

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 26, 1971

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Church of England Trust Property,
Cottage Flats Act Amendment,
Lifts Act Amendment,
Local and District Criminal Courts Act
Amendment,
River Murray Waters Act Amendment
(No. 2),
Supply (No. 2),
Supreme Court Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

Mr. HALL: Will the Deputy Premier consult with the Premier, when the Premier returns from his interstate trip, and with the Minister of Lands with a view to having the State Government of South Australia take a much more sympathetic and helpful attitude to rural reconstruction than it is now taking? Information that I have received indicates that in South Australia there has been a poor response, from those on the land who are in difficulty, to the assistance being offered by the Commonwealth Government and administered by the State Government under the rural reconstruction programme. On August 19, on page 5 of the *Stock Journal*, the following report, headed "South Australian Response Hard to Understand", appears:

The relatively small number of applications for rural reconstruction assistance received so far by the Lands Department was hard to understand, considering the financial difficulties many South Australian farmers were experiencing, the Minister of Lands (Mr. Kneebone) said in Adelaide yesterday.

My information is that in South Australia, up to mid-August, 210 applications had been received, comprising 13 for farm build-up (one under consideration and 12 pending) and 197 for debt adjustment and carry-on finance (four recommended to receive assistance; 23 refused; one withdrawn; 34 being considered by the committee; and 135 pending). The position contrasts with that applying in Western Australia, where 565 applications have been received, 215 having been dealt with, and 54 having received assistance.

Therefore, four out of 197 applicants are so far being given assistance in South Aus-

tralia, compared with 54 out of 215 in Western Australia. I understand that, at the time, \$894,000 had been distributed in Western Australia. The person who approached me on this matter said that one of the problems in respect of the South Australian Government's administration of this programme was that too few staff were being allocated to the important job of analysing applications received by the department. As this matter is urgent in respect of those people in the rural community who are experiencing difficulty, I ask the Deputy Premier whether he will examine the programme along the lines I have indicated, placing special emphasis on interstate comparisons, to ensure that South Australian farmers who are in difficulty receive at least as much assistance pro rata through the State Government as is received in other States.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall certainly have examined the final aspect of the Leader's question relating to adequate staff in South Australia to handle applications. I point out, however, that the conditions laid down in relation to giving assistance under the rural reconstruction scheme were dictated to the States by the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. Hall: They're the same for each State, though.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes. The complaint seems to relate to the number of applications dealt with and approved in Western Australia, compared to the number dealt with and approved in South Australia. I do not think the Leader would suggest that much more could be done to make the rural community of South Australia aware that such a scheme exists, because ample publicity has been given to this matter. I do not know whether the Leader is suggesting that we should go out and canvass rural areas for applications, but I do not think he would suggest that. The Lands Department would receive any application made to it, irrespective of the circumstances surrounding the application, and would deal with it. The conditions that apply regarding whether or not assistance may be granted were laid down by the Commonwealth Government. I will examine the staffing aspect and the interstate comparison, and bring back a reply.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In the absence of the Premier, will the Deputy

Premier assure the House that in future confidential documents initiated by Ministers or ex-Ministers will not be circulated among back-benchers on the Government side? Late on Tuesday evening (when, I think, the Deputy Premier was not present) a point of order was taken and a request made that, because the Premier had been quoting from a document contained in a book of letters, he should table the document. A discussion ensued and, in the end, the Premier removed the letter from the book and tabled it, as indeed, he was required to do under Standing Orders. In the discussion the Premier pointed out that the book contained a copy of every letter ever written by the Leader of the Opposition when Premier, including confidential matters such as police matters and things of that kind. The Premier asked whether the House wanted those letters tabled but, obviously, it did not. What disturbed me was that the book had been circulated among members of the Party sitting behind the Deputy Premier and that the member for Mawson and other honourable members had had it in their possession.

Mr. Clark: That's not so.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The book was available quite freely in the House.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is not explaining his question but is making statements.

Mr. Millhouse: What is an explanation if it is not a statement? Don't be so absurd!

The SPEAKER: Order! I decide that, subject to the will of the House. The member for Alexandra is making a statement. He has leave to explain his question, and I ask him to confine his remarks to the question.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: The book was freely available to honourable members sitting behind the Deputy Premier, including the member for Mawson and others.

Mr. Clark: It was not.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: They wouldn't want to read the rubbish!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I would have asked this question yesterday early in Question Time if the *Hansard* pull had been available. Now I have the *Hansard* pull, which shows that the Premier said that the book contained a copy of every letter ever written by the Leader of the Opposition when Premier, and that it included confidential matters such as police matters. Members on this side do not expect to see confidential material, nor should they see it; but neither should Govern-

ment members see it. Such material should be available only to Ministers.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As the honourable member has pointed out, I was not present in the House on Tuesday evening, so I am not aware of what occurred. From what the honourable member has said, I understand that the Premier quoted from part of a letter, which was portion of a book of letters. When the Premier was requested to table that book of letters, I understand that he pointed out that the letters contained confidential material, and that some had been written by the Leader during his term as Premier. As the honourable member asked the question, I heard members behind me deny that this book was in fact circulated amongst them. I point out to the honourable member that, as a Minister, occasionally I have shown a confidential document to a member who has had some interest in a matter. I have shown such material not only to members on this side but also to Opposition members. I think that this is a matter for the Minister's judgment. As there is some doubt about what has been said by the honourable member, I am perfectly happy to refer the matter to the Premier on his return.

Mr. HOPGOOD: I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. HOPGOOD: I assure the House that the book to which the member for Alexandra has referred was never in my possession. I know no more of the contents of that book than does the member for Alexandra. I believe that I speak for all of the Government members, apart from the relevant Minister, when I say that I find the attitude of the member for Alexandra strangely at variance with his attitude the other evening and with that of the member for Mitcham, as on that occasion they both seemed anxious that the whole of the book be tabled.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The member for Mawson has seen fit to refer to me and to suggest that my attitude was at variance with that of the member for Alexandra.

Mr. Hopgood: No, at variance with his attitude today.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mawson has made his explanation.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My request to the Premier to table the book was made at a

time when I did not know that it was a letter book; I thought it was part of some sort of file. Having accepted the explanation, I did not press my request when the Premier explained that it was a letter book containing other confidential matter.

Mr. GUNN: I ask leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. GUNN: During the debate last Tuesday evening on the River Murray Waters Act Amendment Bill, when the Premier was replying to the debate I rose on a point of order and asked the Premier, as he was quoting from a Government docket, to table it. After considerable discussion on this point of order, I rose on a further point of order to try to clarify the situation. In taking that point of order (and I quote from the *Hansard* proof), I said:

I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Premier to table the file.

You, Mr. Speaker, then rose and rebuked me for not telling the truth, and referred me to the *Hansard* proof when it became available. The *Hansard* proof has proved me right and, in view of what is reported in it, I would expect an apology.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has not made a personal explanation: he has used the opportunity to rise and misconstrue an incident that I believe the honourable member ought not be proud of.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: On a point of order, I am asking you whether, in saying that the honourable member should not be proud of a misconstruction, you have read the *Hansard* report of that incident, which shows clearly that you told the honourable member—

The SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order.

Mr. HALL: Will you, Mr. Speaker, convey to the member for Eyre your reassessment of what he said in the debate on Tuesday and say that you do not believe he did reflect on the Chair. *Hansard* for Tuesday shows that only two statements were made by the member for Eyre. The first of these was on a point of order, because the Premier was quoting from a Government docket, which the member for Eyre asked him to table. Subsequently, on a further point of order, the member for Eyre said:

I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Premier to table the file.

By this time, the member for Eyre had used two words in reference to what he wanted the

Premier to table: the first was "docket" and the other was "file". I have ascertained the meaning of these two words in the dictionary and find that "docket" can best be described as a register of papers and that "file" can best be described as meaning the keeping of papers in order. I find no conflict between the dictionary definitions of "docket" and "file". However, you, Mr. Speaker, said:

Order! The honourable member did nothing of the sort. He asked for the letter to be tabled, and that can be verified by the *Hansard* report and by all members. I object to the reflection cast on the Chair by the member for Eyre.

At that time, several members were astounded that you should think that the member for Eyre had cast a reflection on any person, because he had consistently reiterated his first point of order to you. He did not, as *Hansard* will show, use the word "letter", which you said he had used. In this instance it is clear that the mistake was yours and not that of the member for Eyre. I find it peculiar indeed that you should reflect further on the member for Eyre in your comment on his personal explanation this afternoon. As these were the only two statements made by the honourable member, as no attempt was made to make them in a disrespectful manner, and as the words "docket" and "file" are interchangeable, I believe that the decorum and prestige of the House would be better served if you would admit to the honourable member that a mistake was the basis for your reflection on his behaviour.

The SPEAKER: The point that has been raised by the honourable Leader of the Opposition should clearly, under Standing Orders, have been raised at the time of the debate. If I have said anything to the honourable member for Eyre that is offensive, I will apologize. I suggest that the whole account of this incident should be read; one sentence taken out of context can be misleading. All I need to say is that the honourable member for Eyre, supported strongly by the honourable member for Mitcham, sought the tabling of the matter, and that would have been in breach of Standing Orders.

PENSIONS

Mr. PAYNE: Will the Minister of Social Welfare find out how many South Australian age and invalid pensioners will receive the latest increase, which was announced in the Commonwealth Budget, of \$1.25 a week for single pensioners and \$1 a week each for married pensioners? According to my information, miserable though this increase is, only a

very small percentage of pensioners in South Australia will get it anyway.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will try to obtain the information for the honourable member.

ELIZABETH SPECIAL SCHOOL

Mr. CLARK: Will the Minister of Education obtain information on the progress being made to purchase from the Housing Trust a block of land adjacent to the Elizabeth Special School? This piece of land is 130ft. by 180ft., which is the size of two building blocks. The school committee believes it would be a good thing for this small piece of land to become part of the Elizabeth Special School.

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

BUILDING ACT

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister of Local Government examine the Building Act of 1971 so that an anomaly can be cleared up? Several councils have made representations regarding the operation of the 1971 amendments to the Building Act, as they refer to the local authorities and particularly as they compare with the protection given councils by section 9 (a) of the old Act; that is, the section dealing with approval or disapproval of building plans. Some councils seem to be concerned about the operation of the new Act. This question may have to be referred to the Building Act Advisory Committee.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The committee is currently looking at all aspects of the new Building Act. I think the honourable member will recall that I made it fairly plain when I introduced this legislation that it was only the outline of what I hoped to be the new format for a modern approach to building requirements, but that the Act by itself did not achieve the desirable objectives: those objectives could be achieved only by a combination of the Act and the regulations that would be made under it. The regulations, which are being considered preparatory to their drafting, will be drafted soon and presented to the House. These regulations, together with the Act, will then form a composite approach to this question that will have much appeal and will also provide for greater uniformity in the building industry throughout Australia.

PAYNEHAM SCHOOL

Mr. SLATER: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question regarding the Payneham school?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is very unlikely that the Payneham Infants School will be disestablished. Some thought has been given to the erection of a new infants school on the same site as the primary school, but no plans have been prepared, and there is very little likelihood that any change will be made for four or five years at least. The grounds of the infants school and the present buildings, though old, provide adequate space for the present enrolment and no request has come from parents for the consolidation of the infants school with the primary school. The new six-teacher open unit planned for erection at the primary section of the school is intended to house primary grades and to enable the removal of some of the timber classrooms there.

DERNANCOURT LAND

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation obtain a report on whether the Government has considered acquiring, as a reserve under the River Torrens Protection Act, an area of land situated at Dernancourt and bounded by Reid Road on the eastern side, Mahogany Avenue on the northern side, a small council reserve on the western side, and the Torrens River on the southern side? On April 14, I forwarded to the Minister correspondence about the acquisition of this land, which comprises 4 acres 32 perches. Residents of the area claim that the land is home to numerous species of native birds and animals, and the land is not considered suitable for building purposes.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I recall the letter from the honourable member. I shall be pleased to find out what stage consideration of the matter has reached and to give her a report.

STURT PEA

Mr. EVANS: As I received yesterday from the Minister of Works an intimation that he had a reply to my recent question about the Sturt pea, will he now give that reply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is true that the picking or uprooting of a wide range of varieties of indigenous plants and flowers (including in particular Sturt pea) is prohibited throughout the State on Crown Lands and on private lands without the consent of the owner. As the honourable member indicated, a proclamation under the Native Plants Protection Act made in November, 1968, brought within the totally protected category the Sturt pea, which becomes such an attractive feature of our Far Northern areas during its flowering

period in good seasons. When I visited Leigh Creek last Monday and Tuesday, the Sturt pea was very much in evidence and, indeed, produced a beautiful display in the surrounding countryside. At the time the proclamation was promulgated, considerable publicity was given the matter, and it is thought that the public generally is well aware that it is illegal to pick, damage or destroy the Sturt pea and various species of native flora in those areas. However, the point made by the honourable member is appreciated, and whilst it is realized that it is difficult to prevent isolated instances of vandalism of this nature by the irresponsible minority of those tourists who visit the Flinders Ranges, my colleague will see whether some further publicity can be given the matter.

INCINERATORS

Mr. HARRISON: Will the Minister of Labour and Industry inquire into the possibility that an unsafe product (namely, household and industrial incinerators) is being manufactured, and will he give the House a report on the matter? A constituent living at Albert Park has drawn my attention to the dangerous position that could be created by the use of an asbestos flue attached to an incinerator that is manufactured in South Australia. Recently, the asbestos flue on his incinerator exploded and pieces of it were scattered in all directions. I understand that the Education Department supplies a similar type of incinerator for use in schools, hence my concern about safety. I have details of the matter and can give them to the Minister.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: If the honourable member gives me details I will obtain a report for him.

CAVAN WEIGHBRIDGE

Mr. FERGUSON: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport inquire whether officers of the Highways Department who man the weighbridge at Cavan will assist drivers directed from the southbound traffic to re-enter the highway after the trucks have been weighed? I think it is well-known that the weighbridge is located where there is a large volume of traffic and the southbound trucks (which are directed by a notice north of the weighbridge) must pull across the oncoming traffic to go in for weighing. After the vehicles have been weighed, the drivers must pull across the traffic again to re-enter the highway. Several truck drivers have complained to me that, when they are proceeding south and are directed to have their vehicles weighed at that weighbridge, they

have trouble both when entering the weighbridge and when re-entering the stream of traffic.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I appreciate the problem that the honourable member raises. I shall be pleased to consider it and, as is more important, give him the reply that he obviously seeks. In fact, his question and the reply that I will give, I think, are illustrative of the motto of the Brinkworth Area School, namely, *labor omnia vincit*. That motto means that we will conquer all, and we will conquer the problem the honourable member raises.

MOORUNDE SANCTUARY

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my recent question about the Moorunde sanctuary?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: As I said in my short reply when the honourable member asked the question, the situation at Moorunde is a cause for public concern. It seems clear that a large number of people who have donated to the public appeal are not satisfied that the use of this appeal money is being applied in a way that they anticipated. An examination has revealed that there is no area for intervention by the Attorney-General as the money donated has not been donated to a charitable purpose in law. Therefore, any objections to the present practice can only be made by persons claiming they have an interest in the matter; that is, donors to the fund, if they are able to allege and establish what conditions applied to the fund and in what way those conditions have been broken. I take the opportunity to also indicate to the House, because this matter has also been raised by another member, that it has been suggested that the Attorney-General and I should consider tabling the report of the inquiry into the legal aspects of the Moorunde reserve. After careful consideration we have agreed that this should not be done as the question of tabling of a report of this kind is an extremely difficult one, because inevitably such an inquiry involves the reputations of people who do not have the ordinary chance of answering allegations that they would have if there were an open inquiry or some charge was made against them.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation or the Attorney-General say whether the Government will take action on the present situation at the Moorunde sanctuary? The reply I have received is that the Attorney-General could find no area for intervention, as the money had not been

donated to a charitable purpose in law. It seems to me, as a non-legal man, that this could be interpreted as obtaining money under false pretences. No doubt the original intentions of the instigators of this scheme were good but, apparently, the people in charge of the scheme have now been changed. The original intentions were obviously understood by the donors, but the present officers of the Natural History Society seem to have different ideas. This, I suppose, could amount to obtaining money under false pretences in retrospect, if such is possible. Perhaps the Attorney-General or the Minister could use his good offices to intercede in order to solve the problem.

The Hon. L. J. KING: It seems to me that only two avenues have been suggested as possible courses of action by the Government. The first is intervention by the Attorney-General to protect the money subscribed by the public. The Minister of Environment and Conservation has already pointed out that there is no legal basis on which the Attorney-General could intervene in that way, as the money was not subscribed for a purpose which in law is a charitable purpose. The second suggestion made by the honourable member is that a criminal offence may be involved. I have carefully studied the report made to me and, in my view and in the view of those advising me, there is no basis for any criminal charges arising out of this incident. The other suggested course of action is the tabling and publication of the report. My colleague has already indicated, as I did the other day, the reasons why it has been decided that the report should not be tabled. In addition, there is a further important reason. When the investigation took place, naturally enough several people were interviewed and some made statements to the investigator. Summaries of parts of those statements appear in the report. Although the tabling of the report in the House would be privileged, thereby protecting the Minister who made the publication, there would be no protection against action for defamation afforded to persons who made a statement to the investigators, not expecting that their statement would be made public. In the circumstances, I think it would be wrong to table the report. I know of no other action the Government could take. The honourable member has suggested that some good offices might be used to solve the problem. No doubt that will be considered by my colleague. I have not the slightest doubt that, if he can see any avenue by which he can assist to bring about

a settlement of this unhappy situation, he will adopt it. At present I do not see what he can do, but he may think of something that will help.

LUCINDALE SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Can the Minister of Education say—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warned the honourable member for Mitcham before, and I will not continually warn him about interjecting across the House. He should extend to his colleagues the utmost courtesy.

Mr. Millhouse: The Minister of Education just said I didn't tell the truth.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am asking the member for Mitcham to contain himself.

Mr. RODDA: Can the Minister of Education say when he will be able to make an announcement regarding a new school at Lucindale? The Lucindale Area School at present has an enrolment of 360 students and on current forecasts it is expected that it will have about 410 students next year. The school consists of old weather-board type buildings, the outside of which has recently been painted. I understand that the drainage problem that caused so much concern during the early winter is now being rectified. The Minister told me on March 3 last that the Regional Officer (Mr. Nunan) had reported on the present condition of the school, following an inspection of the school by officers of both his department and the Public Buildings Department, and the Minister indicated that, while the project was not on the design list, his department was examining its priority. Although the school buildings are being painted externally, the interior is still dilapidated and not conducive to modern teaching techniques. Indeed, a decision to provide a new school at Lucindale would be appreciated.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The matter concerning the Lucindale Area School and the condition of the school buildings has been of some concern to Education Department officers. I think the honourable member will appreciate that this is one of many area schools in need of replacement. Concerning current prospects, I point out that, bearing in mind the sum likely to be available as replacement expenditure in the next few years, it seems unlikely that the Lucindale Area School can be replaced within the next three or four years. Therefore, I think it would be appropriate if the department examined the possibility of providing an open unit at the Lucindale Area School, at least to give partial relief. I will undertake

to examine that possibility, together with the question the honourable member has asked, and I will bring down a report for him as soon as possible.

LAND TAX

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Works, in the Treasurer's absence, a reply to my recent question about land tax applying in the hundred of Mudla Wirra?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is the policy to review the area proclaimed under section 12c of the Act following each quinquennial land tax assessment with a view to proclaiming any further production where the new assessments for land used for primary production reflect the potential of the land for urban subdivision. In consequence of the review made as at July 1, 1970, the date of the last quinquennial assessment, the proclaimed area was extended to include the whole of the hundred of Port Adelaide and further portions of the hundred of Munno Para. The boundaries of rural areas proclaimed under section 12c are fixed having regard to ease of definition and general recognition. Generally, the assessed values of properties on the outer perimeters include little or no potential of the land for urban subdivision. The area referred to by the honourable member is adjacent to the northern boundary of the proclaimed area. The assessments for land in the immediate locality do not include any potential for urban subdivision; that is, the assessments have regard only to the value of the land as land used for primary production which is the same basis of valuation on which "declared rural land" within the proclaimed area is required to be assessed and taxed.

RAILWAY RESIDENCES

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the new railway residences at Tailern Bend?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: While \$200,000 has been provided on the Loan Estimates under "Railways", it is not intended to replace any of the railway residences at Tailern Bend during this financial year.

WHEAT RESERVE

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Works obtained from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I recently asked about the wheat contingency reserve?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have been informed by the Minister of Agriculture that

he has not yet received formal notification from the Wheat Delivery Quota Contingency Reserve Committee of its recommendation in respect of the amount of the reserve for the coming season. He has, however, been informed unofficially of the decision of the committee, which he believes has agreed to a figure of 500,000bush. As soon as he receives official notification from the committee, the information will be promulgated. From that, I take it that the honourable member has better access to the committee than has the Minister of Agriculture.

FLINDERS RANGES

Mr. ALLEN: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation take steps to have more direction signs placed at the entrances to beauty spots in the Flinders Ranges? When in this area yesterday, I had my attention drawn to the lack of signs at some of these entrances. I understand that some of the signs there previously have been removed by vandals, and it is considered that there should be more signs of a more permanent nature. There is a need also for more direction signs, especially as it is expected that this weekend about 5,000 people will visit the Flinders Ranges to view the wonderful range of wildflowers at present in the area.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The honourable member's statement on the popularity of this area between now and the end of the school holidays is probably a fair assessment. I agree that there is a need for people who visit the area to be thoroughly familiar with the spots they should be visiting, and that the area should be adequately sign-posted. I shall be pleased to examine the matter and to see whether we cannot improve the position.

OAKLANDS CROSSING

Mr. MATHWIN: When I previously asked the Minister of Roads and Transport whether plans and specifications for the over-pass at the Oaklands crossing had been completed, he said that to the best of his knowledge they had not been completed. However, I have since been informed by a reliable source that these plans and specifications have been considered and passed by the Marion council. If the plans are available, will the Minister make them available to me?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: When the honourable member asked this question I said that to the best of my knowledge the plans were not yet finalized. Despite the honourable member's explanation, I still hold that view because

I understand that tentative plans have been submitted to the Marion council in relation to both Marion Road and Morphett Road and that the Highways Department is currently working on the final plans, which to the best of my knowledge are still not available. However, I will now inquire of the Highways Department to see whether that is the situation, and I will let the honourable member know, because I know of his intense interest in this matter, as I know also of the intense interest of his neighbour the Minister of Education.

BLACKFORD DRAIN

Mr. CARNIE: On behalf of the member for Mallee, I ask the Minister of Works whether he now has a reply to the honourable member's recent question concerning the Blackford drain?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Lands states that, although substantial flows have occurred in the Blackford drain during the present winter, there has been no danger of the water overflowing the banks of the drain nor has there been any likelihood of the water breaching the bank in the vicinity of the Reedy Creek watercourse.

JIB OVERHANG

Mr. BECKER: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of August 3 about jib overhang?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Most larger mobile cranes operate under permit as the loading on the axles is in excess of 6½ and 8 tons on the front and rear axles respectively. As the Road Traffic Board is not empowered to issue permits for divisible loads, the board requires that the boom be removed for travel in order to reduce the weight and the length. Smaller mobile cranes travelling within the city area have axle loads below the maximum allowed and are within the length provisions of 66ft. required by the Road Traffic Act. Mobile cranes do not travel extensively on the road but are mainly concentrated at building sites for a prolonged period. While I appreciate that it is disconcerting to observe a crane entering from a side street or to have one approach from the rear, I know of no accidents involving these cranes with other traffic.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Are you sure?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I do not know of any. If the honourable member knows of any, I shall be pleased to hear about them. With the increased introduction of hydraulically

raised booms, their retraction will be within reasonable lengths in the future. The larger mobile cranes will be under control by permit. It appears that mobile cranes are operating satisfactorily and safely and, at this stage, it is not intended to introduce further controls.

GARDEN SUBURB

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In the absence of the Treasurer, can the Minister of Local Government now reply to the question I asked, during the Loan Estimates debate, about drainage at Colonel Light Gardens?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: During the debate on the Loan Estimates on August 11, 1971, the honourable member asked the Treasurer whether work carried out under the south-western suburbs drainage scheme would afford any relief to the Colonel Light Gardens area. The south-western suburbs drainage scheme provides for the laying of two major drains to serve areas of Colonel Light Gardens, namely, Drain 3 in Bond Street, Salisbury Crescent and East Parkway terminating at Wattlebury Road, and Drain 4 in Springbank Road. Branch drains to take advantage of these main drains are the responsibility of the local government authority. Construction of Drain 4 was completed in July, 1969, and Drain 3 some 10 months later, thus finalizing works under the scheme. The effective drainage of the south-western corner of Colonel Light Gardens, referred to by the honourable member, is dependent on the up-grading and extension of the existing local drainage system by the Garden Suburb Commission. An adequate connection has been provided into Drain 4 at the intersection of Goodwood Road and Springbank Road to cater for this up-grading.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Minister of Local Government yet give any information about the Government's proposals regarding Colonel Light Gardens? Since the Government came into office, I have frequently asked the Minister what is intended regarding the future of the Garden Suburb, and he has on each occasion indicated, in one way or another, that he could not announce any decision. He previously pointed out (and I certainly accept this) that we had been in office for several months after receiving the report and had done nothing, and he was in a similar situation. He has now had much longer than we had after receiving the report but, as I say, I accept that that was a good reason at the time. However, I point out that apparently the Garden Suburb Commissioner now considers

that he cannot take any initiatives in the suburb.

I had a call only a few days ago from a resident who had approached the Commissioner to undertake some action with regard to cleaning up a nature strip, and Mr. Sellers told him, according to my information, that his hands were tied and that he could do nothing, because he had instructions to do nothing and he had no money. Today, the Minister gave me a reply concerning drainage in the Garden Suburb, after I had pointed out that the south-western corner of the suburb was liable to inundation during heavy rain and that I had been caught in it only a few weeks ago.

The reply I received this morning is that the south-western suburbs drainage scheme in that area is complete and that nothing can be done until the Garden Suburb Commissioner upgrades the local drainage. As I have said, my information is that he has been told to do nothing and that, in any case, he has no money to upgrade the drainage. The situation is, if I may put it this way, simply drifting, and sooner or later some decision must be made, because the suburb is running down and grinding to a halt, and naturally there is much discontent among the residents in the suburb. Therefore, can the Minister yet give any information to the House on its future?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The suggestion that the position regarding Colonel Light Gardens is drifting may have affected the honourable member when asking this question, because he drifted about a fair bit. I am disturbed to hear the allegations he made that the hands of the Garden Suburb Commissioner are tied because he is under instructions. I hope that in the interests of everyone concerned, especially people living in Colonel Light Gardens, the honourable member will, if his allegations are proved to be incorrect, immediately take steps to inform the people who have brought this matter to his attention that the allegations are, in fact, completely untrue. The Garden Suburb Commissioner today enjoys the same status and authority as he has always enjoyed, in accordance with the terms of the two principal Acts, namely, the Garden Suburb Commissioner's Act and the Local Government Act, to the extent that the latter applies. True, the position has dragged on over a longer period than I would have liked, but it is not true to say that the Government has done nothing since it has been in office.

Mr. Millhouse: I didn't say that.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This matter has been constantly under review. We are in a situation, of which the honourable member knows only too well, of having a difficult problem to solve, and the problem is not made any easier by the attitudes, understandable though they might be, of adjoining organizations that could possibly assist to solve this problem.

Mr. Millhouse: Do you mean Mitcham?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: It could be.

Mr. Millhouse: It can't be anything else.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The honourable member should not be too sure of that. This matter is being actively pursued. Negotiations are proceeding, but I cannot say whether they will be completed within a week, a month or a year. However, I assure the honourable member and his boss (whose frown is so bad that it is even worse than his smile) that we will pursue this matter to the ultimate benefit of the people of the area.

GAWLER HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about a solid-structure wing at the Gawler High School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Enrolments at Gawler High School are expected to rise from the current total of 846 to 1,000 by 1977; thus, while the increase is likely to be steady, it is not as rapid as in some other schools which therefore have had to be given higher priority on the building programme. As a means of ensuring progress in a larger number of schools, consideration is being given to the staged development of schools such as Gawler High School rather than attempting to provide a complete new wing in one major operation. Consideration is currently being given for the provision of a solid-structure open-space unit next year as the first step in redevelopment.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

Mr. CARNIE: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say what action he contemplates taking with regard to the petition containing over 2,000 signatures which was presented to him two days ago and which asked for action to be taken concerning the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act? On Tuesday, I introduced to the Minister Mr. Guy Smith (President of the Eyre Peninsula Road Transport Association), who presented the petition calling for the abolition of this tax on the grounds that it discriminated against the farther-out country areas. This transport association is a responsible body of men who realize that

the tax cannot simply be abolished without the Government's raising a similar amount of revenue by other means. The association requests that such sums be raised in a more equitable way, as it considers that the present method is discriminatory as, in fact, it is.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: When the honourable member introduced the deputation, he heard what I said then, and that still applies. I am at a loss to understand why he is asking the question. He heard me say clearly to the deputation that the Government had appointed a committee to look at this matter. As I have not yet received the report of the committee, obviously the Government has not been able to consider it. As soon as the report is received, the Government will consider the report and the request in the petition. I am at a complete loss to understand why the honourable member has asked the question, because obviously I cannot tell him anything more. If he wants this request recorded in *Hansard* that is all right by me, but I cannot tell him any more now than I told him 48 hours ago.

HIGHBURY SEWERAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked on August 19 concerning the sewerage of all Honeysuckle Drive, Highbury, this road being one of the access roads that will be used by children who will attend the new Highbury Primary School, which is expected to be occupied in February, 1972?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The approved sewerage scheme to serve the new Highbury Primary School and portion of Honeysuckle Drive has been completed except for the installation and completion of the temporary pumping station and the connecting up of the rising main. The work will be completed within the next month. This scheme was designed to avoid the unnecessary Government expenditure on the construction of a pumping station and rising main to serve the school that would have had to be abandoned when development warranted the sewerage of the adjacent residential areas. The topography of the area dictated that the location of the temporary pumping station should be to the west of the school with a sewer in the eastern part of Honeysuckle Drive to connect to the school and also to serve the abutting properties. It is appreciated that it would be desirable to complete the sewerage of the whole of the area as soon as possible. However, the Loan funds available for sewerage works, and the resources of the department are fully committed

for 1971-72 on sewerage schemes already approved, and further extensions could be made only by deferring other works. As stated in my letter of June 22, 1971, the extension necessary will be examined as soon as possible, but owing to the pressure of other work, it appears at this stage that the scheme will not be submitted for consideration until later in the 1971-72 financial year.

PLYMPTON DRAINAGE

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister of Education arrange for the appropriate officers of his department to investigate claims that water from the Plympton High School oval is draining into the backyards of residents of Myer Avenue, Plympton, and causing considerable damage to their gardens?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will look at the matter and see what can be done.

EXPORT ABATTOIRS

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member will be well aware that recently a considerable sum (about \$300,000) was spent by the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board in bringing its works up to the high standard prescribed by the United States Department of Agriculture for export establishments, and that as a result the licence to export meat to the United States was reissued to Gepps Cross. My colleague is not aware of any plans to re-establish the metropolitan and export abattoirs works on another site.

Dr. EASTICK: In the absence of the Premier, has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the abattoirs at Gepps Cross?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Government has under consideration the whole question of the reorganization of the meat industry in South Australia, and the investigations naturally embrace the role of the Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs at Gepps Cross in the general organization of slaughtering facilities throughout the State. At this stage, it seems clear that the Gepps Cross works must continue as an export abattoirs, for which purpose it has recently been restored (at considerable cost) to the high standards demanded, by the United States Department of Agriculture, for export establishments. The Metropolitan and Export Abattoirs Board states that it has not yet determined its estimates of capital expenditure over the next five years, but its present capital

works programme includes many essential projects, the implementation of which will be governed by availability of internal funds and borrowings which can be arranged. The board points out that the costs of meeting changing requirements of importing countries (particularly the United States of America) and expenditure incurred in bringing the works up to the standard prescribed by the United States Department of Agriculture for the restoration of the licence to export to that country has necessitated the deferment of some capital works.

COOPER PEDY PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Education tell the House the uses to which the proposed pre-school centre at Coober Pedy will be put? Recently the Education Department agreed to make two old classrooms available at Coober Pedy for pre-school education, but some parents are concerned about whether all children will be permitted to use them.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will certainly look into the matter. As a result of a conversation I have had with the honourable member, the matter is already being investigated, and I will bring down a reply as soon as possible.

INDUSTRIAL COURT

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister of Labour and Industry say whether he considers that the two commissioners of the Industrial Court can cope with the increasing work load, and, if he does not, will he say whether the appointment of additional commissioners is contemplated?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: Because the heavy work load in the court takes some keeping up with, this matter is being considered, as also are amendments to the Industrial Code. Although we may not increase the number of commissioners, we might appoint conciliators to the court.

EMPIRE TIMES

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In the absence of the Attorney-General, has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my recent question about the *Empire Times*?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The Chief Secretary states that complaints have been laid against a person for printing and publishing indecent matter but the summons has not been served, as he has left his last known address. Inquiries are being made in Melbourne con-

cerning his present whereabouts, with a view to serving the summons and proceeding with the charges.

ENGINE NUMBERS

Dr. EASTICK: In the absence of the Attorney-General, has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about the taking of engine numbers by police officers?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: It is presumed from the question that the honourable member is referring to the issue of 14-day permits in the country pending new registration of vehicles. It is not an administrative direction which prevents police officers in the metropolitan area from issuing these permits but a requirement of the Motor Vehicles Act. Section 16 of the Act provides a procedure for issue of such permits at police stations situated outside a 25-mile radius from the General Post Office. The Gawler police station is not outside that radius and, therefore, permits cannot be issued from that station.

TIP-TRUCK OPERATORS

Mr. EVANS: Has the Deputy Premier further information in reply to my question about hire rates paid by Government departments to tip-truck operators?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Truck hire rates are approved on the recommendation of the Public Service Board, which reviews these rates from time to time in conjunction with senior engineers of the Engineering and Water Supply and Highways Departments. They are normally reviewed following representations from the Australian Workers Union, although representations on the matter have also been made to the board by the Tip-Truck Operators Association of South Australia. The hire rates are determined having regard to the cost of trucks, running costs, fixed charges (including registration and insurance), drivers' wages and the average capital invested by the owner-drivers. The basis on which the rates are calculated in this State is similar to that applying in other States. The rates were increased in May, 1970, as stated by the honourable member. They were also increased from January 4, 1971. In addition, they are automatically increased by increases in the State living wage or the standard price of petrol. The hire rates applying in Government departments are also included by consent in the Municipal Corporations and District Councils Conciliation Committee Award and in the

A.W.U. Construction and Maintenance (Corporations and District Councils of South Australia) Federal Award. The following table sets out the present rates:

HIRE RATES

Load— Pay load carrying capacity	Hourly rate cents	Additional payments for mileage in excess of 36 miles in an eight-hour day cents
5 tons and under 7 tons	334	13
7 tons and under 9 tons	367	16
9 tons and under 12 tons	457	17

The basis of the board's calculations was discussed with representatives of the Tip-Truck Operators Association on September 15, 1970. These representatives were informed that the board would consider any submission which the association or any other organization *bona fide* representing tip-truck owner-drivers might care to make. However, no further representations have been received by the board since this conference.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Deputy Premier say whether the Government will now reconsider its decision to build a performing arts centre at a cost of \$2,500,000? It has been reported in the weekend press that the provision of such a performing arts centre is premature as far as the South Australian Theatre Company is concerned. It is suggested that such a move would cripple the company's free development into a genuine performing ensemble and that there is not the need: indeed, this building could be an obstacle to the free development of the South Australian theatre if it is built before 1980. The suggestion is made that instead of building the centre it would be better for the Government to hire a suitable theatre and allow the South Australian Theatre Company to use it rent free and then decide where it wants to go. This seems to be eminently sensible, and it seems odd that the Minister of Roads and Transport, waiting to see what will happen in 10 years' time before he makes a firm policy on another matter, should by interjection be criticizing this suggestion.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am pleased that the honourable member is impressed by suggestions made by some obscure reporter: I take it that he is obscure, because the newspaper did not mention who wrote the article. I am surprised that he asks questions on what appears in the newspapers. If the honourable

member supports what is in the paper and wants to advocate it, I suggest to him that he should put the proposal to the Government and not rely on some report in the newspaper. The Government will then give proper consideration to his suggestion. The Government has no thoughts at present about altering any plans that it has in this regard.

ROCKY RIVER SCHOOLS

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Education say when he intends to visit schools in the Rocky River District? The Minister has already been in office for some time, and he needs no invitation to my district.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I have no immediate plans in that regard. As a matter of fact, last Friday I passed through the honourable member's district and looked at one or two schools from my car on the way back to Adelaide. I stopped at Clare and looked at the old Clare Primary School, which is not now being used but the use of which as a regional office for the department is being considered. I also looked at the present Clare Primary School, which occupies the old Clare High School buildings. However, these visits were—

Mr. Venning: Unofficial?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Yes, and they were conducted at about 5.45 p.m., when I was on my way back to Adelaide. The honourable member may be assured that, when I intend to make any formal calls on schools in his district, I will give him due notice.

TRAPPING PERMITS

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question regarding the issue of permits to trap protected birds and animals?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that the Director of Fisheries and Fauna Conservation does not propose to alter the present policy in this matter, which at present is to refuse permission to commercial bird or animal trappers to take protected native birds and animals from the wild as a business operation. The export for commercial purposes of live Australian animals and birds (whether protected or not) is prohibited under Customs Department regulations. This export control has the almost unqualified support of the majority of the State fauna authorities. The Minister has pointed out that landowners having genuine problems associated with damage caused to crops or their properties by Adelaide rosellas can apply to the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department for permits to

destroy specified numbers of the pest birds. Incidentally, the Minister has stated that surprisingly few landowners in the Adelaide Hills have applied for permits. It should be borne in mind, moreover, that the mortality rate is very high for birds taken from the wild and caged.

KADINA EDUCATION CENTRE

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Education, at this late stage, soon announce his intention regarding the building of an adult education centre at Kadina? On February 23 I received a letter from the Minister, after representations had been made to him by a deputation from Kadina regarding the provision of a new building, in which he said he would proceed with the project as soon as it could be got under way. Six months has passed since I received that letter, and today I have received a letter indicating that no further news has been heard in the township about what will happen regarding this matter. I am sure that the Minister is aware of the concern in the area and the need to provide, in country districts, as much adult education as possible so that persons in those districts can develop the skills that they may need if they change their vocations. I hope that the Minister will soon announce a progressive and immediate plan for that project.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: If the Leader had stayed with me on my recent visit to his district instead of coming back to Adelaide to take part in, I think, a demonstration at a sporting meeting at the Norwood oval, he would know more about what has happened regarding this proposal. He missed out on that part of the trip that was connected with Kadina and the visit to the adult education centre. The Leader may know that it is intended that adult education facilities will be provided on a block of land that was originally controlled by the Kadina council. That land must be made over to the Education Department, but I am not sure whether the transfer has been completed. The Kadina council had previously expressed opposition to the construction in wood of any facilities on that site, but it agreed to the use of a transportable type of building similar to buildings supplied by Segal Industries and World Wide Camps. The department also considered possible alternatives. I assure the Leader that the proposal is still being actively considered.

Mr. Hall: Well, why the delay since February?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: There have been problems associated with the type of construction to be used.

Mr. Hall: Surely not since February?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Yes. If the Leader has not heard about the problems, I am sorry: he is not up to date.

Mr. Hall: Neither is anyone else up there.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Well, the Minister of Works is aware of the matter, because he knows of the representations that have been made to him. As I have said, there have been problems about the transfer of the land to the department. No building project proceeds immediately approval is given, as the Leader knows, and doubtless the delays that occurred when he was Premier were even longer than at present. I assure him that we are concerned about the progress of education, including adult education, to ensure rapid progress in the Leader's district. We are hoping for good results from improved education in the Leader's district.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether it is normally necessary for people to take legal action to recover damages from the Railways Department when damage is done to their properties as a result of the action of railway employees? I asked a question of the Minister about two or three weeks ago regarding flooding of properties in the Angaston district caused by railway employees constructing a channel—

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the matter that the honourable member is raising is at present the subject of litigation, and therefore I suggest that it would be *sub judice*. I think this ought to be checked before the matter is discussed further.

The SPEAKER: I think the member for Kavel will appreciate that I cannot be conversant with every matter raised in the House. If questions are asked about matters which are before the court, they are therefore *sub judice* and are not allowed. As the Minister has said that he believes this to be the case, I ask the honourable member not to proceed with his question at this stage. The honourable member for Kavel.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I am satisfied to let the matter rest although, without pursuing the matter, I point out that the question was whether it was necessary to take legal action

to recover damages. However, if it will interfere with litigation, I will not pursue the matter at present.

The SPEAKER: I suggest that the honourable member should not continue with his question.

LERP

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation been apprised of the serious lerp infestation in the upper South-East? This pest, which is ravaging eucalypts in the Keith area and surrounding areas, seems to be infesting new areas each week, and I notice this as I travel between the city and Naracoorte; the area at present infested seems to extend from just south of Tintinara right through to Willalooka. Although I think this matter has been considered by the department, I believe that, if action is not taken soon, this serious infestation will kill many of the eucalypts in the Keith area and surrounding areas. Can the Minister report on this infestation and on its likely consequences?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The problem concerning this lerp infestation was first referred to by another member opposite who had expert knowledge of country areas. The report on the matter given to that member may be of some use to the member for Victoria. However, I shall be happy to consider the matter now raised by the honourable member and, if any additional information is available, I shall be pleased to bring it down.

FOOD PROCESSING

Mr. BECKER: In the absence of the Premier, who is the Minister of Development and Mines, can the Deputy Premier say what efforts have been made to encourage, for the benefit of local housewives, major national food-processing companies to establish branch factories in South Australia? I understand that many of our essential food supplies are manufactured in other States and that, because of transport costs, some items are a few cents dearer in Adelaide than they are in Sydney and Melbourne.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain a report on this matter from my colleague. Indeed, I shall be happy to assist the housewives of this State if I can.

THEVENARD WHARF

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Marine consider again consulting officers of the Marine and Harbors Department with a view to reprogramming work on the Thevenard wharf so as not to interfere with shipping at Thevenard

during the coming vital harvest period? Great concern has been expressed by constituents in the Thevenard and Ceduna areas about the delay that is likely to be caused by work being carried out by the department on the Thevenard wharf. As the Australian Barley Board will for the first time ship barley through this port, and as the silo will fill up rapidly, bearing in mind that the wharf is out of action, I point out that it may be mid-February before any barley shipments can take place.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This matter has already been discussed between the department and me. As the honourable member knows, I previously gave him a reply on this matter, stating that it was not possible to speed up the work so as to avoid completely the problems he has outlined. I do not think that anything further can be gained by my taking up the matter again, although I respect the honourable member's persistence in this matter; it is his right and duty to be persistent on behalf of his constituents. However, I am afraid that I cannot see any way of achieving what he seeks.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about school closures?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A decision has now been made concerning the schools to be closed at the end of the 1971 school year. Last Tuesday each head teacher involved was sent a telegram informing him of the decision, and this has been confirmed by a letter sent to him and to the chairman of the school committee. I have also informed honourable members by letter and have indicated the schools applicable to their districts. A public announcement will be made on Friday next concerning this matter.

A.N.Z. BANK

Mr. EVANS: Will the Deputy Premier ask Cabinet to consider using the A.N.Z. Bank building as headquarters for the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau, thus allowing the planned new bureau building on the opposite side of King William Street to be made available for Government offices? I have been asked to ask this question because it appears that many people believe that this bank building, which has been saved, would be ideal as a bureau headquarters. It is a tourist attraction, and there is enough space within the building to develop it as the bureau's headquarters. The bank building is

just as well sited as is the proposed building on the opposite side of the street as far as air, rail and road travellers are concerned. Having the bureau in a historic building would be an asset, and it would be desirable to have the new building made a Government office block for Government workers.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: About three months ago the bank was examined for the purpose suggested by the honourable member. He said that there would be sufficient room in it to house the Tourist Bureau, but this is incorrect: it would serve only half the bureau's requirements. Disappointed though we were, because we thought for many reasons that the bank would be a suitable site for the bureau and that the other site could be put to other use, we were unable to accept it for that purpose. The Director of the Public Buildings Department, the Chairman of the Public Service Board and the Director of the Tourist Bureau investigated the proposal, which they found to be unsatisfactory and unsound.

CLEARWAYS

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question about clearways?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Over the past five years there has been an average annual increase of 4.1 per cent in registered vehicles in South Australia. This figure excludes trailers, tractors, plant and equipment. It is impossible to predict accurately how long the present clearways will remain as effective as they are today. The position will be kept under constant review and, as required, adjustments will be made to clearway operating times and clearway lengths.

POWER BOATS

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister of Marine say when legislation will be introduced to control power pleasure craft? I have been approached by numerous boating organizations that represent members who will be affected by the licensing of power pleasure craft. As summer is only about three months away, my constituents are anxious to know the Government's intentions.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: On many occasions in the House I have told the member for Murray and other honourable members that the Government intends to introduce legislation this session regarding the registration of power boats but that it would not take effect until the 1972 season, because it was not possible to draw the regulations or to obtain the necessary staff to police the registration of power

boats. About two weeks ago, I had a meeting lasting about 3½ hours with representatives of firms that build pleasure boats and with people who operate them (the Local Government Association was invited to the meeting, but it did not send a representative). Generally speaking, there was satisfaction because the Government was to introduce this legislation shortly.

KIMBA MAIN

Mr. GUNN: Can the Minister of Works say whether it is possible to speed up progress on the Kimba main? During last winter some farmers in the Kimba area had to cart water for their stock, and I have been told that the water position at Kimba this winter is critical. As the Government appears to have funds for unproductive projects, can the Minister say whether the work on this project could be speeded up? I understand that 11 miles of the main will be completed this year.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I think even the honourable member will admit that the Government has done all in its power to assist people who are short of water in this area. It has made it available wherever possible. Any approach that has ever been made to me has speedily been dealt with, generally to the satisfaction of the people concerned. However, I realize that this does not produce a final solution to the problem, and it will be necessary to proceed with the laying of the main as soon as possible. I get confused about which line the honourable member is talking about, but I announced recently that there would be a speeding up of the project.

Mr. Gunn: That's the other one.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This could be one of the lines involved in an application made to the Commonwealth Government for funds. I am deeply perturbed to learn that the State may receive no financial assistance from the Commonwealth in this matter. Although I understand that the application was satisfactory to the department, I am afraid that the Commonwealth Treasury has not looked at it kindly. Although that information is completely unofficial at this stage, that is the version I have heard of the treatment our application has received. If that is the case, instead of the project's being speeded up to some extent, because of financial limitations it may of necessity have to take a little longer. I will check the point for the honourable member.

BLUFF ROAD

Mr. VENNING: In the absence of the Premier, will the Deputy Premier raise with the appropriate authority the matter of opening to the public the road leading to The Bluff in the Flinders Ranges, as this would benefit tourism in this State? The road to which I refer leads to the site on which the Channel 1 structural works are established. This site, which is at a high altitude in the Flinders Ranges, overlooks a vast expanse of country and the Spencer Gulf area.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member's predecessor raised this matter often with me, when I was Minister of Tourism, as far back as 1967. I cannot quite recall the attitude of the Commonwealth Government, which owns this property. If my memory is correct, I believe it objected to the road's being opened, because of the security of the area and so on; the question of the cost of construction and maintenance of the road was also involved. I will refer the honourable member's question to the Premier to find out the current situation.

EMERGENCY HOUSING

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Deputy Premier say whether the Government has any plans for emergency housing? My recollection is that since the Housing Trust emergency housing scheme was dismantled about 10 years ago there has been no emergency housing scheme available in South Australia, although occasionally a house has been made available. I believe that all honourable members from time to time are approached for assistance in difficult, deserving, and often tragic circumstances. I refer particularly to the article which appears in last Saturday's *Sunday Mail*, and I point out especially, in view of one of the Minister's earlier remarks, that it is written by Helen Caterer. The article states:

It could mean a murder averted, a marriage saved, a family kept together—if only the Government would see the urgent need for emergency accommodation in this State, and do something about it.

I am emboldened to ask this question because of recent Government announcements of expenditures. I refer especially to the festival complex, which has been canvassed in this House. I point to the question of the priority of works and wonder whether the alleviation of distress by providing an emergency housing scheme should not take priority over an arts complex. Therefore, I ask the Minister whether, along with the other expenditures

which the Government has undertaken, the question of an emergency housing scheme has been considered.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

POINTS DEMERIT SCHEME

Mr. WELLS: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether any motorists have had their licence suspended since the points demerit scheme was implemented?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The House may be interested to know that, for the first time, a licensed driver today lost his licence as a result of the points demerit scheme.

Mr. Becker: That was pretty quick.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The scheme has operated for some months now. As a result of two offences, within 14 days, of driving under the influence of liquor, this unfortunate motorist had his licence suspended for three years on the first count and until further order on the second count. If his licence is then renewed, it will be suspended under the points demerit scheme, and he will lose it automatically for a further period. Members may be interested to know that warnings, which are given when six points or more are recorded, have already been sent out to 372 drivers, and a further 200 drivers are due to receive warnings. However, under the terms of the legislation, these are delayed until the period of appeal has expired. Therefore, in total 572 licensed drivers are well on the way to losing their licence.

Mr. Coumbe: Over what period?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: That is the current position since the points demerit scheme came into operation.

EDEN HILLS SEWERAGE

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister of Works say what progress has been made on the extension of sewer mains in the Miranda Street area of Eden Hills? A letter from the Minister, dated April 8, states:

I have been advised by the Director and Engineer-in-Chief that the area concerned is outside the present approved Blackwood-Belair sewerage scheme. A temporary pumping plant and rising main would be required and as only thirteen properties are concerned, the scheme would be comparatively expensive . . . The priorities for the sewerage of the Blackwood-Belair area were decided in conjunction with officers of the Corporation of the City of Mitcham before the scheme was approved. If additional areas are to be added at this stage, they would delay the construction of the main scheme . . . It is therefore not proposed to consider areas outside of the approved scheme for sewerage at this stage,

unless the council considers that there is a special reason why a particular area should be sewered in variation to the priorities as discussed and approved and in the realization that it would delay the main scheme.

On April 16 the Corporation of the City of Mitcham wrote to me, stating:

In reply I have to advise that the council gave further consideration to this matter on April 5, 1971, and it advised the Engineer-in-Chief of the department the next day that "the council considers that disposal conditions affecting the locality are urgent enough to warrant the extension of the sewer at this time".

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will have the matter investigated and bring down a reply.

RURAL MARKET BULLETIN

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Agriculture, received a reply to my recent question about the *Rural Market Outlook* bulletin?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that it is intended to issue copies of the *Rural Market Outlook* bulletin free of charge with both the August and November, 1971 issues of the *Journal of Agriculture*. Copies of these two issues will be available without charge on application to the Agriculture Department at Gawler Place. As from January 1, 1972, an annual subscription of \$1 (post free) will apply, but the texts of each issue will be published in the department's Extension Bulletin series, and single copies will still be available free of charge from offices of the department.

ABORTIONS

Dr. EASTICK: Does the Minister representing the Minister of Health know whether statistical details relating to abortions performed at individual hospitals and by individual surgeons are available to members of this House?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I understand that information is not immediately available. Whether my colleague will discuss the matter confidentially with the honourable member I could not say. However, I am willing, on behalf of the Attorney-General, to take the matter up with the Minister of Health to see whether he will do that.

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

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act, 1958-1965. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It amends the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act, 1958-1965, and is intended to ensure that this State in common with the remainder of the Commonwealth is in the best possible position to deal with an outbreak of any exotic disease affecting animals. Members will no doubt be aware that, under the principal Act which was passed in 1958, the Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund was set up to provide a source of revenue to deal with outbreaks of this disease. Contributions are liable to be made to this fund by the Commonwealth and the States and the States' contributions are based on numbers of livestock in each of the States. On this basis the contribution by this State would be about 5 per cent of the total amounts required for any campaign of eradication. Members will further appreciate that the State's liability is not limited to an outbreak occurring within its territorial boundaries since an outbreak anywhere in the Commonwealth becomes of concern to all the States.

In 1965 the definition of "foot and mouth disease" was extended to include the diseases of vesicular exanthema and vesicular stomatitis although these diseases are not in fact foot and mouth disease in the accepted sense. It is now considered desirable to widen this definition further by including within the definition "any disease for the time being declared by proclamation to be included within the definition of foot and mouth disease for the purposes of this Act". This extension has been effected by means of clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill. Necessarily any such extension will only be made after agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, but it is intended that rinderpest, swine fever, African swine fever, rabies, Newcastle disease in its classical virulent form, fowl plague and blue tongue will be included within the extended meaning. The use of the proclamation in this matter is, it is suggested,

necessary to ensure that there are no legal or financial impediments in the way of bringing to bear maximum effective eradication measures in the event of the outbreak in this country of, say, some exotic disease not mentioned above. Clauses 5 and 6 of the Bill are designed to make clear that there will be no delay in securing appropriate advances to the fund of this State's share of the cost of any eradication scheme and that this State can lawfully contribute towards an eradication scheme that is conducted outside its own border.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Has the Agricultural Council dealt with this matter?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I do not know, but I will inquire.

Dr. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.

SWINE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Swine Compensation Act, 1936-1968. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The effect of this short measure is to reduce the payments required to be made to the Swine Compensation Fund in respect of the sale of pigs and carcasses. Despite a substantial increase in the number of pigs and in pig slaughtering, the amounts paid from the fund by way of compensation have shown no marked increase, thus suggesting that the level of disease in relation to pig numbers in the State has decreased significantly. Accordingly, after consultation with the appropriate industry organization, it has been decided to reduce the stamp duty payable on sales of pigs or carcasses from 5c in \$10 or part thereof of value to 1c in each \$3 or part thereof of value, a reduction of about 40 per cent. At the same time, the maximum amount payable in respect of any one pig or any one carcass has been reduced from 35c to 21c.

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 14 of the principal Act by having the old rates of stamp duty apply to sales before the commencement of the Act proposed by this Bill and, at proposed new subsection (2a), having the new rates set out above apply to sales that take place after that commencement.

Mr. ALLEN secured the adjournment of the debate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (GENERAL)

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 3. Page 504.)

Dr. EASTICK (Light): Granted, I have been in this House for only a relatively short time, but I have never previously known a Bill to be introduced in the way this Bill was. The Minister's explanation document (given to the Leader) bears little relationship to the report in *Hansard*, particularly in the earlier pages. The Minister elected to enter into an attack on the Opposition and on members of another place about the part of the subject matter of the Bill he had introduced last session which is not in this measure.

Briefly, one finds the unusual situation of no fewer than six interruptions by you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and four interruptions by the Speaker when the Minister was explaining the Bill. These interruptions were brought about by the nature of the Minister's attack on the members on this side and comment from us. *Hansard*, at page 500, shows that the Speaker found it necessary to make the remark. He said:

Order! The honourable Minister must speak to the Bill.

What a state of affairs it is when the Minister, in introducing a Bill, must be rebuked by the Chair and told to stick to the purpose for which he is on his feet! This reflects no credit on the Government and very little credit on its front bench. During the present session, several questions have been asked of the Minister about local government and the Local Government Act. On July 20, at page 141 of *Hansard*, the member for Flinders asked a question and the Minister gave a full and frank reply about the problems concerning a completely new Act. It is commendable that on this occasion the whole subject matter of the Local Government Act is receiving the total airing and consideration that can only be to the advantage of South Australia in respect of the third tier of government, namely, local government. As reported at page 222 of *Hansard*, the member for Tea Tree Gully, in asking a question about the Local Government Act, highlighted the part of the Bill introduced last session (but not passed) that dealt with the disposal of small areas of land. The Minister's reply, at page 223 of *Hansard*, states:

The Government has considered this matter and is concerned that many of the desirable features sought by councils were denied them by the actions of the Legislative Council.

Accordingly, we will be reintroducing the Bill—

and I stress “the Bill”—

and we hope that a more tolerant attitude will be adopted by the Legislative Council to the needs and desires of the people.

One could be excused for believing that a Bill similar to the one previously introduced would be introduced again. However, the Minister has considered and heeded representations made by many people, including the Local Government Association, about the difficulties and disadvantages inherent in his original Bill. It is pertinent to the Minister's reply to the member for Tea Tree Gully to read three items of correspondence regarding that measure. The following is a letter over the signature of the Minister, addressed to the clerk of a municipal or district council:

Dear Sir, I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have this day sent to the President of the Local Government Association of South Australia Incorporated following the rejection of the Local Government Bill by the Legislative Council. The copy of the letter is forwarded so that you will be able to bring the contents to the attention of your council.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) GEOFF VIRGO,
Minister of Local Government

The letter referred to is as follows:

March 26, 1971

The President,
Local Government Association of S.A. Inc.,
23 Leigh Street,
Adelaide.

Dear Sir. As you are aware, the Legislative Council has arbitrarily rejected the Local Government Bill introduced by the Government. The Bill has been rejected in its entirety notwithstanding the fact that included in the Bill were many matters not only desired by local Government but previously actively supported by your association. It is noted in your association's circular letter on March 5 to members of Parliament that your association has opposed the whole of the Bill and purports to speak for all local government authorities. The association has stated that substantial amendments to the Act, if any be made, should be made at the time when the whole Act is revised. In view of the total rejection of the Bill and your letter of March 5, it is obvious that your association supports the action of the Legislative Council and has no interest in any amendments sought and passed at various Local Government Association meetings and recommended to me for action.

Based on priorities, I have attempted to meet the wishes of local government and implement the mandate given to the Government in the elections last year. The rejected Bill sought to amend the Local Government Act to provide not only adult franchise and the right for citizens of each local government area to decide if voluntary or compulsory voting should apply in their particular area, but also the following:

1. The payment of rates to councils on Government houses whether occupied or not on the date of declaration of assessment.

2. The power for councils to employ social workers.

3. The power for councils to provide homes and services for the aged and the handicapped and obtain Commonwealth subsidies.

4. The right for a councillor to resign to stand for a higher office.

5. The power to charge a garbage rate for a service going past properties, irrespective of whether rubbish is collected or not.

6. The power for a council to petition for an amalgamation with another council area or for severance of a portion of another area to achieve economies and eliminate present boundary anomalies.

7. A more efficient method of handling the signing of council cheques.

8. The right for councils to subscribe to any organization that has as its principal object the development of any part of the State or the furtherance of the interests of local government in the State or Australia.

9. The authority to reimburse councillors of municipalities for legitimate expenses incurred on council business.

10. The power for a council to invest surplus funds in normal trustee securities.

11. The removal of the requirement to councils to publish final accounts in the *Government Gazette* thus reducing council costs.

12. The simplification of provisions to enable councils to declare a private street as a public street.

13. The removal of the present limit of a maximum of 7½ per cent interest rate for borrowing of money. A change in the present rate of 7.4 per cent to greater than 7½ per cent could prevent councils from borrowing.

14. A power for councils to establish camping grounds or caravan parks on park lands and reserves.

15. A power for councils to request the disposal of unwanted reserves or parts of reserves over half an acre. This was requested by councils seeking to assist in establishing kindergartens.

This was the specific area that the member for Tea Tree Gully canvassed in her question to the Minister to which I have referred. The letter continues:

16. A simplified method for disposal of vehicles abandoned on roadsides. Surplus revenue from sales was to be retained by councils instead of payment into State revenue.

17. An extension of penalties for the dumping of rubbish from a maximum of \$80 to a minimum of \$10 and a maximum of \$200. This was proposed to assist councils in discouraging this practice. It is apparent that your association is attempting to hold itself out as the policy makers of the Government and in this belief has used its influence in a way which has effectively hampered the advance of local government.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) GEOFF VIRGO,
Minister of Local Government.

That letter, which was sent to all councils, was the copy of a letter sent to the President of

the Local Government Association. The following is a reply to that letter by the President of the association:

April 14, 1971

Hon. G. T. Virgo, M.P.,
Minister of Local Government,
State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square,
Adelaide.

Dear Mr. Minister, I refer to your letter of March 26, 1971, addressed to me personally, and marked "Confidential", copies of which were forwarded by you to all councils. I respectfully point out to you the main object of this incorporated association is to "watch over and protect the interests, rights and privileges of local government". As President, I am pledged to maintain the objects of our constitution, as are the members of the executive committee. I assure you that this association will always watch over and protect the interests, rights and privileges of local government. The Bill recently before Parliament to amend the Local Government Act contained 161 clauses. Some 135 clauses sought to completely change the existing representation of ratepayers. You would appreciate that the proposed changes, as outlined in your second reading speech as regards voting franchise, would remove the relationship between the ratepayer and his council. Your proposals would mean that councillors would be elected by persons other than ratepayers, and many ratepayers would be disfranchised from voting in areas where they paid rates.

The association, as you know, conducted a survey on the issue of compulsory voting and adult franchise and, as a result of that survey, the association has ample evidence that councillors and the people they represent, do not want any change in the existing voting system. You must be well aware of the hostility expressed by delegates at regional association meetings and at our annual general meeting when you introduced the subject of voting changes, yet you persisted in introducing this unwanted legislation. In this atmosphere it appeared obvious that the Bill should have been divided into two sections; the first part dealing with the controversial issue of adult franchise and the second part dealing with amendments sought, in the main, by this association and individual councils.

That matter was canvassed when the Bill was before the House. It was also canvassed by Opposition members with Parliamentary officers regarding the practicability within the limitations of time and within the limitations of the experience of some members, one of whom I happen to be, about the way members could effectively, against the Minister's wish, seek to amend a Bill which had 163 clauses in it and which would have required amendment to no less than 135 clauses if members wished to remove certain contents of the Bill that people genuinely desired and required to be removed. The letter continues:

As the very contentious matter of adult franchise was relative to some 135 clauses in the Bill, it was virtually impossible to divorce certain desirable amendments sought by this association and individual councils. Therefore, the association found itself unable to take any other course than to oppose the Bill in its entirety. This association, which represents 95.6 per cent of councils in this State, is duty bound to do all it can to carry out the wishes of its members. Decisions on matters affecting local government are made only after a great deal of thought and debate at all levels. The association reserves the right to use whatever means are available, within propriety, to continue to promote and protect the interests of its members.

Our action in writing to all members of Parliament on this issue has been commended by councils. Our function as an association is certainly to influence the policy of Government. I take exception to your final comment that we hamper the advancement of local government. On many issues we must agree to differ, but our policy is to get on with the business of promotion of justifiable amendments, and I trust on these grounds we do not agree to differ. I attach a list of amendments previously requested (some already outstanding for nearly two years) which have not been implemented, together with our comments on some matters in the Bill, which were provided to your office prior to the drafting of the Bill. As President of the association, I advise that I am forwarding a copy of this letter, together with a copy of the letter forwarded to all members of Parliament on March 5, 1971, to all mayors, chairmen, town and district clerks, so they may be properly acquainted with our actions.

This was the courtesy of advising the Minister of the distribution of the letter, not the distribution of a letter marked "confidential". The President was advising the Minister of the action he was taking in the interests of the people he represented. The letter continues:

I respectfully suggest, Mr. Minister, that a more thorough knowledge and appreciation of our function and requirements would assist you immeasurably in your capacity as Minister. We look forward to amicable co-operation with you.

It would appear from all the evidence I have seen and from the discussions I have had with the Minister recently (as recently as this afternoon) that very amicable co-operation now exists on issues that involve local government. The letter continues:

I appreciate that your door is open to us for negotiation; equally, the association and I personally are always available for comment and advice.

Yours faithfully,
W. J. Netherton, President, Local
Government Association of S.A.
Inc.

The letter refers to the fact that the association over a period of time had made representations to the Government for consideration of areas that were necessary for action. Paragraph 1 of the appendix to the letter is pertinent to this debate, because the 17 points made by the Minister in his letter of March 26 to these councils and to the President of the association are the 17 points contained in the Bill currently before the House, supplemented by three other areas at the request of and about which the Minister has specifically spoken.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that I am not clear as to the letter's contents. If the letter deals with adult franchise it cannot be considered, because adult franchise is not provided for in the Bill. If the honourable member brings adult franchise into the debate, I will have to rule that he is out of order.

Dr. EASTICK: The matters I am about to canvass are relevant to the 17 points referred to by the Minister and to matters in the Bill now being discussed. The appendix to the letter states:

(1) The payment of rates to councils on Government houses whether occupied or not on the date of declaration of assessment.

Comment: The executive committee agreed with this amendment.

(2) The power for councils to employ social workers.

Comment: The association was not advised of this impending amendment.

(3) The power for councils to provide homes and services for the aged and handicapped and obtain Commonwealth subsidies.

Comment: The executive committee suggested this matter be deferred until councils had studied the report from the committee appointed by the Government to look into the matter. Some indication was required as to what funds would be available from State and Commonwealth Government sources, and to what extent councils would be involved.

(4) The right for a councillor to resign to stand for a higher office.

Comment: The executive committee did not agree with the proposed amendment.

(5) The power to charge a garbage rate for a service going past properties, irrespective of whether rubbish is collected or not.

Comment: The executive committee agreed with this amendment. However, the question of franchise was not considered in this amendment.

(6) The power for a council to petition for amalgamation with another council area or for severance of a portion of another area to achieve economies and eliminate present boundary anomalies.

Comment: The association was not advised of this impending amendment.

(7) A more efficient method of handling the signing of council cheques.

Comment: The executive committee agreed with the proposed amendment, provided that it be drafted in the following terms:

Section 286 will be amended to allow cheques to be signed by any officers of the council recommended by the auditor and to be countersigned by another officer appointed by the council.

(8) The right for councils to subscribe to any organization that has as its principal object the development of any part of the State or the furtherance of the interest of local government in the State or Australia.

Comment: The executive committee recognized the necessity for this amendment for certain specific purposes, but further recognized that a Minister of Local Government could refuse council expenditure to subscribe to the Local Government Association.

(9) The authority to reimburse councillors of municipalities for legitimate expenses incurred on council business.

Comment: The legislative standing committee had certain reservations on this proposal. The executive committee resolved "that the association disagree with payment of expenses for normal council or committee meetings; and approves of payment of travelling accommodation and sustenance expenses for any special business carried out at the request of the council outside the normal place of business for a council, and that the amendment include the word "may" to indicate that it is not obligatory for council to pay such expenses".

(10) The power for a council to invest surplus funds in normal trustee securities.

Comment: The executive committee agreed with this proposed amendment.

(11) The removal of the requirement for councils to publish final accounts in the *Government Gazette* thus reducing council costs.

Comment: The executive committee agreed with this proposed amendment.

(12) The simplification of provisions to enable councils to declare a private street as a public street.

Comment: The executive committee agreed with this proposed amendment.

(13) The removal of the present limit of a maximum of 7½ per cent interest rate for borrowing of money. A change in the present rate of 7.4 per cent to greater than 7½ per cent could prevent councils from borrowing.

Comment: The association was not advised of this proposed amendment.

(14) A power to councils to establish camping grounds or caravan parks on park lands and reserves.

Comment: The policy of the executive committee is to express strong opposition to the introduction of this proposed legislation.

I will refer to that issue in more detail shortly, and what I say will be rather parochial. The letter continues:

(15) A power for councils to request the disposal of unwanted reserves or parts of reserves over half an acre (to assist in establishing kindergartens).

Comment: The executive committee did not agree with this proposed amendment.

As I said earlier, I am sure I will have the support of the member for Tea Tree Gully regarding this clause. The letter continues:

(16) A simplified method for disposal of vehicles abandoned on roadsides. Surplus revenue from sales was to be retained by councils instead of payment into State revenue.

Comment: The executive committee agreed with this proposed amendment.

(17) An extension of penalties for the dumping of rubbish from a maximum of \$80 to a minimum of \$10 and a maximum of \$200.

Comment: The executive committee agreed with the proposed amendment.

The organization then pointed out to the Minister a number of areas which required the attention of Parliament and which had been promoted to the House. These were proposed amendments that had been forwarded by the association during 1969-70 for implementation. They were as follows:

(1) Replace Part XXVIII *re* noisy trades with a new Part relating to objectionable trades.

The drafting of the necessary clause was done by the association's solicitor. The list continues:

(2) Replace sections 170, 171, and 172a with a revised single section relating to:

(i) Rights of persons appearing as owners and occupiers to have names removed or change of ownership or occupation;

(ii) Rights of owners and occupiers whose names do not appear in assessment book to have them inserted; and

(iii) Provision as to certain occupiers.

Here again, the Minister was provided with a draft of the clause by the association's solicitor. The list continues:

(3) Statutory recognition of the Local Government Association.

(4) Total exemption for councils from all forms of stamp duty.

This is still pertinent, although it is not as pertinent as some may believe if they have regard only to the receipts duty aspects of the overall stamp duty. The list continues:

(5) Amend section 530c to give proper effect to problems relating to common effluent drainage schemes.

(6) Amend section 536 *re* keeping of swine to extend the area of control to areas adjacent to townships.

I can assure honourable members that this is a real and vital problem, especially where there are municipalities which are completely surrounded by district councils. The list continues:

(7) Repeal sections 541, 550, 550a and 550b concerning the establishment of various types of

hospitals and introduce a single new section 541 with improvements.

Again, a draft clause was provided. The list continues:

(8) Inclusion of mortgagees' names in the assessment book.

(9) Amend section 666b to make more effective powers *re* unsightly chattels.

(10) Extend the provisions of section 666c to enable councils to appoint controlling bodies.

In this case, too, a draft was provided. The list continues:

(11) Inclusion of provision to enable the association to:

(a) Establish funds for

(a) Insurance of properties of councils, of lives of council officers, against claims for damages; indemnity for loss caused by dishonesty of servants (as provided in section 851, Local Government Act (Victoria), insurance of lives of councillors, etc., pursuant to sections 288 and 289.

(b) A superannuation fund for officers of councils.

A draft clause was also provided in this case. I think it will be apparent from that correspondence that a genuine attempt has been made by the Local Government Association to assist the Minister and people in the community. Although the door has been opened, unfortunately at the vital stage it was not used. As I said earlier, it is extremely important to know that the discussions at this time are amicable and are producing the best we could hope for.

Having already said that 17 major issues are contained in the Bill, I wish to refer to clause 2, in which a genuine attempt is made to restate the situation in respect of ratable property, whether house property or property used for commercial purposes. In the past, councils have not had the right, which is included in this clause, to obtain rates from unoccupied Crown properties which, subsequent to the assessment date, have become occupied. If the house was empty on the date on which the assessment was accepted by the council, no rates were due on that property throughout the 12-month period. Since then, the Minister has seen fit in clause 2 (b) to restate the situation so that houses and other properties that may be occupied can be rated and can therefore contribute to the council. Unfortunately, as the Minister is aware and as I have been made aware, the wording in the clause is such that concern is felt about its effectiveness. There is no dispute about the purpose of the clause, which is commended and accepted, but I believe there are difficulties

which are currently being discussed by responsible parties on both sides to determine whether there is a better way of stating the situation. I expect that by the time we go into Committee on the Bill the Minister will have had drafted an alteration to this clause or will be able to assure the House that in the opinion of the parties involved the clause is sufficiently stated to indicate its intent.

The Minister said that clause 3 was a new clause and not one that was canvassed earlier this year. It is tied up with the municipality of Walkerville. This situation could arise in the future in several other areas, more particularly if we take into account the situation that is now spelt out in the following clauses relating to the ceding of territory. Whereas in the past it was a complicated exercise to have the parties who were either to cede or to accept territory come together to reach decisions, we now have a more modern and acceptable provision under which the council may approach the Minister.

Even under the old method, which relates to the area of Walkerville and Vale Park, we had the situation in which a council, when accepting territory, also had to accept the costs or the loans that related to the public works involved in that area. The technicalities of the Act prevented its raising specific loans for the payment of the moneys involved in the loan works. This new clause gives the council the opportunity and, although it relates only to one council at present, it is certainly there for other councils to use in the future. I have no doubt that it is a worthy clause that will be accepted by honourable members.

Clauses 7, 8, 13 and 40 relate specifically to sections 53, 54, 139 and 752 of the principal Act. These clauses offer the opportunity to a person who has accepted office to offer his resignation to council without the council having to give him the licence to resign. They are interrelated clauses and I believe, even though it is against the comment by the Local Government Association that I read out, that they are desirable features. A person can be denied the right to resign from the office he holds so that he may seek another office, whether it be a chairman or a mayor, to go to the position of councillor or alderman, or whether it be a councillor desiring to resign to go to the position of alderman or mayor. The chairman and councillor situation is somewhat different from the alderman and mayor situation, but I will not go into detail there. The individual has the right, I believe, to take this action. The thought of a person being

denied the opportunity to make this change is foreign to me. I support the provisions of clauses 7, 8, 13 and 14.

These provisions remove the compellable aspect of the present situation that, if an election has been held (it is all very well for members opposite to smile, but I think their smiles will change shortly) and has failed, or if there have been no nominations, the town clerk or other officers, as prescribed, may go out into the street and tell any person that he will be the councillor for the coming period; and he is compelled so to serve. This, again, is foreign to my beliefs. I agree with the deletion of that provision.

The ability of a council to create a special garbage rate of up to a maximum of \$10 will be increasingly important to local government, particularly with the development of high-rise flats and flat complexes. I support this provision. The clause dealing with cheque-signing is a practical one. It relates to common every-day practice in large corporations and in other business circles. Provided the council has the right to determine who shall be responsible for appending signatures, I accept the provision as worthwhile. The auditor is involved, and, therefore, is fully aware of what is taking place.

I come now to clause 18, which deals with homes and services to the aged and infirm. The important feature of this provision is that a council will have the right, if it so desires, to embark upon a programme of housing for the aged. That is not foreign to the desires of persons who accept responsibility in the community, as councillors do. However, I should like to point out some difficulties here. Although the wording of the clause is totally acceptable to the Commonwealth, under the arrangements it has through its Department of Social Services, I find, having some knowledge of the involvement of councils and the Commonwealth in providing homes for the aged, that a council could be putting its neck into a noose in respect of these homes.

Unfortunately, the Premier has so far been unable to give me an answer to the question I asked about the rate of interest for housing. The South Australian Housing Trust or the State Government, in providing housing at no matter what level, has, I am led to believe, if not total funds at a rate less than that available to local government, at least the vast majority of its funds available at a rate less than that available to local government. So immediately, in order to embark upon a programme of housing for the aged, a council

would, if it was to borrow money for this purpose, be at an immediate disadvantage. It would be obtaining funds at higher rates of interest.

It is also required by this clause that one-third of the rent obtained for the occupancy of these homes be placed in a special fund for subsequent use in respect of infirmaries or hospitals. Whilst this in the long term is commendable, it immediately places the council involving itself in this type of housing in the position of requiring a rental greater than that which other bodies in the community need to charge, because the total rental of such bodies is available for the maintenance of the houses they build. The maintenance to which I refer involves painting, rates, taxes and other incidental maintenance costs but, if local government enters this field, it must set aside one-third of its rentals for this future purpose.

Another matter is the current situation of a recognized body and the Commonwealth in respect of funds for homes for the aged. Before it approves any building scheme, the Commonwealth requires that some of the units to be provided shall be occupied by persons who have not been called upon to make any contribution for their entry into those units. I do not dispute the rights of that situation, but we have the problem that the Commonwealth will require of the council concerned that it shall make available funds for the creation of this complex, or at least for one unit in eight in this complex. The fact that local government is required to find these additional funds and may not recoup them could be (I stress the word "could") a deterrent to the implementation of this commendable scheme in the community. It is important that we should realize that this is the situation.

At present the maximum sum of money available to anyone responsible for building homes under this scheme is so much a single unit and so much a double unit. The present figures are \$4,800 for a single unit and \$6,000 for a double unit. For the purposes of this building arrangement, no unit is necessarily either a single or a double one. In many of the schemes, all units are equal in size and in the facilities they provide. In these circumstances, all units are of sufficient size to accommodate two persons. The use of the term "single" or "double" is simply arbitrary, but it is important to an organization, because the funds available to the organization on the double unit are greater than on the single unit. At present the Commonwealth Government accepts about one building in eight in any

building programme as being a double unit; in other words, there is an increase in the amount of money available for about every eighth unit built.

The Commonwealth also provides that, where units are built and people are required to contribute for entry, their contribution may be only about the actual cost to the building authority. With a nominal cost of \$7,200 a unit, and a Commonwealth contribution of \$4,800, the remaining \$2,400 is one-third of the cost, and that is the amount that the building authority can accept from the donor entrant. However, if the cost of the building was \$8,000 the amount available from the Commonwealth authority (and there have been progressive increases in the amount available) is \$4,800, and the deficit between that amount and the total cost, namely \$3,200, could be the total responsibility of either the building authority (in this case the council) or the donor.

It is important that those concerned with this clause, which I hope will be passed, will be fully conversant with the inherent dangers, to use the term in the broadest sense, associated with the financing of these units. I hope that these structures will become a fact in the community. The Minister, when he replies to this debate, may be willing to explain whether a council will have an opportunity to accept assistance from community funds or funds from the various other instrumentalities in the community. If the Bill allows these bodies to join with councils and make funds available for this purpose, councils will face fewer problems in implementing the scheme. If there is no such provision, many councils will not have the necessary finance to embark on a scheme such as this.

Many other clauses highlight advantages to councils and, doubtless, some members, particularly the member for Unley, will mention the provision that allows the employment of social workers. The expense to councils will be reduced by removing the need to publish the balance sheets and other financial transactions of councils in the *Government Gazette*. These costly notices swallow up a large amount of council money. I have also mentioned, when discussing other matters, that the provision about the cost to councils of removing abandoned motor vehicles is brought up to date. Here again, there will be a reduction in costs and a possible increase in council income.

I congratulate the Minister on accepting the amendment inserted in the ill-fated Bill that

was introduced in the 1970-71 session. I refer to clause 29 of the Bill before us, which relates to section 437 of the Act, dealing with the interest rate. Unfortunately, we must accept the fact that interest rates are ever-increasing, and the upper limit provided in section 437, namely, 7.5 per cent, is replaced by a more realistic provision that refers to the rate from time to time fixed by the Australian Loan Council for local government borrowing. This provision removes the rather undesirable feature, which sometimes impedes legislation, that whenever the interest rate changes the Act must be amended. If the Minister's original requirement of no fixed upper limit had been accepted, councils would have been held to what could have been an impossible figure. The fact that the interest rate is limited to what is fixed by a statutory body, the Australian Loan Council, is an advantage, because councils will then not be able to go outside what is normally recognized as the area of local government interest rates.

I indicate to the Minister that, in Committee, I will be moving several amendments. I say without hesitation that \$10, the minimum fine for disposing of or depositing rubbish illegally, is not realistic in present-day terms and that \$20, a much more realistic sum, will have a greater deterrent effect.

Mr. Mathwin: Is that the maximum?

Dr. EASTICK: No, the minimum. The maximum is fixed at \$200, which I hope has the desired effect of stopping people from littering the roads and depositing rubbish, as many do at present. I will canvass this situation again in Committee. The Minister has seen fit to proceed with the provisions that prevent a council, without his authority, from spending money in certain ways, particularly in relation to the membership of associations. Here again, I will seek to move amendments which will not be as embracing as those moved to the previous measure. I believe we can reasonably expect that the Minister will agree that sums amounting to over 1 per cent of the total income shall be used at his discretion, rather than that the expenditure of all sums shall be subject to his discretion. Clause 5 amends section 27a, new subsection (1) (a) of which provides that a petition "must be signed by persons who constitute a majority of the ratepayers in that portion of the area and who are in occupation of ratable property that exceeds in ratable value the total ratable value of property in that portion of the area".

As members will appreciate, this is a completely impossible provision, and I believe

that the word "half" may have been omitted. I expect that the Minister will amend this in due course. In declaring my general support for the Bill, I suggest that the people of South Australia have for too long been denied the opportunities embodied in the measure and, as I said earlier, I believe that they have been denied those opportunities because of the Minister's failure to accept direction or to comply with previous requests. We look forward to a much happier situation in the future.

Mr. BROWN (Whyalla): Members supporting this Bill do so at a time when local councils are facing many problems, probably the greatest of which is the financial problem. The member for Light referred to alleged attacks that this Government had made on members opposite, members of the same Party in another place, and on the Local Government Association, when another local government Bill was considered last session. He went to great lengths to deal with the Minister's letter that was circulated to all councils in South Australia, and he implied that the Minister was, shall we say, squaring off. Personally, I saw it in a much different light. In fact, when the previous Bill was being considered, councils throughout the State were greatly misled by members opposite and by the Local Government Association, which says that it has the interests of councils at heart.

The association did not tell councils exactly what was contained in the previous Bill; indeed, I know that the council with which I am associated was astounded to learn of certain provisions in that measure. This council had obviously been misled by the Opposition. I believe that history will prove that the parts of that Bill that have now been removed by the Government are vital to the councils. One sees much evidence in the press of the financial difficulties confronting councils. For example, the Burnside council recently found that it had to increase its rate, and an article appearing in the *Advertiser* in July revealed that one councillor was very cross about that increase. The Kensington and Norwood council has also increased its rate, and the elderly citizens' cottages, and so forth, in that area are placed in some difficulty. In the country edition of today's *News* we find that the Port Pirie council has raised its rate and is coming under strong criticism from rate-payers.

The council with which I am connected, having increased its expenditure by 25 per cent, has also increased its rate, and this was

done on the vote of the Mayor. Dealing specifically with that matter, after examining all the literature circulated when the previous Bill was before the House, I believe the Local Government Association played a shocking role in the matter. It was misleading and it bred distrust of an organization that was supposed to represent the people, but it failed to represent them. The Local Government Association circularized my council in reply to a query by my council as to why it had not been informed of the contents of the Bill.

Mr. Coumbe: Are you suggesting that the councillors did not read the Bill themselves?

Mr. BROWN: I look at the matter in a different way. The Local Government Association, as the so-called representative of councils, has a responsibility to spell out the details of the Bill to councils. The member for Torrens would agree that very few councillors would take the time to read the Bill. If it had been doing its job properly and sincerely in looking after councils' interests, surely the Local Government Association would have spelt out all the details of the Bill. The following is an extract from an editorial in the *New South Wales Shire and Municipal Record* of April 15:

Thus on the grounds of financial accountability there is less authority by far for extending the full adult franchise for local government elections as opposed to State and Commonwealth jurisdictions—and less justification for the oft-repeated cry for "uniformity". That says that there is no better case for more people having a say in local government than there was previously, but that is not correct. Surely the question of greater financial responsibility for councils is linked with franchise.

Mr. Mathwin: Do you mean compulsory franchise?

Mr. BROWN: I have not mentioned the word "compulsory".

Mr. Mathwin: You put it in my head.

Mr. BROWN: That editorial was headed "Compulsory Voting". What compulsory voting? Obviously the member for Glenelg did not study the previous Bill because, if he had studied it, he would not have asked the question.

Mr. Mathwin: What has that got to do with this Bill?

Mr. BROWN: It has got a lot to do with it. We cannot look at the financial problems of local government and expect people to pay more towards local government without giving the people a vote. The following extract from

an editorial gives the viewpoint of the Victorian local government association:

Headed by its energetic President, Cr. W. J. Netherton, the Local Government Association of South Australia campaigned vigorously against the Bill and took issue with the Minister of Local Government in no uncertain terms, even to the extent of publicizing the municipal viewpoint in large newspaper advertisements.

Yet when my council asked the association to explain the Bill, the association referred only to franchise—or so-called compulsion. The following is an extract from an editorial that the Local Government Association of South Australia published when the previous Bill was being considered:

The principal question arising from the adult franchise issue is: "What is the Government's real reason for wanting to introduce it into local government?" Is it perhaps a benevolent concern for the preservation of the citizens' democratic rights?

Of course that is the reason. What a stupid question to ask. The editorial continues:

The South Australian Government certainly has a mandate to govern that State, but not a mandate to systematically eradicate all sources of local initiative and independent political power.

I thought that members opposite claimed that politics did not come into local government.

Mr. Mathwin: You are just a bit mixed up.

Mr. BROWN: I know who is mixed up. The editorial continues:

The keynotes in local government affairs must be goodwill and service based upon mutual co-operation and a respect for all points of view.

What a terrible statement to make. Finally, let us see what the association now says in its July-August editorial. The editorial is headed "Unity is Strength", yet the association has just lost about three more councils. The editorial states:

On behalf of member councils the association acts as watchdog for local government over all new and proposed Acts of Parliament pertaining to local government. To this end, it negotiates with the S.A. Parliament and responsible Ministers of the Crown, and occasionally makes the wishes and problems of local government known to the general public.

Naturally there are always political forces at work determined to undermine—by the principle of divide and conquer—the liberty and the already small enough degree of local autonomy still enjoyed by the citizen through his local authority. Any weakening of the association by way of loss of membership plays right into the hands of these forces.

The Local Government Association has brought disunity on its own head. How can it stand as an organization entitled to represent people that it is supposed to represent?

Mr. Venning: That is only your opinion.

Mr. BROWN: I am pleased the honourable member has returned, because he obviously needs some education.

Mr. Venning: I won't get it from you.

Mr. BROWN: For the benefit of the member for Glenelg, perhaps we should consider the recommendations on the question of franchise and also what was provided in the previous Bill about voting rights.

Mr. Mathwin: Which Bill are you speaking on?

Mr. BROWN: I am speaking to this Bill.

Mr. Coumbe: When are you going to start to speak on it?

The SPEAKER: Order! Interjections are out of order.

Mr. BROWN: I draw to the attention of members, and particularly to the attention of the member for Glenelg, because he is a most backward member, as can be seen from his interjections—

Mr. Mathwin: I will take a point of order on you if you don't cut that out.

Mr. BROWN: The previous Bill provided that councils could decide by a majority vote of the councillors whether they wanted voluntary or compulsory voting at elections. The second step was that, whatever the decision by the majority of councillors, the ordinary ratepayer had the right to petition the council in opposition to that decision. When the council received the petition, it had to hold a poll of ratepayers to decide which of the two situations the ratepayers required. Those provisions were in the previous Bill, and I cannot understand how that is not democracy.

Mr. Mathwin: You didn't listen to me when I spoke on that Bill.

Mr. BROWN: I am certain that time will prove that those provisions will have to be reintroduced. The recommendations on these questions are printed in chapter 25, paragraphs 284 to 288 of the report of the Local Government Act Revision Committee. Paragraph 284 of the report states:

The council of each local authority should have the power to decide for itself whether or not voting at its elections and polls is to be compulsory.

Is that not what the previous Bill provided? Paragraph 285 states:

If the ratepayers of that area disagree with the council's decision they should have the right to substitute their own choice.

Again, is not that what the previous Bill provided?

Mr. Coumbe: Are those references in the present Bill?

Mr. BROWN: No, in the previous Bill, but I suggest that they should be reintroduced.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Whyalla must link his remarks to the provisions of the present Bill, and I ask him to do that.

Mr. BROWN: Perhaps I should have some explanation from you, Mr. Speaker. The previous speaker, the member for Light, read about eight pages of letters referring to this point, and I am discussing the point that he was trying to make.

Mr. Venning: No, you are wrong.

Mr. BROWN: I am not wrong.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Speaker is capable of instructing members without the assistance of the member for Rocky River. I have not delegated any authority, nor do I intend to delegate it, to that honourable member so that he may call members to order. I have asked the honourable member for Whyalla to link up his remarks to the Bill. As I was not in the Chamber when the honourable member for Light was discussing the matter, I do not know what he said. If the honourable member for Whyalla is criticizing the fact that the Bill does not contain certain provisions, he is in order.

Mr. BROWN: That is what I am doing, Sir. I am criticizing the fact that we have been literally forced not to include in the Bill provisions which, in time, we will need to have. Moreover, I am dealing with this matter because the member for Light spent much of his speech in dealing with it. In effect, he said that it was a good idea that these provisions were not in the Bill. I believe that at a future time these matters will be included in the legislation. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.38 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 31, at 2 p.m.