required to attend a technical school. The commission decides what instruction should be given and the physical arrangements for advising the apprentice are undertaken by the Education Department. This section of the Act applies to a small number of apprentices in country districts for whom instruction is not available either at a technical college or by correspondence. The amendments in this clause will enable similar arrangements to be made for those apprentices to attend a course of instruction (mainly in Adelaide) in the same way as now applies for country apprentices undertaking correspondence-course training. Under this arrangement all such apprentices now come to Adelaide to attend a technical college for two consecutive weeks in each of their first three years of apprenticeship to supplement their correspondence-course training.

Clause 11 makes three amendments to section 25. The first is consequential. The second will require apprentices to be given only one certificate of competency at the end of their trade school course rather than a certificate at the end of each year, as is now provided in the Act. The notification of an apprentice that he is required to repeat attendance at any class or correspondence course will be given by the Education Department and not by the Apprenticeship Commission. Clause 12 effects the reduction in the maximum term of apprenticeship to four years, to which I have already referred. It will apply to any indenture entered into after January 1 next. In order that apprentices who have been indentured for a five-year period during 1970 will not complete their indentures after apprentices who

commence their indentures next year, provision is made for those who have started their indentures this year to only serve for a period of 4½ years or for their indentures to terminate on December 31, 1974.

Clause 13 deals with notification of the commencement of apprenticeship. Often a long period of time elapses between an apprentice commencing employment as such and the notification to the commission of his employment, because the Act at present does not require the Apprenticeship Commission to be advised of the commencement of the indenture until 28 days after the indenture is signed. In many cases the indenture is not signed until the expiration of a three months' probationary period, and the Bill therefore requires employers to notify the commission of the fact that they have commenced to employ an apprentice within 14 days after the commencement of employment. This will considerably simplify the arrangements for enrolling apprentices at technical colleges in the early part of the year and will assist in dealing with applications from employers to employ an apprentice for the first time and will enable statistics of new indentures of apprenticeship to be prepared much more speedily.

Clause 14 will enable regulations to be made detailing who should sign indentures. Difficulties have been experienced in some cases in respect of the parent or guardian when an apprentice has no relatives in Australia or if an apprentice is a ward of the State. Rather than have details of this nature in the Act, provision is made for the execution of indentures in a manner to be prescribed by regulation, and it will also be possible for the commission to approve of indentures being varied with the consent of all parties to enable a change in the trade to which a person is indentured or the period of the indenture, rather than cancelling the original indenture and making a new one which is necessary at present. Provision has been made for several years in some Commonwealth awards for apprentices who serve an initial period of 20 weeks' full-time training in a technical college to complete their indentures in three or 3½ years. The amendment made by clause 15 will enable the probationary period of these apprentices to be extended until they have actually worked in the employers' premises for three months. Clause 16 is consequential.

Mr. CUMBE secured the adjournment of the debate.

HOLIDAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Labour and Industry) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Holidays Act, 1910-1959. Read a first time.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Since being elected to office, the Government has been considering the public holidays which apply in South Australia. Several representations have been made to the Government for an additional public holiday to be granted each year; also requests have been received that Boxing day, instead of Proclamation day, should be observed as a public holiday. An examination of the position throughout Australia revealed that the majority of employees in Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania are entitled to 11 public holidays, including Easter Saturday, while in Western Australia there are 10 public holidays (not including Easter Saturday). In South Australia and New South Wales there are 10 public holidays, of which Easter Saturday is one. The Government has decided that it is only fair and reasonable that employed people in this State should not receive fewer public holidays each year than the standard which generally applies in the rest of Australia.

Honourable members will recall that earlier this year the Government of the time decided to proclaim an additional public holiday to celebrate the centenary of the Adelaide Cup race meeting. This extra holiday was appreciated by the public although the Government subsequently received complaints about the disruption of business caused by having a public holiday on a Wednesday. In considering the day on which it would be most appropriate and to the best advantage of the public generally to grant an additional holiday, the Government considered the representations that Boxing day should be made a holiday in lieu of Proclamation day and also considered the proposal that Boxing day be proclaimed as an additional public holiday. Because so many employees are granted their annual leave during the Christmas to New Year period, the granting of an extra public holiday at that time would, in effect, only extend the period of annual leave by one day, and it was decided that this would not be to the best advantage of all concerned.

The South Australian Jockey Club Incorporated had asked that, in view of the success of the public holiday being held on the Adelaide

Cup day this year, this should be made a permanent public holiday. Following discussions with representatives of that club, the Government has been advised that if an additional public holiday was proclaimed on the Monday instead of the day on which the Adelaide Cup is normally held, which is a Wednesday, the club would be willing to reorganize its cup carnival programme and change the day of the Adelaide Cup day meeting to the Monday holiday. This would follow an important race meeting on the previous Saturday. This the Government has decided to do and one of the amendments made by this Bill gives effect to that decision. By rearranging its cup meeting programme the club would be able to provide a more attractive three-day carnival programme which, it is felt, would be a boost to the racing industry and would provide an attraction to the local community as well as to interstate visitors. I point out that this holiday will normally fall during the first school vacation each year so will not disrupt the school programme.

For many years, it has been the practice for an additional public holiday to be observed in the years in which Christmas day falls on a Sunday. This has been done by proclamation on each occasion. Also on each of the three occasions since the Second World War on which Christmas day has fallen on a Saturday (in 1948, 1954, and 1965) action was taken by the Government of the day to proclaim the following Monday (December 27) to be a public holiday in lieu of Christmas day. In order to give some clarity to the situation and to save the necessity of issuing proclamations on each occasion, it has been decided to amend the Holidays Act to give effect to the action which has been taken at least for the last 25 years that when Christmas day falls on a Saturday or Sunday the following Monday will be observed as a public holiday.

I will now deal with the clauses of the Bill. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 amends the second schedule to the principal Act which contains a list of the various public holidays. Christmas day is removed from Part I (fixed holidays) and inserted in Part II which contains the holidays that are held on the following Monday in lieu of a Saturday or Sunday. The extra holiday, the third Monday in May, is inserted in the list of fixed holidays contained in Part I of the schedule.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL
(VOTING AGE)

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 21. Page 1947.)

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): The subject of voting age and all the other allied conditions applying to elections, whether in South Australia or in other countries around the world, have received much publicity in this House this session. I suppose that the focus has been drawn most deliberately on this question by the debate on the franchise for the Upper House. One has difficulty in separating these issues because of the impact they have on the voting habits and because of the basic underlying contention of the Government Party that the Upper House should be abolished. I suppose this Bill can be viewed separately in the sense that it reduces the voting age by three years.

No doubt we will find in this House, among those who are able to have their own thoughts on this matter, a division of opinion about what should be the voting age. I expect members opposite to be disciplined on the issue and to be unable to do anything but vote for the Bill as it is presented. I know from experience that members on this side will have varying views whether the age should be 21 years, 18 years, or some other age, and about how any change should be achieved. I speak as an individual in this case. However, I realize that the previous Cabinet that I led had adopted a reduction in the voting age to 18 years as desirable in South Australia. One inherent fault with regard to this legislation is that this move will be taken in isolation. It is ridiculous for us to pass this Bill unless it is in concert with similar action by the Commonwealth Government. Already many people are confused about their responsibilities at elections, and to create a further division of electoral responsibility is stupid.

Mr. Hopgood: Yet you wanted to have polls for the Legislative Council on different days?

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are out of order.

Mr. HALL: The Labor Party's animosity towards the Legislative Council and its inability to separate any issue from its one major aim, which is to gain dictatorial control through this House, is demonstrated by the member for Mawson. We should be able to separate the matter of the voting age at least from the question of the abolition of the Upper House, but the member for Mawson—

The SPEAKER: The honourable Leader is out of order.

Mr. HALL: —and other members opposite are unable to do this. We have revealed again this constant move of members opposite to rid themselves of the House of Review. I will try to separate this question from the franchise question which is viewed with so much hatred by members opposite. I say again that it will be confusing for some people if we add yet another division or condition to the electoral responsibilities of South Australian voters. If the Bill is passed, people within the age group of 18 years to 21 years will have the compulsory responsibility, because of the use of force applied by the Government, to vote at State elections and, if the Government has its way, this will apply in respect of both Houses, even though these people will not be able to vote at Commonwealth elections.

As it would be stupid to create this separateness in electoral responsibility, I foreshadow that I will move an amendment which, presuming the Bill passes (and I approve personally the reduction of the age to 18 years), will impose the condition that it shall not operate until the Commonwealth Government has passed similar legislation. I hope that all members, whether or not their attitude is one of blind support for this Bill, will in their hearts recognize the need to establish a similar voting system for both Commonwealth and State Parliaments. I should be pleased if this Bill were to apply in a situation in which voting was voluntary for both Houses.

We see no particular merit in the minimum age being 18 years. I can understand the contention by some people that the age of majority should be 20 years, or even 19 years; however, no-one has any conclusive answer to the question of what is the ideal age, except that by precedent and by general approval, 18 has internationally become the recognized age. Lacking any other point of emphasis, that is sufficient for me, and I believe that South Australia should move in concert with the general movements being made in many parts of the world as well as in other parts of Australia. I know that you, Sir, would not be interested in listening to me speak at length, so I will not pursue this matter in detail. I realize that one could present statistics to illustrate all sorts of things. However, I think we should be guided by the general movement in this direction throughout the

world. Although I support the Bill, I fore-shadow that I will move amendments to provide that the legislation should not operate without complementary Commonwealth legislation having been passed, so as to establish at least in these days of compulsion conditions similar to those applying at Commonwealth elections.

Mr. McRAE (Playford): I give my unreserved support to this Bill. In seeking to reduce, as it does, the age of entitlement to vote from 21 years to 18 years, the Bill is one of the most important pieces of social legislation to come before an Australian Parliament in our generation. The granting of the right to vote at an earlier age not only seems to illustrate that today's young people are more mature, responsible and well educated than their counterparts in any previous generation. I see it as far more than an acknowledgment of that obvious fact: I see it as one of the factors that may help solve one of the greatest problems of our society—the gap between the old and the new generations.

Unfortunately, the stage has been reached where the new generation finds itself so disillusioned with the structure of our society that it is prepared to abandon it completely. In some cases this situation becomes so extreme that these people have dropped out of our society and created their own society based on self-interest and drugs. They base their thinking on absolute demands and they refuse to compromise and even sometimes to discuss their demands. This attitude brings with it an equally inflexible attitude from society, which responds with mass confrontation, physical attacks by private citizens, and rhetorical attacks from public officials. Both these attitudes are extreme and irrational, and can produce no good for our society. The difficulty is that neither side is prepared to consider change often enough; neither side is prepared to sit down and discuss the problems as they ought to be discussed.

It must be noted that so many people seem to have lost faith in the capacity of our system to change. Unfortunately, neither side seems to be dedicated to reason as a method of solving problems. This situation would perhaps have been considered by our predecessors as an amazing, if not an impossible situation. Our parents and grandparents thought that, by changing the distribution of wealth in the community and by providing a better education for all, they would cause the problems of society inevitably to vanish. In fact, however, the reverse has occurred. The tremendous

increase in material prosperity and the tremendous upsurge in education in Australia have brought problems that our forebears would never have understood. There can be no doubt that throughout the Western world the whole of society has seen an enormous increase in material prosperity and that the average Australian lives under material conditions that could not even have been imagined by his grandparents.

In terms of education, there seems to be little doubt that the boy and girl of 18 years today are at least two years more self-confident, sophisticated and educated than were their counterparts of 10 years or 15 years ago. In that short period scientific and intellectual advances have been staggering. Man has reached the moon and is now exploring the planets; our mathematics and physics have expanded to include concepts never known before; and our understanding of ourselves and of our surroundings is so great in intellectual terms that any previous generation must seem primitive by comparison.

In the face of all this, and while these advances have been made, we do not seem to have made people any happier than they were before. On the contrary, people are confused, bewildered, full of doubts and sometimes despairing in the face of all this accumulated new knowledge. The faith and hope that was previously supplied by religion have been severely shaken, as religion itself tries to adjust to the discoveries of the twentieth century. So, while we have found a new world of knowledge in this new world of material advantage, we have also discovered alarming personal problems going hand in hand with it. I have no doubt, however, that these problems can be solved. Given the right method, the same human mind that has cured so many diseases, landed man on the moon, and eliminated hunger throughout so many parts of the world, can also achieve a fair solution of the problems that concern us and so give us every reasonable hope for the future. In order to achieve this, however, every person in our society must understand that he lives in a new age, and anyone who hides his head in the sand and does not recognize this cannot hope to succeed in solving this problem so commonly called the generation gap. Some weeks ago in Adelaide we had evidence of the problems of which I have been speaking. Anyone who saw the moratorium march and the disturbance that followed it must have left the city that evening sick at heart.

Mr. Gunn: Who condoned it?

Mr. McRAE: A person could only be sick at heart at the sight of hundreds of young people, emotionally frustrated at what they thought was the senseless and continuing mass murder in Vietnam, combined with the insensitivity of people like the member for Eyre, who is not prepared to acknowledge that young people are sensitive in this area. I can see the honourable member's point of view: it is typical of his general backwoodsman outlook on most social problems. However, what horrifies me is the fact that—

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I rise on a point of order, Sir.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Ryan): Order! What is the honourable member's point of order?

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I understand that discussion of the moratorium is *sub judice*, in view of the appointment of the Royal Commission to inquire into it.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: I point out to the member for Playford that the House is dealing with a Bill concerning the adult franchise, and I should be pleased if he would confine his remarks to the Bill.

Mr. McRAE: I certainly intend to confine my remarks to the Bill. I take it, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, that your ruling on the point of order is that I may not refer to the moratorium?

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any direct reference to the moratorium at this stage must be prohibited, as the matter is *sub judice*.

Mr. McRAE: I will refrain from referring to the moratorium but I will refer to the problem of people in our society in relation to the war in Vietnam. Many of our young people regard the war in Vietnam as a continuing mass murder and they feel frustrated because the older generation is so insensitive to the bloodshed that is going on up there. I agree that there are considerable arguments that can be put as to the validity or otherwise of the Vietnam war.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I take a point of order, Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. You have often called members to order for discussing matters that have no connection with the Bill being discussed, and I respectfully suggest that the member for Playford, in discussing the war in Vietnam, is—

Members interjecting:

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Mitcham is taking a point of order and must be heard in silence. Members must cease interjecting.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My point is that the matters being discussed by the member for Playford are entirely irrelevant to the subject matter of the Bill and, unless the debate in this place is to be waged interminably on every Bill we debate, he should stick to the subject.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member for Playford must link his remarks to the contents of the Bill.

Mr. McRAE: The remarks which I am making are very much concerned with this Bill, but I have been struggling against constant disorderly interruptions from the other side. I have been struggling to make the point that this Bill will enable the people of our younger generation, who are tending to drop out of our society, to become a part of it. Therefore, it seems to me that I can discuss one of the great problems that affect people of this age group, and that is why I referred to the war in Vietnam. It was only the disorderly interruptions of members opposite that caused the subject to become so heated. All I am saying is that the people in that age group consider the war to be particularly vicious.

Mr. Gunn: What is the reason—

Mr. McRAE: If the member for Eyre would cease his disorderly interruptions he would be able to grasp my point and see that one can take various points of view as to the validity or otherwise of the war in Vietnam, but the point of view of the younger generation is that there should be no war at all. They are concerned that there is this continual bloodshed going on no matter whether the Americans are right or the South Vietnamese are right or whoever is right; it is this revulsion at the thought of continual bloodshed. Combined with that is the insensitivity of the older generation that takes for granted that we must have wars and will continue to have them. That is the only point that I wanted to make. I did not want to start a discussion on the rights or wrongs of any party in Vietnam.

People in this younger generation who feel so strongly about the issue of war generally are also in a dangerous position, because they can be exploited by dangerous left-wing elements. The left wing is just as dangerous as the right wing, and I was sorry that so many of our young people involved in protests against the war in Vietnam were manipulated by extreme left-wing elements, Peking Communists, and the like.

Two extreme points of view are being pursued by our younger generation. One is the

left-wing, Communist-thinking view that is becoming favourable, even though the numbers supporting it may be few. The view is expressed that society is so hopelessly corrupt that one should drop out of it. The other view is the extreme right-wing view we hear expressed in another place so often, namely, the view that believes in complete opposition to change and a determination to continue the old order of things, without getting down to a rational analysis of whether change is needed. That sort of view is represented by those who condemn a person, for example, for having long hair, without considering that the hair is attached to a human being.

This serious position has split families, and no member would not know of a family in which this sort of thing had happened. I have been dealing with the large percentage of our young people who are willing to drop out of our society as we know it or have dropped out. This Bill, in giving a say to this part of the new generation in the conduct of the society in which they live, may be the sort of realism and tolerance that can lead young people to accept responsibility and become a true part of our society.

In introducing the Bill, the Government has shown its confidence in our youth and this can produce a renewed confidence by our youth in our society. In my opinion, reason should be used to solve our problems. It is easy to live by slogans, particularly if the slogans are violent and emotional. It is easy to let our emotions go and let our minds go to sleep. Little is to be gained by shouting slogans at one another, but everything can be achieved by asking the right question in the right frame of mind.

The other principle of tolerance, I consider, is more important. Intolerance will lead only to repression by one side and revolution by the other, and we in Australia do not want to experience the hatred that exists elsewhere and the violence, bloodshed, and bodies in the street, which have become almost commonplace in the United States. The frightening thing is that, if we compared our society with any other modern society, we would compare it with the United States. We do not want our police to become an army or a militia. We do not want the sniper's bullet to become commonplace and we do not want violence from the youth bringing violence from the police to repress it.

We do not need to be dominated by fear, but we can be led by confidence. I am well aware that I have been referring in detail to

that section of our youth that has become completely disillusioned. In my opinion, that section is much larger than is commonly thought, but it is not a majority. Nevertheless, members may well consider just how large this section has become. To the majority of our youth, this Bill will be an acknowledgment of their importance and will give them an opportunity to participate in our society. Whereas the minority is so disillusioned that it can demonstrate its frustration only by dropping out, the majority suffers from an apathy that needs to be remedied.

Most of our youth take the view that, in our Parliamentary society, we say many good things but do not put them into practice. I hope that, by this Bill, the people of this generation, those in the minority as well as those in the majority, will be given an opportunity to gain renewed confidence in the system of Parliamentary democracy. I know that this Bill is linked with the Bill to reduce the age of majority, and it is extremely important that, when rights are given, corresponding responsibilities are imposed. In my experience in the practice of the law, it seems that the modern generation between 18 and 21 years of age is probably more confident and more competent than elders when dealing with contractual and other problems. I do not doubt that these people will be able to accept the responsibility imposed on them at the same time as rights are given to them.

I am convinced that, by giving our young people responsibility in law in the same way as those over 21 years have been given it, as well as by giving these young people the right to vote, we will integrate a whole new generation into our society in a realistic way. I have mentioned that we are dealing with the best-educated generation in our history. It is also the best-educated generation in one of the world's most affluent countries. I do not think that this generation will be much persuaded by dogmas and rigid philosophies.

Some people consider that political advantage will be gained from this Bill by one Party or another, but I do not think that is correct. I think that the political Parties will be on their toes if this Bill passes and the vote is given to persons between 18 years and 21 years. I do not think that there is any guarantee about which way these persons will vote. I am certain that they will not be persuaded by loud dogmas and worn-out philosophies or by who says something: they will be persuaded by the merits of what is

said. I think the trend will be for people in this generation to lean towards a pragmatic view of matters and solve problems as they arise. I think they will lean more on philosophies that set out to show that solutions can be provided for all things for all time.

The Leader, in supporting the principle in the Bill, foreshadowed an amendment. His point was that this State should not introduce this Bill, because others have not done so. I can only say that someone has to start the ball rolling. That other States or the Commonwealth have not taken action does not seem to me to be any valid reason for stopping us from proceeding. I think that our proceeding in this way may well precipitate action in other States. It seems to me that it is generally acknowledged by those who have considered the problem that the granting of the right to vote at this stage is a step that is most urgent and necessary, and I congratulate the Government on proceeding with the matter.

Mr. HOPGOOD: Someone has to give a lead.

Mr. McRAE: That is so, and I hope this lead will result in speedy action by others.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): The member for Playford flatters himself if he at his stage and age of life identifies himself with young people, as I thought for a while he was attempting to do.

Mr. McRAE: I was not doing that.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am glad to know that he does not, because I do not think that he, with his outlook, and so on, can be identified with young people. I support the Bill, and I support the remarks of the Leader, but I do not agree with many of the points made by the member for Playford. I cannot believe that a reduction in the age of voting from 21 years to 18 years will have all the beneficial effects that the honourable member suggests it will have. I fear that the widespread disillusion with the institution of Parliament is due not to people of that age being deprived, so far, of a chance to take part in choosing members of Parliament but, rather—

Mr. JENNINGS: It is the actions of blokes like you, who make a circus of it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The member for Ross Smith makes a personal interjection, but he pin-points what I was going to say. I am afraid that the real reason for the disillusion with Parliament is the pretty low standard that people outside see when they come not necessarily to this Parliament alone but to many Parliaments (in fact, all Parliaments throughout the Western world). I believe that the

standard is rather higher than it appears to be, but the important thing is what people see when they come here and how they, as strangers to this place, interpret it. The remedy for this lies with us in South Australia and with our fellow Parliamentarians in other States and in the Commonwealth sphere, and I do not really think this legislation is the big step that the member for Playford says it is.

There are two reasons why I support this Bill and why for a long time I have supported a reduction in the age from 21 years to 18 years. The first and immediate reason is that, despite what the member for Playford has just said (and he was backed up by the member for Mawson by interjection), South Australia is not taking a lead in this matter. The Attorney-General, in his second reading explanation, has made it perfectly clear that all the States and the Commonwealth have agreed that the reduction be made, and it was announced some months ago by the Prime Minister that the reduction would be made by the time of the next election. By that, he apparently meant the next House of Representatives election. It would be quite foolish for South Australia to stay out once the decision had been made by our sister States and by the Commonwealth to reduce the age. Conversely, it would be foolish, I believe, for us to go ahead on our own—

The Hon. L. J. King: Why?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: —and that is why I intend to support the amendment. The Attorney-General knows that the Bill, in any case, is to come into operation on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

The Hon. L. J. King: What is wrong with our going ahead now?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It would lead to confusion.

Mr. JENNINGS: Do you think the same would apply to any other State?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes; if one State goes ahead and the Commonwealth does not, the same would apply in that State. The confusion is not between State and State but between State and Commonwealth, because the same people are voting at both elections, and that is where the confusion would arise. Although I cannot canvass the Leader's amendment, I believe that we should not bring our Act into operation until the Commonwealth Government takes the same step, in order to avoid confusion in South Australia. However, that is the first reason why I support the Bill—because everyone else in Australia is taking

this action. The age is being reduced to 18, and it would be utterly illogical for us to hold back or to adopt any other age. But, much more fundamentally, I have supported this proposal for a long time because, frankly, I can see no arguments against reducing the age from 21 years to 18 years, except an instinctive resistance to change which I hope I do not have.

Mr. Jennings: You're a Reformist!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Well, I hope that I am open to new ideas and to accepting new ideas as they come.

Mr. Jennings: I haven't noticed it.

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are out of order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It is strange to hear the member for Ross Smith say that, because he belongs to a political Party which is the most conservative in Australia, and he is one of its most conservative members. However, that is by the by. This is happening everywhere: it has happened already in the United Kingdom, and on this point I agree with the member for Playford. I do not believe that necessarily any one Party will gain an advantage through the enfranchisement of those between 18 years and 21 years. I guess there are those in both Parties who believe that it will be either an advantage or a disadvantage to them, but I cannot see this. All I have pointed out to some of my friends is that, apparently, in the United Kingdom the fact that people of this age voted for the first time in the recent general election there had a beneficial effect on the result, and there is no reason to think that the same thing will not happen here in Australia.

Mr. Hopgood: The flappers did the right thing by Ramsay MacDonald.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The honourable member refers to the flapper vote in 1928.

Mr. Hopgood: In 1929.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I thought it was 1928. I do not know whether he makes the interjection to reinforce the point I make or to contradict it. However, he can speak for himself on this.

The SPEAKER: Interjections are out of order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It is happening in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America but, most important of all, it is happening in Australia, and that is why we must come in, too. This Bill merely gives an entitlement to people to vote: it does not make voting compulsory or decide the question whether a vote shall be compulsory or volun-

tary. I am inclined to favour a voluntary vote, but the amendment to the Constitution Act that we are now debating merely gives an entitlement to those of at least the age of 18 years to be enrolled and to vote.

There is one other matter in the Bill which I support and which I do not think has been referred to this afternoon: that is the matter concerning clergymen (priests and ministers of religion). This provision should have been inserted some time ago, and I must make one of those confessions of error that we all must make from time to time. The provision should have been in the Bill that amended the Constitution at the time of the redistribution of House of Assembly districts, but I forgot to include it. It was meant to be there. It had been in a previous Bill which had got lost here, there or somewhere in between. I am glad it has been included this time because there is no reason of which I know why priests and other ministers of religion should not sit as members of Parliament. Indeed, only this week I received some material from the Conservative Party in Great Britain in which I saw that in the United Kingdom Parliament there is a Church of England clergyman who is not only in Holy Orders but who is also a retired naval commander, and a Lord to boot.

Mr. Jennings: Most Lords should be booted.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: That shows the traditionalist attitude of the member for Ross Smith and illustrates what I have said earlier about his conservatism. That was the traditional policy and outlook of the Labor Party at least 50 years ago, and I should have hoped it had got over that by now. The Attorney-General said that his staff had not been able to give reasons why ministers of religion had been precluded in the past. My suggestion is that the insistence in the early days of this colony on the separation of church and State probably caused this provision to be written into the Constitution.

The Hon. L. J. King: Actually the issues were dissatisfaction with the Legislative Council and State aid. Times do not change.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Perhaps not. Whether there was any reason for this in the last century, I do not know, but there is certainly no reason for it now. I am glad that this change is being made and I look forward to seeing some replacements in this House and the appearance here of those of the cloth. I will show my impartiality by saying that their presence could be a steadying influence to both sides.

Mr. CRIMES (Spence): It is fitting that a Government that has broken ground in so many ways should be introducing this Bill to include younger people in the State electoral process. I do not think anyone can deny that young people these days mature much earlier than young people matured some considerable time ago. The fact that they marry earlier has been proved by the population growth, and they accept many responsibilities (financial, industrial and so on) at a much earlier age than was the case previously. These people must obey laws on the making of which they have no say. I believe they will have a far greater regard for the Parliamentary process if they are brought into this process at an earlier age than they have been in the past.

As has been shown fairly plainly by the member for Playford, many young people do much thinking about what is taking place around them domestically and internationally. Unfortunately, there is evidence that many young people do not have much respect for our Parliamentary institution. When members bring children from various schools to the House, they try to instil into these young people some regard for the importance of the State Parliament; often members also refer to the importance of the Commonwealth Parliament. Although youngsters learn through this means something about the Parliamentary processes and possibly have some regard for them during the time they are at school, a gap occurs between the time at which they gain knowledge of Parliamentary institutions and the time at which they begin to think about the problems surrounding them. Undoubtedly they think about these problems most when they enter industry, get married and have the responsibility of raising a family. Perhaps one reason why they are so cynical about Parliamentary institutions is that they believe that they are not involved in those institutions in any way. The only way to do something about that is to involve them, and this can be done only by passing Bills such as this.

There is not only a lack of respect towards the Parliamentary institutions: there is also much lack of respect towards members of Parliament. I believe that much of the responsibility for this lack of respect lies with the newspapers of this country, whose unfortunate habit is to pick out so-called sensational events in Parliament, such as wild assertions that may be made by members, Leaders of Parties and so on, and headline these statements, while doing little to report the con-

structive business done in Parliament. In this connection, I refer to the manner in which the press treats the United Nations, that great international organization that does much for the welfare of the people of the world. However, its work seems to hit the headlines only when there is a serious quarrel among the major countries of the world.

Mr. Coumbe: The press publishes plenty of your letters.

Mr. CRIMES: Yes, and this is probably done because of the quality of those letters. We have heard that many young people do much thinking, but it does not extend to thinking about tactics to bring about changes in our society. The member for Playford also referred to this matter. These young people want some alternative means of governing and administering the affairs of the State and country. Goodness knows what they envisage in place of politicians to handle those affairs. It seems to me that these people must be given some appreciation of the work of the Parliamentary representatives in the community. I say that entirely on a non-Party basis, for I think that all members of Parliament try to do their best for constituents who bring problems before them.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ross Smith is out of order in standing with his back to the Speaker.

Mr. CRIMES: Of course, when there are philosophical or ideological differences between the two sides in Parliament, that is another matter entirely, and tempers and feelings often flare. As has been said, visitors to Parliament frequently get a very low opinion of the dignity of the institution because of what they think is undignified behaviour by many members. This is a democratic process and, because many members carry out duties on behalf of their constituents, they bring work into the House, but it appears to the onlooker that they are not paying attention to the debates. The onlookers do not realize that everything is taken down by the worthy people who record our words, and we therefore have an opportunity to study at leisure what other members have said. In addition to providing what is in this Bill, we should do our utmost to educate all people, young people in particular, about the way Parliament has to work.

The lack of dignity that occasionally is seen in Parliament is part of a process that is highly admirable. It would be a good thing if we could sit on the benches like automatons and show no passion or emotion when something was said by an opponent that aroused our

feelings. However, we are human beings, no matter how we are depicted in newspapers and other forms of mass media.

Mr. Coumbe: You are not referring to the colour of shirts worn by members?

Mr. CRIMES: No, but I am in favour of brightening up Parliament. We are discussing introducing a lower age of voting for Parliamentary candidates, and I am sure young people will be far more impressed by those who show a little colour in their dress than by those who dress in the old black conservative garb that has been so readily adhered to in past Parliaments. We believe in freedom of attire on this side as well as freedom of opinion. In addition to the dissenting meetings and marches which from time to time are advocated and carried out by young people in the community, these people should realize that whilst they occupy themselves in this way they can also add to their non-violent demonstrations by going to the ballot box and doing something about their aims by voting for people who represent the new kind of society that they consider should operate.

It is not only the long-hairs, who have been referred to, who are cynical towards our way of life and its representation by the current Parliamentary institutions but also many young people in the workshops. I have been a union official and, having moved among apprentices and other young workers, I have found that there is much questioning about the efficacy of Parliamentary institutions. Whilst one can tell them what work is being done by political Parties, that will not mean much to them as long as they are not involved in the process that assists these institutions to carry out their work. It is essential that we reduce the voting age and bring those people into the political maelstrom of the State and later, I hope, of the Commonwealth.

We are breaking new ground with this legislation, and with many other Bills that have been and are to be introduced. We are the first in this field, as we have been and will be in many other fields. No valid argument can be raised against someone taking the lead: someone has to do it. There may be a question of whether the voting age should be reduced to 18 years, 19 years or 20 years, but we have to start somewhere, and 18 years is, in any case, a popular age for doing this and one which is truly validated by the fact that people of 18 years are assuming responsibilities that years ago people of 21 years of age and over were not taking upon themselves.

I accept wholeheartedly the other provision in the Bill referred to by the member for Mitcham (and I am pleased that he referred to it), because I see no reason why clergymen, priests, or representatives of churches and religions should not be permitted to enter Parliament. These people have much knowledge of the human problems of individuals in the community and the problems of special groups within the community (particularly those who are poverty-stricken and pensioners), and it is right that they should have access, provided that they receive the necessary electoral support, to the Parliament of the State and, I hope, later to the Parliament of the Commonwealth, where they can voice the problems of these people and urge that something be done about them in a humanitarian way. I particularly support this part of the Bill, because during the last 10 years or 15 years there has been a considerable and radical awakening by many men of the church. Whereas at one time they seemed to confine their religion to pointing upwards towards heaven, now they consider the real problems that attack people in this country and throughout the world.

We see them considering war and other international problems, dealing with social problems, and urging that something be done. We see them interested in industrial welfare, and we realize that they are concerned with that almost forgotten race, the Australian Aborigines. If we consider that clergymen should not be allowed access to Parliament through the electoral processes, we are doing much harm to that institution by denying it the knowledge that these people have of human, social and national problems. As members will understand from what I have said, I fully support this Bill.

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg): I, too, support this Bill, which gives young people the privilege of voting. However, I have certain reservations. I refer to an article in the *Canberra Times* of April 23, which states:

The question of lowering the age of majority from 21 years to 18 years for voting, marriage, making contracts, and most other purposes is more one of when rather than if. Last year the number of political groups which supported the principle left little doubt that it would be incorporated in legislation throughout Australia within the next two or three years.

The recent history of the movement is illuminating. The Labor Party in the Federal Parliament and the South Australian, Victorian,

Western Australian, and Queensland Parliaments introduced Bills without success, but the comments made by Government spokesmen at the time were clearly sympathetic. The Labor Party in New South Wales also has taken action to lower the age of majority and the Labor Premier of Tasmania raised the subject of voting age at a Premier's Conference, which referred the matter to the Standing Committee of Commonwealth and State Attorneys-General. In October, the Federal Council of the Liberal Party adopted a resolution in favour of lowering the voting age but did not specify to what age level.

Both the main Parties seem generally to support this move, and there is no doubt that young people of 18 years to 20 years of age are more highly educated and worldly wise than were their grandparents and, in many cases, their parents at that age. One reason for this is that they have grown up in a world in which television is commonplace. Its vision is far more compelling than is reading, and this gives them every opportunity to understand the world about them and stimulates their interest in politics. These people can join the Army or Navy; they are allowed to drive a motor vehicle and to fly aircraft; and they can even fly balloons. When one thinks along these lines, therefore, it is difficult for one to deny these young people the right to vote. If he is under 21, a serviceman serving in a theatre of war has the right to vote. Indeed, my son, who served in Vietnam in these circumstances, was able to vote. Although I do not know which Party he voted for, I have a fair idea.

A former Prime Minister of England, Pitt the Younger, was elected to the House of Commons in 1781 at the age of 22 years; in 1782 he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer when 23 years of age; and at the age of 24 he became Prime Minister of England. In the present circumstances he may not even have had a vote and would not, of course, have become Prime Minister. In my opinion voting should be voluntary, and in the legislation the House is to consider later there is an amendment in this respect on which I will speak.

For obvious reasons, I support the Bill with the reservations I have stated. It can probably be said that this is voluntary enrolment, as the Bill provides to that effect. However, anyone who enrolls will be compelled to vote,

as a result of which any person who has his name on the roll because he might want to vote later on, if not at the age of 18 years, will be compelled to vote, anyway. In his second reading explanation, the Attorney-General said (at page 1947 of *Hansard*):

Therefore, the principle that the right to vote should be conferred on people at the age of 18 years has now won recognition throughout the Commonwealth of Australia and, indeed, is spreading very rapidly through the whole of the Western democratic world.

I remind members that all countries in the democratic world that have voting at 18 years or 20 years have voluntary voting, except one, which could hardly be regarded as a democratic country. I refer to Russia, which allows its minors to vote when they are 17 years or 18 years.

Mr. Evans: They don't have much choice.

Mr. MATHWIN: That is right, because they have only one Party and one candidate for whom to vote. Heaven help them if they don't vote! I agree with the conclusions contained in the age of majority report, which was considered in Britain before it decided what it would do in this respect. At page 71 of that report the following appears:

For we feel extremely strongly that to keep responsibility from those who are ready and able to take it on is much more likely to make them irresponsible than to help them.

That is indeed true and, with those thoughts in mind, I still consider that voting should be voluntary for these people. I agree with that part of the Bill which enables clergymen to stand for Parliament. I know that we have many able men of the cloth who would make fine and excellent politicians, one of whom I know, a great orator, would be an asset to this or any Parliament.

Mr. SLATER secured the adjournment of the debate.

INDUSTRIAL CODE AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

HIGHWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council with an amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.29 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 24, at 2 p.m.