

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, July 29, 1971

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

QUESTIONS

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. MILLHOUSE: When does the Minister for Conservation expect to receive the report of the Committee on Environment in South Australia? The former Liberal and Country League Government set up a committee, under the chairmanship of Professor Jordan, to inquire into all aspects of environment, conservation, and so on, because this was considered the most satisfactory way of proceeding. That committee had been set up when we went out of office and, I presume, it has continued its inquiries. I notice that several times the present Government has made decisions and has announced plans on various points, and so on, apparently without reference to this committee and without waiting for its report.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is commenting.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: As this is an important matter, one could expect that the report would be a most valuable one which should be a guide to the Government and, I expect, to the whole community, I ask the question of the Minister in the expectation that when the report is received it will be made available to members and to the community generally.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: True, the committee was set up about 12 months ago to consider all aspects of the environment. However, as a result of the election and the change in Government, and because of the added interest in conservation of the environment, many additional submissions were placed before the committee. Therefore, it has only recently completed the taking of evidence from people who wanted to make submissions to it. The committee is working on its final report, and I hope that it will be concluded before the end of this year. Although we are all anxious to see the recommendations in that report, I am sure the honourable member would appreciate that decisions of the kind that this committee will be required to make cannot be rushed. True, since the new Ministry has been established, several important announcements have been made concerning conservation and, in this regard, the committee has been constantly consulted and on some occasions asked to

provide us with an interim report on certain matters of vital interest. Indeed, I have taken every opportunity to consult with the committee on matters of widespread interest. I hope the report will be available before the end of this year.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Will the Minister say what are the additional matters to which he has referred? I recall that, when this committee was set up by the previous Government, no previous committee of inquiry had required more consideration, preparation and discussion within the Government in order to establish terms of reference that would cover all possible exigencies relating to environmental problems. I know that the previous Government went to considerable trouble to see that it had a committee of the highest possible quality, and I think this was achieved. The Government having obtained a highly-qualified committee, and having given it terms of reference that it thought would cover everything that the committee could possibly wish to examine, I am surprised to learn that additional matters have arisen. I should like to know what those additional matters are. Are they merely organizational matters referring to Government departments and to legislation? If they are, this is not necessarily the best committee to consider such matters. Obviously, the Public Service Board and officers within the Public Service could give good advice on those matters. I understand that the environment committee was set up to deal at the highest possible level with various environmental and conservation problems and that it was not set up simply to deal with organizational matters.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I think the honourable member has summarized the position clearly. I replied to the member for Mitcham that, as a result of the greater public interest in the field of conservation and environment that has occurred especially over the last 12 months, many people had sought the opportunity to give evidence to the committee. As a result of this, the committee has been required to spend a considerable time in taking evidence from these people. This was the reason I gave for the report not having been received earlier.

POWER BOATS

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Minister for Conservation consider introducing legislation to control the emissions from powered pleasure craft? The English language newspaper *Japan Times* of May 25 last contains an article that

states that up to 30 per cent of the fuel used in outboard motors actually is spewed into the water, and it refers to tests taken by a Dr. William Shuster, from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. These tests were taken with two engines, one of 33 h.p. and the other of 5 h.p. Research was carried out in a swimming pool 18ft. long and 4ft. deep. That research showed that at low speeds up to 30 per cent of the fuel was actually spewed into the water. Paragraph 20 of His Excellency's Speech states:

Legislation will be introduced for the control of powered pleasure craft.

When that legislation is being introduced will be a good time to consider the mess made by these vessels.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I have seen the article referred to by the honourable member and I have arranged discussions on this matter, particularly with the Minister of Marine. Because of the growing number of pleasure craft in this State, particularly those using the Murray River, this matter needs examining now. I shall be pleased to inform the honourable member of the results of our discussions and of any action that we believe needs to be taken.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

Mr. COUNBE: Can the Minister of Labour and Industry say whether the Government is taking any action in connection with the latest strike in South Australia—this time at the Uniroyal factory? The Minister is no doubt aware of what led to that dispute. Union members and employees in allied trades, through no fault of their own, are being stood down and, consequently, workers and their wives and families are suffering hardship. Is the Government acting in any way, besides watching the position, to terminate or resolve the dispute?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: Yes. As a result of negotiations yesterday between the Government and the parties involved in the dispute, a conference, which commenced at 1.45 p.m., is now taking place in an attempt to resolve the dispute. At the conference are representatives of Uniroyal and the union, and I believe that representatives of the Chamber of Manufacturers, acting on behalf of the company, are also there.

MODBURY FREEWAY

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport report on the proposed Modbury Freeway, particularly that part of the freeway near the Hope Valley reservoir and

Willowbrook Road, Holden Hill and Salisbury Heights?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The route of the Modbury corridor has now been reviewed in detail and a revised alignment has now been determined. The revised alignment follows the alignment recommended by the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study to Milne Road, and then deviates to follow the route about one-quarter of a mile west of the study alignment, joining the Main North Road near the Little Para River. In determining the revised alignment from Milne Road to the Main North Road through Salisbury Heights, use was made of additional topographical data not available at the time of the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study. The revised alignment affords improved access from the developing areas to the west, creates less disturbance to existing development, and provides a much better opportunity for the corridor to be blended into the hills face by landscaping. This route has been determined following consultation by the Highways Department with the Corporations of Tea Tree Gully and Salisbury and the District Council of Munno Para.

With respect to the alternative alignment at Holden Hill which is in close proximity to the Hope Valley reservoir, it was investigated with a view to minimizing property disturbance in that area. The proposed alternative was unacceptable to the Engineering and Water Supply Department as it would have created a threat to the purity of the water supply.

ROAD HAZARD

Mr. EVANS: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport negotiate with the Road Traffic Board and the Highways Department to have the hazard at the junction of Mount Osmond Road and the South-Eastern Freeway removed? When people turn out of Mount Osmond Road and cross in front of upward-bound traffic from the city possibly, by law, the traffic proceeding from the city on the main highway would have the right of way over traffic from Mount Osmond Road. When cars from Mount Osmond Road reach the centre island of the freeway and wish to join the city-bound traffic, doubts arise as to who has right of way, and a serious situation occurs. I believe this problem could be solved by having "give way" signs erected so that motorists leaving Mount Osmond Road would have to give way at all times to city-bound traffic. Will the Minister refer the matter to the appropriate authority?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will refer the matter to the Road Traffic Board and obtain its report for the honourable member.

ROAD SIGNS

Mr. PAYNE: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether, under sections 15 and 16 of the Road Traffic Act, the Road Traffic Board has no real power to make binding specifications with regard to road traffic control signs in South Australia, and whether the Government is considering amending these sections?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Road Traffic Board has, with much success, pursued a policy of providing uniform signs. I think that it is fair to say that there is doubt about the legality of some signs, as has been shown adequately by the fact that the challenges to prosecute persistent breaches of parking regulations have not been taken up. As I think this matter may involve a legal interpretation, I will have it examined and bring down a report.

DOG REGISTRATION

Mr. RODDA: Will the Minister of Labour and Industry see to it that no opportunity is lost to South Australian labour and industries when tenders are called? Yesterday I received from the Minister of Local Government a reply about dog registration medals in which the Minister said that a tender had been let by the Supply and Tender Board for the production of these medals but that there were no takers from South Australia. The result is that councils throughout the State have incurred much expense and ratepayers have been greatly inconvenienced by the non-availability of medals. This situation arose because the Victorian firm that is making the medals did not know that the area to be served was so large. Perhaps action by the Department of Labour and Industry can alleviate the position, keep money in South Australia, and minimize the embarrassment of the Minister of Local Government.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: It is a question of an old dog for a hard road, and puppies on the footpath. I will take up the matter with the department and bring down a report as soon as possible.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister of Education say what steps are being taken to educate young people in secondary schools about the nature of venereal disease, and does he think that these present steps are adequate? Although

the published figures for this disease in South Australia are still well below the Australian average, they show a great increase in this social problem in this State. The increase has been especially marked amongst teenagers and the under-30 group. As with most other things, in this case prevention is better than cure and young people must be told about the nature of this disease.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will get a report for the honourable member.

GOVERNMENT PRODUCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. CARNIE: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture when he expects to receive the report of the committee of inquiry set up to examine the operations of the Government Produce Department? On March 2, the Minister told the House that this committee had been appointed and that it would place special emphasis on the functioning of the Port Lincoln office of the department.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will inquire of my colleague.

PARINGA PARK SCHOOL

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked recently regarding the Paringa Park Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The conversion of a dual timber building at Paringa Park Primary School to a general purpose room will be undertaken during August this year.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the fact that applications for the positions of Senior Lecturer and Lecturer at Roseworthy Agricultural College have been invited by the Agricultural College Department means that the control of that institution is to remain under the authoritative control of the Minister of Agriculture? The Sweeney report, which has been referred to previously, indicates that Roseworthy Agricultural College is one of the institutions that should be advanced to college of advanced education status. The advertisement suggests that the recommendations of the Sweeney report are being implemented and that there is a restructuring of the Senior Lecturer and Lecturer salary range, but there is no indication that the total restructuring that would be required at that institution is to be carried out. For instance, in the South Australian *Government Gazette*

of April 15, the salary of the Principal was indicated as being the same as for departmental heads, namely, \$13,350. Applications for the present positions at Roseworthy Agricultural College are to be sent to the Principal, and several questions arise about whether the Principal will be answerable to the Minister of Agriculture in future and whether the Principal's salary will be only as much above the salary of Senior Lecturer as is stated.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will inquire for the honourable member and let him know the outcome.

OATS

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question about oat marketing legislation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague has told me that every effort will be made to ensure that sufficient opportunity is given to all members to debate this legislation if they so desire.

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister obtained from his colleague a reply to my recent question about the legislation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that transactions of the nature referred to by the honourable member will be given careful consideration when legislation dealing with orderly marketing of oats is being drafted. Every effort will be made to ensure that merchants and growers who have entered into *bona fide* contracts for the purchase and sale of oats prior to the introduction of orderly marketing are not disadvantaged in the way indicated.

HOLDEN HILL SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked him on July 22 regarding the need for a sealed pathway at the Holden Hill Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is intended to provide a 6ft.-wide quarry rubble footpath from the Bentley Drive entrance to the Samcon building pavement at the Holden Hill Primary School. It is expected that the work will be carried out within the next fortnight.

NATURAL GAS

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of July 22 about legislation on natural gas?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The arrangement for the sale of natural gas to the Sydney market does not require enabling legislation.

The Petroleum Act provides for the granting of production licences for the express purpose of producing and selling hydrocarbons. A pipeline licence will be required from the Government for the portion of the line in South Australia. The same Act provides for the granting of such a licence.

NARACOOORTE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Will the Minister of Education obtain a detailed report on the progress of the contract that has been let for the construction of the shower block at the Naracoorte High School? I understand that the contract was let early this year to a Mr. Saunders, of Lucindale. Some weeks elapsed before the work could be commenced, and it is proceeding slowly. As the Minister may well know, the school has sports ovals and engages in extensive physical education, so it is important that the shower block be completed this spring.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall be pleased to obtain a report for the honourable member.

GLADSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Education reaffirm the understanding he gave the Gladstone High School Committee when he visited the school last year that it would have a Matriculation class for the commencement of the 1972 school year? When the Minister visited the school last year he said he hoped that it would have a new school, including a Matriculation class, for the commencement of 1972. For various reasons given by the Minister, however, there will be no new school in 1972, but the people are concerned that a Matriculation class be commenced next year.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Early next week I hope to be able to announce details of the new Matriculation classes that will apply for 1972 together with the internal fifth-year classes that will be added to the existing range of classes that are provided in schools.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Deputy Premier a reply to my question of July 27 about the qualifications of certain officers of the Public Service Board?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Fourteen members of the Public Service Board's investigating staff have academic qualifications—four university degrees, seven diplomas, and three certificates.

NORWOOD SCHOOLS

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Education considered representations made to him recently about the future use of the Norwood Boys Technical High School and, if he has, has any decision been made? With the increased enrolments at the Norwood High School and the marked decline in enrolments at the Kensington-Norwood Girls Technical High School and the Norwood Boys Technical High School, there is considerable disquiet amongst members of the council about the future of the school. It has been suggested that the co-ordination of the three schools would provide better use of all the facilities they offer, and this would be an important consideration in the light of the present problems confronting education.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I have previously said that we would consider the feasibility of upgrading the Norwood Boys Technical High School and establishing a fully comprehensive co-educational secondary school on that site, mainly for the purpose of securing a comprehensive and co-educational establishment in that area. We suspect, however, that it would involve the closing of the Norwood Girls Technical High School and using that facility as an adult education centre, and we do not believe that there would be any considerable relief (although there may be some) in respect of the problem of numbers at the Norwood High School. The Attorney-General has been concerned with this problem, because many of his constituents have children attending the Norwood High School; also, there is a need to relieve the numbers at Campbelltown. The main way this will be done will be for a new high school to be built at Rostrevor (in the Attorney's district) on land formerly owned by the Postmaster-General's Department in regard to which the Education Department has been successful in negotiating a transfer. It is intended to proceed with the building of that high school.

LITTLE PARA RIVER

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Will the Minister of Works say whether it has been decided to construct a reservoir on the Little Para River and, if it has not, when we can expect a decision to be made? I inquired earlier this year and at the end of last session about this, because some restrictions are being placed on people in the Paracombe, Houghton, Inglewood, and Hermitage district. From my approaches to the department, I understood that no decision had been made but that one

would be made mid-way through this year. Only this morning I was approached by a constituent who has a problem because of the restrictions placed on him as this area may become a future watershed.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No decision on this matter has been made as yet. However, I will ascertain what progress has been made by the department and if, as has been stated, a decision was expected towards the middle of this year and it is possible to make the decision quickly, that will be done and so relieve the uncertainty that is being experienced by the honourable member's constituent.

SCHOOL SUBSIDIES

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Education further information about the new subsidy scheme for schools that he recently announced? The Minister said that he intended to make grants to schools, generally on the basis of need, that these grants would be regulated, that schools which had not yet received subsidy payments would receive them before December 31, but that in future the scheme would operate on the calendar year. Can the Minister assure the House that, as a result of the new scheme, those schools (wherever they may be) which have collected much money through the energetic work of committees to purchase equipment of a substantial nature or to provide improvements for the school will in no way be penalized or lose the advantage that they have had in the past?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: First, it is a grants scheme; secondly, it is a grants scheme based on enrolments at each school. It makes an adjustment for the "free" scholars attending the school (that is, those that come under the secondary school "free" scholars arrangement), and it also makes a further adjustment for Aboriginal students. A further adjustment effectively means that the smaller school is looked after to some extent, as the formula for each school provides for a basic grant and a per capita grant. This financial year the Government will spend more in order to get the scheme started, and in the following financial year, when the scheme is operating fully, it will involve an allocation of \$750,000, compared to the expenditure of \$550,000 on Budget, and not Loan, subsidies in 1970-71. A substantial increase in expenditure will be involved in this scheme. The adoption of the formula we intend to use will mean that, although most schools will receive more

than they received under the old subsidy scheme, some schools will receive a little less. So, in reply to the question whether I will assure the House that all schools which had a special advantage under the old subsidy arrangements will retain that special advantage completely—

Mr. Coumbe: What if they have collected the money towards a project?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: What sort of project? If they have had subsidy money approved for 1970-71 but not allocated by June 30, 1971, because of the carry-over from year to year, a feature of the previous system, that money will be allocated. If they are collecting money now for a project for which they planned to apply for a subsidy, they will not receive any money in the form of a subsidy unless it is for a capital subsidy, such as one in respect of a swimming pool, hall or gymnasium. The money they will need from the Government from now on, apart from that carry-over effect to which I have referred, will be provided under the grant arrangement, and it will be up to the school committee to budget its income and expenditure for the calendar year 1972. That is the approach that will be adopted, and I hope that it is clear to the honourable member. Unless approval for subsidy is given prior to the end of the 1970-71 financial year, no further subsidy payment will be made, apart from those subsidy payments that are made out of Loan Account, where the department subsidizes the construction of a swimming pool, hall, canteen, or some other capital item.

Mr. SIMMONS: Can the Minister say whether, under the new system, schools will be able to accumulate grants that they wish to use for capital items, or must they spend the whole of the grant in one year? Sometimes, when schools want to buy a tractor or gang mower or some such item for their ovals, they cannot accumulate the necessary funds in any one year. They need to set aside a sum from one year's grant and add it to the next year's grant in order to purchase the capital item in the second year. The Victorian Education Department introduced a system whereby grants could be accumulated to give schools greater flexibility.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The new grants system will permit that to be done. Obviously, that is essential, because otherwise many schools would never be able to set aside the funds necessary to establish basketball courts or to buy a gang mower or some other capital item. In addition to giving schools

the right to carry over funds from one year to the next for capital purposes, it will be necessary to consider widening the range of capital items that are subsidized from Loan funds. It will be appreciated that, in addition to subsidy items met from the Budget, the department makes subsidy payments from the school building lines on a \$1 for \$1 basis for gymnasiums, swimming pools and halls. Also, there is an arrangement that facilitates the establishment of canteens. We are considering the possibility of extending the area to which the Loan subsidy scheme will apply.

OPAL MINING

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister for Conservation give people engaged in the opal-mining industry an opportunity to examine and comment on the new mining legislation before it is passed by this House? The mining legislation introduced last session caused great concern in the opal industry, some miners having been concerned that it would have a detrimental effect on the whole industry.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: Yes. The honourable member may not be aware that I have visited the opal fields and had discussions with representatives of the industry. Also, yesterday afternoon I met a deputation of opal miners and discussed with them the objects of the Bill. They seemed satisfied with the way the Government has handled this matter.

NURIOOTPA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Minister of Education say what stage planning has reached regarding a new high school at Nuriootpa?

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask honourable members in the back benches to refrain from talking when members are asking questions. It is entirely out of order, and it is most difficult for the *Hansard* reporters to record properly what members are saying. I will not continually be standing up and calling the members concerned to order. They must conduct themselves in a manner conducive to the satisfactory running of this House.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I asked a similar question at the beginning of last session, and the Minister was good enough to say then that the school was on the secondary schools priority list, which list I believe has to be considered together with the primary schools priority list. I have received from the Nuriootpa High School a fairly comprehensive list of needs, and I think most members have received a similar list from schools

in their district. An examination of this list indicates that many of the needs would be met if the school were accommodated in new premises. In view of the action taken in regard to similar lists sent to the Minister, I have not sent this list to him, but I repeat that I consider that many of the needs would be met if the new school were built soon. Therefore, can the Minister let me, as well as members of the school committee, know whether any progress has been made in this matter so that the construction of the new school may be expedited?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the position I stated last year to the honourable member was that the Nuriootpa High School project was on the schools referred list, which is a list of schools waiting to be put on the design list proper and, thus, to be submitted to the Public Buildings Department for design purposes. I think the Nuriootpa High School project is probably now on the design list. As the honourable member will appreciate, many schools throughout the State, especially in country areas, are in need of complete replacement, and it is clear that, if we proceed just on the basis of completely replacing one school before moving on to replacing other schools, it will be a long time before we get around to considering some of the schools that have special problems.

I think the honourable member will know that we have designed what is known as the Daws Road unit, incorporating certain facilities and open-space teaching areas. In addition, we have designed for the Norwood High School a building that will be constructed shortly, incorporating a Commonwealth standard library, a science laboratory, lecture theatre facilities, and a Matriculation centre. We are looking for places where these units can be introduced. Further, we have designed, and are having built for primary schools, four-teacher and six-teacher open-space units, and we consider that some of these units will be suitable for the purposes of lower-secondary work. As a consequence, we are looking towards developing a programme under which, while certain schools are being replaced *in toto* on an entirely new site, we undertake partial replacement work by introducing buildings incorporating the standardized plans. We believe that by operating in this way we can obtain a much greater spread of replacement expenditure over the whole State.

I think special consideration is being given to the Nuriootpa High School to erect a building which will provide a partial replace-

ment of facilities at that school but which will avoid the commitment of such funds that would lead either to the postponement of the project because of the heavy expenditure involved or to the postponement of projects in other secondary schools because of the heavy expenditure committed on the one school. As soon as I can give a detailed reply on precisely what is intended at Nuriootpa, I will see that the honourable member is informed.

ROSTREVOR SCHOOL

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister of Education say whether consideration has been given to utilizing the facilities that may be vacated by the Kensington and Norwood Girls Technical High School to serve the Rostrevor area, by providing a school bus service to and from that area? Adult education is important, but the Minister has frequently told members that the situation of general education is critical. For the time being, would it not be better to spend the money set aside for the proposed Rostrevor High School on additional teachers college facilities? A bus service goes in the opposite direction to St. Ignatius College at Athelstone, and I am sure the Minister will agree that that system works very well. The Minister will also agree that we must use in the best possible way the funds available for education.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I agree that we must make the best possible use of the funds available for education, and that is what we do, to the best of our ability. The Norwood Girls Technical High School has an accommodation capacity that would be very markedly below that required for the proposed Rostrevor High School. Our experience in country areas shows that the cost of transporting children from the area that the Rostrevor High School will serve to the Norwood Girls Technical High School would be considerable; if we made such an arrangement, no doubt we would be expected to bear part of the cost, which would recur annually. If we did that in one part of the metropolitan area we would be under pressure to do it in other parts. The additional funds needed could turn out to very considerable.

The department is already spending nearly \$2,000,000 a year on school bus transport; that expenditure is confined almost entirely to country areas. Our policy is to develop, where possible, co-educational comprehensive schools. Neither the Norwood Boys Technical High School nor the Norwood Girls Technical High School is

co-educational or comprehensive. A co-educational comprehensive school for that area would have to be on one of the two sites. That means that the combined enrolment at, say, Norwood Boys Technical High School would be equal to the sum of the existing enrolments at the Norwood Boys Technical High School and the Norwood Girls Technical High School. It seems to us, that, if the Norwood Girls Technical High School were established as a comprehensive school as well, we would still have to meet a fairly big building cost to upgrade those facilities.

Dr. Tonkin: Those costs would not be as great as the cost of a new school.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Not quite. However, we also have the problem that the Norwood Adult Education Centre is located in the middle of the Norwood Demonstration School. This creates serious problems for that school. It means, first, that the primary section of the school is separated from the infants section and, secondly, that we can make no provisions for any grassed area at the school. It has no oval facilities at all. There is a vital need for an adult education centre in the eastern suburbs. Adult education enrolments are increasing at a greater rate than are school enrolments. In the Brighton area, for example, where there is no actual adult education centre (school buildings are used), the school enrolment at the Brighton Boys Technical High School is 650, whereas evening enrolments at the adult education centre are over 1,000.

PADTHAWAY SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the Padthaway school?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The latest information in connection with the new school for Padthaway is that it is expected that tenders will be called in September, 1971, with an expected availability date of mid-1972.

PARINGA PARK LAND

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister of Education say whether the lease for the land owned by the Education Department for the proposed new Paringa Park school has been renewed? In reply to a question I asked on August 6, 1970, the Minister referred to a joint development plan by the Education Department and the Brighton City Council in which the playing areas for the new school could be developed and used by local organizations and local residents. The Minister continued:

Part of the land was made available on a six months' lease granted in March of this year to the Engineering and Water Supply Department. That lease terminates within the next two months.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will investigate the position and bring back a report for the honourable member.

CARRICK HILL VESTING BILL

Returned from Legislative Council without amendment.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from July 28. Page 455.)

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): I would have thought that, after the meeting held by the Opposition last night, their troubles would have been solved and that we would have in the House today a reasonable attendance of members. Obviously they have not been solved and the meetings that have been going on for the last two weeks in lobbies and behind closed doors are still proceeding. Government members in the past few days have witnessed a lot of games going on.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: An amazing spectacle!

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: A sorrowful spectacle, I would say: now we see them, now we don't! We have had the spectacle, unprecedented certainly during my period in this House, of Government members last night having the privilege and pleasure of a dining-room to themselves, and when we came back to the House we saw something else I have never seen—no-one in the House and only one member on the Opposition benches, and he would not have been there except that he had to speak. It would have been quite proper in those circumstances, except that a couple of members rushed in the door shortly afterwards, to draw your attention, Sir, to the state of the Opposition benches and to seek an adjournment of the House on the basis that Her Majesty's Opposition should be adequately represented in the Chamber at any time a debate is proceeding. Certainly this was not the case last night.

I say with all sincerity that I do not want to be unkind about the problems members opposite are experiencing. I know, and history tells us, that any political Party, whether it be a Conservative Party, a Labor Party, or any other, has its problems.

Mr. Goldsworthy: You have got yours.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member has brought to me the point I want to make. No-one gets pleasure from seeing a major political Party, such as is now in Opposition, in strife, but there is one reason why I do not believe members opposite should get away scot free, and that is that they derive (and they always have done) a great deal of pleasure from pointing to any of the alleged inadequacies occurring within the Party on this side of the House. They have always been utterly merciless in this respect. I say to honourable members opposite that it might not be a bad move, if they want to solve their problems, to hold their Party conferences in public and not, as they do at the moment, behind closed doors.

But let us examine some of the things that have been said. The Leader of the Opposition was approached after the meeting last night by members of the press. The meeting was held not in the precincts of this House but at 175 North Terrace. This is where the Liberal Party operates from, yet its members say they are never directed by outside interests! They are in here acting independently! Down they went, and the Party chiefs got out the whips. What a spectacle it would have been. I would love to have been a fly on the wall.

The press is naturally interested, particularly those members who frequent this House. Naturally, they, too, sensed that something was going on. It was not difficult to see. As was possibly their duty, they questioned the Leader of the Opposition when he came out of the meeting on whether his leadership had been challenged and he replied, "What meeting?" The chairman of the meeting (Mr. McAnaney) was acting as spokesman for the organization, and his comment was that, so far as statements to the press were concerned, the L.C.P. had closed its ranks and its collective mouth. That should happen more often. Some members said that details were still to be worked out. Asked after the meeting whether the leadership had been contested, Mr. McAnaney said, "That is too ridiculous to comment on." In his capacity as chairman he would have heard the same as we had, that there were some reports that Mr. Hall's leadership of the Party opposite was being looked at.

So far as my knowledge is concerned, this is the first occasion for some time that representatives of the two Houses have met. We know they have a different system over there from the one operating here. Every Labor member of Parliament, whether in the Lower House or the Upper House, has an opportunity to vote for

the Leader of the Party, but things are slightly different on the other side. They elect one Leader for the Upper House and one for this House, and it is not working out too well at the moment. They got together to resolve their differences, whether they concerned the leadership or the franchise, but those differences have not been resolved. They could have been deciding whether or not to support the moratorium on Saturday. The spokesman for the Party, who was operating on behalf of the collective mouth of the Liberal Party, went on to say that the Party had considered ways of presenting a united front to Government policies.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It sounds like a Communist plot to me.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It does.

Mr. McAnaney: You'd know all about Communist plots.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Members opposite say that they never get together with members of the Upper House. Members from both Houses are supposed to meet independently: they never get together on issues! Members of the Upper House are supposed not to read the *Hansard* report of the Assembly procedures, because that might influence their decisions, and they are members of an independent House that is quite apart from politics! To my knowledge, I do not think the Opposition in both Houses has ever presented anything but a united front to Government policies, so I do not know why they need to get together now to decide on a united front. They have always been united, whether or not they have met together. Therefore, the meeting that has been held, supposedly to get a united front, was not necessary.

Whatever these problems are (whether leadership problems or franchise problems), I hope they are solved quickly and that we can get back to the business of the House. I hope that the Opposition can get down to doing its official business in this House, offering constructive criticism or whatever else it might do. Although there may be better leaders than the present Leader of the Opposition, we should at least bear in mind that, if we stretch our imaginations a little, there might be worse leaders, too. I think that the problem Opposition members have is not their present Leader but whom they could put in his place. In fact, I should like to see what they would do if they elected a new Leader; it would be interesting to see how they would vote. The *News* has speculated about this, and I see that it states that Mr. Hall would have a vote himself and, with that vote, he would have

a one-vote majority. Of course, there is the possibility that the Leader might be honest and vote against himself, but I should not like to see that happen.

Mr. Rodda: John Gorton voted against himself.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, and members opposite have not heard the last of him, either. I repeat that, in the interests of good government, I hope the Opposition will solve its problems quickly and that no-one will carry any scars.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: You hope exactly the opposite.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No matter whether it is a Government Bill, motion, Ministerial statement or whatever it is, the Leader invariably attacks, as he did in this debate, and he is not always constructive. What the Leader said about the plan for the new hotel in Victoria Square needs correcting. Referring to the Lord Mayor's planning committee on Victoria Square, he said that it had not yet reported to the Government, and that is true. However, the plan for an international hotel on the corner of Victoria Square and Grote Street is supported by Professor Winston, of the Department of Architecture and Town Planning of the University of New South Wales, who was engaged by the committee to report on the future development of the square.

Mr. Hall: The strike that's taking place is more urgent than this.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This afternoon the Leader had the opportunity to be in his place and ask questions of Ministers about the strike.

Mr. Clark: At 7.30 last evening it looked as if they were all on strike.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Leader also said that Government-owned land would be offered to private industry at a concessional rate and that the Government would invest public funds in the project. He implied that the need for such a hotel did not exist, because of the plan to replace the South Australian Hotel with a multi-storey hotel building. So that members will have the facts, I point out that the Government is offering the land to a consortium for an approved development on a 99-year lease. The Government does not intend to invest funds in the building.

Mr. Hall: How much will the lease cost?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Although I cannot give details of the sum involved, it will be a 99-year lease. On the question of need, a survey independent of the Govern-

ment has reported a need at present for 950 first-class rooms rising to 1,500 by 1975, and 2,100 in 1980, in addition to the need for appropriate convention facilities. This matter has been raised before, when it has been pointed out that it would be an extremely desirable development in this State. I know that the member for Hanson also had something to say about tourist facilities. We need these facilities for conventions, especially as this city is ideal for conventions; the only real competition it has is from Surfers Paradise. If we move now we can capture some of this market.

When I was Minister of Immigration and Tourism in 1967-68, I urged the then Lord Mayor (Mr. Bridgland) to establish a body that would seek out and attract conventions to Adelaide. However, the first and most important thing we need is adequate facilities to cater for conventions. From the figures I have given, members will realize that there is a need for additional first-class hotel accommodation in this city. As the statements made by the Leader were not correct, I hope he will stand corrected on them.

Mr. Hall: You offer nothing but suppositions.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The member for Mitcham spoke in this debate in his normal style and at fairly great length, although he was limited somewhat by the time limit. He spoke about the September moratorium demonstration and the Royal Commission that followed it. Other Opposition members have also spoken about this, but with no more veracity or insight than was shown by the member for Mitcham, who attacked the Government for having set up the Royal Commission, suggesting that the reason for taking this step was simply to avoid a free debate on the issues that arose from it. In fact, the Commission was set up to examine in detail and at the highest possible level the very important issues involved, which include the right, basic to democracy, of peaceful dissent, and the role of the Police Force both in maintaining order and in relation to the Government of the day.

The demonstration last September was not peaceful, and it precipitated and crystallized issues that had previously been unresolved and incidents that had not taken place in Adelaide since the years of the depression. Although I cannot remember those years, I am told that there were violent demonstrations then. The Royal Commission provided a public

forum for the discussion of these matters, and I am sure most members would agree with me that it did an outstanding job, both in analysing the events of last September and in making recommendations for the conduct of future demonstrations. The main reason the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has attacked the Commission and doubted the wisdom of the Commissioner's report appears to be summed up in the one petty phrase: that it did not "sheet home the Premier's responsibility in the moratorium controversy". Obviously he is irked that the Commissioner could not provide him with ammunition for a political attack of the lowest kind.

The Opposition obviously refuses to acknowledge that the Premier, Labor Party officials and I called repeatedly for a peaceful and orderly demonstration, and that we worked until the last possible moment to secure the co-operation of the police and the march organizers to achieve this end. Surely this refusal on their part denotes a peculiarly selective attention to the facts. Further, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition implied that the attitudes of the Premier and the A.L.P. to the demonstration were inconsistent. In this, he is deceiving himself and others. The views of the A.L.P. regarding demonstrations have remained consistent from the first. The Party has always opposed the Vietnam war and the terms of the National Service Act, and it has always supported the right of people to voice their dissent from a Government policy or a law which their conscience dictates they cannot accept—provided that any such demonstration is peaceful and lawful. If honourable members opposite were genuinely interested in this matter, they would know that this was and, indeed, is the case.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Did you write this?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, I did, and, although the honourable member may not appreciate it, despite how busy I have been I have prepared this speech myself in my office at night, and I am offended to think the honourable member should suggest that someone else might have done it for me.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members have had a fairly free hand this afternoon. Every honourable member has had the opportunity of speaking in this debate. The Deputy Premier is now replying, and he will be heard in silence. I warn honourable members that, if they interject, I will deal with them.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have read every speech that has been made in this debate except those that were made last night. I have picked out certain points and have tried to develop them and reply to others. Despite that, this sort of rubbish is thrown at me. I should like now to refer to a couple of matters that were raised by the member for Bragg, who again said that conditions at the Chest Clinic were appalling and that all that the Minister of Health had said was that there would be a new Chest Clinic by 1973. This statement is untrue and deliberately misleading. In fact, the Minister of Health has said that the Government is aware that the present building in which the Chest Clinic is housed is unsatisfactory and that its replacement has been given priority by the Government.

The Minister's inquiries have revealed that patients using the present Chest Clinic are not inconvenienced by the unsatisfactory condition of the building as a whole. The clinic itself is self-contained and is virtually sealed off from the rest of the building. It is clean, well lit and functional, and no difficulty has been experienced in giving first-class treatment to patients at the clinic. The member for Bragg later said that our community had never been faced by so many crises at the same time, and he referred to agriculture, industry, education, transport, pollution, conservation, nursing, hospital beds and medical training. Although these are definitely areas of major concern, the honourable member has apparently failed to recognize that conditions have reached their present state largely because of the inaction and ineptitude of the previous L.C.L. Government in South Australia and the Liberal Government in Canberra for the past 20 years. The Labor Government is doing all it can to implement effective conservation and pollution control measures (I could talk about these for some time) and to improve transport, hospital and education services. However, the Government's efforts are hampered all along the line by the Commonwealth Government, which is doubly at fault. Many of the problems now facing us are directly due to its policies, and in other areas it has demonstrated an appalling lack of concern and has failed to provide adequate funds for such essential works as schools and hospitals. The Minister of Education could state precisely the situation regarding the schools in this State.

I think I have dealt with most of the points to which I wished to refer. Where other points raised by honourable members involve specific questions, they will be examined and replies

to those specific points will be brought down. I join with other honourable members in expressing condolences to the families of members who have recently passed away. I congratulate the new Chairman of Committees (Mr. Ryan) on his appointment to that high office, which carries with it many responsibilities, and I wish him well in it. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

The SPEAKER: I have to inform honourable members that His Excellency the Governor has intimated that he will be pleased to receive honourable members at Government House on Tuesday, August 3, at 2.10 p.m. for the presentation of the Address in Reply.

CONSOLIDATION BILLS

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) moved:

That the House of Assembly request the concurrence of the Legislative Council in the appointment for the present session of a joint committee to which all consolidation Bills shall stand referred, in accordance with Joint Standing Order No. 18, and to which any further questions relative thereto may at any time be sent by either House for report; that, in the event of the joint committee being appointed, the House of Assembly be represented thereon by three members, two of whom shall form the quorum of the Assembly members necessary to be present at all sittings of the committee; that a message be sent to the Legislative Council transmitting the foregoing resolutions; and that the Premier (Hon. D. A. Dunstan), the Attorney-General (Hon. L. J. King) and Mr. Millhouse be representatives of the Assembly on the said committee.

Motion carried.

COTTAGE FLATS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Cottage Flats Act, 1966. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time. It seeks to provide, for a further five-year period under the Cottage Flats Act, further financial assistance from the Home Purchase Guarantee Fund to the South Australian Housing Trust for the purpose of assisting the trust to build cottage flats to be let to persons in necessitous circumstances. The principal Act at present provides for the payment from the Home Purchase Guarantee Fund to the trust of a sum of \$50,000 a year for the five-year period ended on June 30, 1971, for the purpose of assisting the trust to build cottage flats for letting to necessitous persons.

All lending institutions that, in the past, have operated under the Homes Act, whereby the Treasurer has guaranteed the repayment of housing loans in consideration of a commission, have now made alternative arrangements for securing repayment of their loans. Accordingly, there are likely to be no further operations on the Home Purchase Guarantee Fund, either by way of receipt of commission or by way of payment under guarantee.

The balance in the fund is \$371,754, and this Bill authorizes the Treasurer to transfer that sum to the trust over the next five-year period at a rate not exceeding \$75,000 a year by way of further financial assistance to the trust in providing cottage flats for letting to necessitous persons. The Government proposes to arrange with the trust that it will, as with the earlier arrangement, at least match these proposed contributions with contributions from its own funds for providing cottage flats.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution Act, 1934-1970. Read a first time.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I remind the House that this is the Bill that was introduced in this House during the last session of Parliament, was passed by this House by a very large majority, but was rejected in another place and therefore did not become law. I repeat what I said on that occasion. It is designed to widen the field of Legislative Council electors from the narrow confines of land and leasehold owners and their spouses to the broad field of House of Assembly electors. Since its inception, the Constitution Act has provided that, irrespective of the vastly wider provisions of the Act embracing House of Assembly electors, no person shall be entitled to vote at a Legislative Council election unless he or she owns or leases land in this State or is the tenant of a dwellinghouse in this State. Apart from the addition, in 1943, of servicemen actively engaged in war, and the addition, in 1969, of electors' spouses, the field of Legislative Council electors has not been altered. It is the opinion of this Government that property qualifications are artificial and outmoded as conditions attaching to any franchise, and that it is desirable to amend the Constitution Act

so as to entitle all House of Assembly electors to vote at a Legislative Council election.

I believe that, in this day and age, it is or ought to be scarcely necessary to address to this Chamber argument in favour of the proposition that all of the adult residents of this State should have an equal say in the Government of the State and in the election of their Parliamentary representatives. This restricted franchise for the Legislative Council has its origin in a state of society in which there was a notion that ownership and occupancy of property gave to the owner and, in some limited instances, to the occupant a special stake in the country, so that those persons, it was said, had the right to determine the political control and policies of the Government. As the years have passed, the emphasis has shifted from property to persons. The tone and outlook of society have gradually altered to a more democratic outlook on society generally.

That being the case, at this juncture in history, it is remarkable that we still have a franchise for one of the Houses of Parliament of this State that is restricted to persons who qualify in one way or another in relation to property (that is, whether they be owners or occupants of property, or the spouses of the owners or occupiers of property) and to those who qualify as servicemen and ex-servicemen. Therefore, I submit that the only proper franchise and the only proper method of electing members of Parliament is the vote of all the people of the State expressed in a way that gives to them an equal say in the make-up of the Parliament that makes the laws for them. For that reason, I look forward, when the vote is taken on the Bill, to a degree of unanimity in this House, for I find it difficult to believe that any member of this House who professes the democratic faith, which is at the very basis of the society in which we live, could possibly support the continuance of a restricted and privileged franchise that has the effect of giving one section of citizens of the State political privileges that the rest do not enjoy.

Clause 1 of the Bill is formal. Clause 2 fixes the commencement of the Act on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 3 repeals section 20 of the principal Act, which deals with the qualifications of Legislative Council electors. New section 20 enacted by this clause provides that a person who is entitled to vote at a House of Assembly election shall be qualified to have his name placed on the Legislative Council electoral roll and shall be

entitled to vote at a Legislative Council election. Clause 4 repeals sections 20a, 21 and 22 of the principal Act. Section 20a includes servicemen on active service as Council electors. Sections 21 and 22 set out various disqualifications for Council voting. These three sections are redundant, as they appear in almost identical form in sections 33 and 33a relating to House of Assembly elections. When I introduced a similar Bill in the last session of Parliament I expressed the hope, as I have done today, that that Bill would produce a degree of unanimity in this House, which, after all, is elected on a popular franchise and might be expected to represent the will of the people of the State. Unfortunately, the hope I then expressed was not realized in the event, and there were members of the Opposition in this House who declined to vote for the principle of adult franchise, and, indeed, voted against it. Fortunately, and to their credit, there were members of the Opposition who crossed the floor and voted with the Government in favour of adult franchise.

Mr. Speaker, what perhaps is even worse than the fact that there were members of this House, elected on a popular franchise, who voted against the principle of adult franchise for the Legislative Council was the fact that, when the Bill went to another place, members there exercised the power which has been conferred upon them, by reason of that very privileged franchise, in order to refuse to the people of the State the extension to them of the right to vote for both Houses of Parliament.

Well, Mr. Speaker, since that time there have been developments, and we are all conscious of the activities that have taken place in the past few days. At about the time when the previous Bill was before the House we were told on many occasions that there were no joint meetings between members of the Opposition in this Chamber and their counterparts in another place, and it was said on more than one occasion that, therefore, it was useless for us in the Government to suggest to members of the Opposition here that they exercise some influence on their Party colleagues in another place. Some things have changed somewhat in the past few days, because it would appear that there have indeed been joint meetings and that these meetings have not been unconnected with the subject of the Bill at present before Parliament.

Mr. Mathwin: You say that we were picking a new Leader.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The member for Glenelg would know better than I would what

happened at the meetings, but if it happened that those meetings were concerned with something other than personal jealousies and personal leadership ambitions and were, perhaps, to some extent concerned with the welfare and wishes of the people of this State, then it may be that the result of those meetings will be a change of heart and that we will now see that those members of this House who refused to vote for adult franchise last time may have been persuaded to change their minds. But what is more important than that is that perhaps it may be that some influence has been exerted on their colleagues in another place, and we rightly look forward to a change of heart in another place and look forward to the passage of this Bill. I trust that, in expressing these hopes, I am not being unduly optimistic, and members on the other side of the House would know whether I am being unduly optimistic.

Mr. Mathwin: At least there's one thing we know and you don't.

The Hon. L. J. KING: There is another thing that I know, and the member for Glenelg knows it, too. It is that on the last occasion when the Bill was before the House there were members on his side of the House who denied the democratic faith so far as to vote against the principle of adult franchise for election to Parliament, and I hope that it is not being unduly optimistic on this occasion to express the hope that they will return to the democratic faith, if they ever belonged to it, and that on this occasion we may expect to see them vote for adult franchise. I hope it is not too optimistic to express the hope that at long last, after a century of struggle, the people of South Australia may look forward to having a say in the election of both Houses of Parliament.

Mr. HALL (Leader of the Opposition): The Attorney is at his supercilious best when he is able to ride in on this white charger of his, with this adult franchise move in this House. How much better he looks now than he looked last week, when he was sitting in his seat cowering under the barrage from this side of the House for refusing to uphold the laws of the land, as he did in relation to industrial disputes. How much better it is for him today to try to bring this matter in, as it so happens, just before the general meeting of the Liberal and Country League! Does he care a fig or a hoot for the public in his move?

All the Attorney is aiming at is the destruction of the Legislative Council and, if he can use what he calls democratic principles as the

theme with which to achieve the destruction of the Council, he will be well pleased. He can then sit in his seat again knowing that no-one would check his undemocratic designs on South Australia, and he will be able to go on around the State as Her Majesty's Law Officer. It is easy for the Attorney to talk of his views, because he has his views made up for him: he does not have to choose any views. He knows that his view is the same as that of every other member over there.

The SPEAKER: Order! I hate interrupting the Leader of the Opposition, but there is far too much audible conversation going on in this Chamber, and it must cease immediately.

Mr. HALL: I intend to ask leave soon to continue my remarks, because I had not intended to continue the second reading debate this week and would not have done so but for the provocative remarks that the Deputy Premier made in my absence, which absence was unavoidable because I had to see people. The fact is that the Attorney-General, in his supercilious manner, is bringing this matter forward now in his safe and secure little world that he himself has no way of altering.

I want to say one further thing before declaring my attitude on the Bill, and that is that all the attempts of the Government, our opponents, to divide our Party by sowing little rumours in the corridors of the House, sowing them diligently day after day, are fraught with great danger to themselves and, of course, have no basis in fact. Let me say categorically that the leadership of this Party has in no way been in question at any meeting. It has not been the subject of discussion at any time, and the suggestion about my Party members who support me or do not support me is entirely false. I say categorically that I have the support of every member who sits on this side under my leadership.

If that does not settle the argument, we must put it down to the diligent political stirring by members opposite, as evidenced by the Attorney in introducing this Bill in this style and fashion today. It is characteristic of the Minister to behave in this way. It is the sort of thing we expect from him, because he never fails to take his little political advantage if he can get it at someone else's expense.

Mr. Langley: Tell us your attitude to the Bill.

Mr. HALL: My attitude to the Bill has not altered from last year, as I expressed it in this House then. That should allay all fears that Government members may see in my actions

anything that they can twist and turn and misrepresent. I ask leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Supreme Court Act, 1935-1971. Read a first time.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It amends the Supreme Court Act, 1935-1971, to empower the Attorney-General to appoint the Crown Prosecutor and others to represent him at criminal proceedings in the Supreme Court and to present and, where necessary, amend informations. Section 58 of the principal Act provides that the Attorney-General may appoint the Crown Prosecutor or any other person to carry out these functions at circuit sessions of the court. The amendment makes these appointments possible in respect of sittings in Adelaide as well as on circuit. It is desirable that, as the Attorney-General may not always be available, the Crown Prosecutor and senior prosecuting counsel should have these powers. Similar provisions are in force in most of the other States.

The practice in South Australia (and the practice required by law) is for the Attorney-General to sign informations presented both to the Supreme Court and to the district criminal court of charges of indictable offences. This means that all of the informations have to be signed by the Attorney-General. However, the practice in most of the other States, certainly in the larger States, has long been for the Attorney-General to delegate this function to the appropriate law officer of the Crown, whose responsibility it is to examine the depositions to see what is the appropriate charge, to draw the information and to satisfy himself that it contains the appropriate charges and particulars. In practice in this State it has proved impossible for a long time for the Attorney-General to examine the depositions and form an independent opinion. With the rapidly increasing volume of work in other fields and the increasing number of informations that have to be filed each month, it is simply impracticable for the Attorney-General to give his personal attention to this aspect.

In practice, what is done and what has been done for many years is that the Attorney-General signs most of the informations simply on the Crown Prosecutor's recommendation.

Therefore, the purpose of the Bill is to formalize what has been the practice for a long time, thereby relieving the Attorney-General of the necessity of signing informations. It still means that if a question arises whether a *nolle prosequi* should be entered (that is to say, whether the Attorney-General should decline to prosecute a person committed for trial), it will be brought to his attention for him to make a personal decision. For most of the purely routine informations, where it is simply a matter of the Crown Prosecutor's reading the depositions, drawing the information and presenting it to the Attorney-General for his signature, the proposed delegation authorized by the Bill will enable the Crown Prosecutor to sign it himself. This is the practice in the larger States: it would be impossible in the larger States, particularly New South Wales and Victoria, for the Attorney-General even to attempt to sign all the informations that go before the courts for charges of indictable offences.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 repeals section 58 because it occurs in a part of the Act dealing with circuit sessions only. Clause 3 enacts new section 79a, which has a wider application than the present section 58. Subsection (1) of this new section provides that the Attorney-General may appoint in writing the Crown Prosecutor or any other person to represent him and to present and amend informations at criminal sittings and circuit sessions, in general, or at a particular sitting or session. Subsection (2) specifies the effect of the appointment while it remains unrevoked. Subsection (3) provides that a general appointment of the Crown Prosecutor under the section is not revoked by any particular appointment of some other person. Subsection (4) empowers the Attorney-General to revoke an appointment at will and also preserves his right to appear and to present informations at any proceedings without such appearance and presentation, having the effect of revoking an appointment made under subsection (1) of the section. Subsection (5) is a transitional provision that will preserve the validity of appointments made under section 58 until they expire or are revoked.

Mr. RODDA secured the adjournment of the debate.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Local and District Criminal Courts Act, 1926-1971. Read a first time.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It amends the Local and District Criminal Courts Act, 1926-1971, to enable the Attorney-General to appoint the Crown Prosecutor and other persons to represent him on matters before district criminal courts, and to present and amend, where necessary, informations in district criminal courts. The amendment is desirable because the Attorney-General may not always be available and the volume of criminal prosecutions undertaken by the Crown Prosecutor's office has increased, particularly since the establishment of the district criminal courts. Most of the other States have similar provisions. This Bill is based on the same considerations as I put before the House when introducing the Bill to amend the Supreme Court Act.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 inserts new section 340a in the principal Act. Subsection (1) of this new section provides that the Attorney-General may appoint in writing the Crown Prosecutor or any other person to

represent him, and to present and amend informations before district criminal courts in general or at all or any particular matters before any such court. Subsection (2) specifies the effect of the appointment while it remains unrevoked.

Subsection (3) provides that a general appointment of the Crown Prosecutor under the section is not revoked by any particular appointment of some other person. Subsection (4) empowers the Attorney-General to revoke an appointment at will, and also preserves his right to appear and to present informations at any proceedings of district criminal courts without such appearance and presentation having the effect of revoking an appointment made under subsection (1) of the section.

Mr. RODDA secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.2 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 3, at 2 p.m.