

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, November 4, 1971

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Juvenile Courts,  
Police Pensions,  
Stamp Duties Act Amendment (Rates).

### ROAD TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL (SEAT BELTS)

At 2.4 p.m. the following recommendations of the conference were reported to the House:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its alternative amendment to amendments Nos. 3 to 5 but make the following alternative amendment in lieu thereof:

Page 2 (clause 3)—After line 9 insert new subsection (1a) as follows:

(1a) If in proceedings for an offence against this section the court thinks that the charge is proved but that the offence was in the particular case of so trifling a nature that it is inexpedient to inflict any punishment, the court may, without proceeding to conviction, dismiss the complaint and, if the court thinks fit, order the defendant to pay such costs of the proceedings as the court thinks reasonable.

and that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

*Later:*

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

Consideration in Committee of the recommendations of the conference.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I move:

That the recommendations of the conference be agreed to.

I have already read the report of the conference, and that report embodies the amendment that I am now asking the Committee to accept. This amendment is in lieu of the amendment which was made by the Legislative Council and which was rejected by a large majority of members of this Chamber as being unacceptable to us, because it was too wide and too vague. Members recall that last Tuesday, when we were debating the matter, section 75 of the Justices Act was canvassed. Those members who read that section will see that this amendment, which is now recommended by the managers for acceptance, is closely modelled on section 75: indeed, it is word for word the relevant part of sec-

tion 75. Section 75 (and it is common ground between all of us) has universal application to all statutory offences in South Australia. However, the Legislative Council's managers complained that people did not know about it, and they themselves were unaware of it.

The Hon. L. J. King: It does not necessarily follow that justices are.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I should not refer to justices. It was considered that section 75 was not known by several of those who sit on the bench, and certainly not by some defendants who come before the courts and who, if aware of it, could ask the court to deal with them under it. The first suggestion was that administrative arrangements could be made so that clerks of court would be reminded of section 75, and so that magistrates (who I am sure are all familiar with its provisions) would hear offences under this section, as we hope it will be, for the first 12 months. The Minister of Roads and Transport was most helpful during the evening and again this morning in talking to the Attorney-General about these arrangements. When the conference ended its suspension at 12.30 p.m. today the Minister reported on his talks, but at that time the managers for the Council had suggested this amendment, which renders those administrative arrangements unnecessary.

In my view (and the other managers can speak for themselves), the only possible effect of this amendment is to emphasize to the courts when dealing with an offence under this provision that it has the trifling power (they will know it in 99 cases out of 100 anyway) to draw attention to this section and its use in connection with this offence. That may possibly be regarded as undesirable, as it distinguishes offences under these provisions from others under the Road Traffic Act. However, this is so small a price to pay (as the Bill is in substantially the same form as it left this Chamber, with one exception) that it is certainly worth while paying, and I think that that was the view of all managers. The Minister, as one of the managers, made clear (and this was accepted by the Legislative Council) that he intended to introduce a Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act during the later part of this session, and that he had in mind the inclusion of a clause that would make this provision of general application to offences under the Road Traffic Act. He made that clear so that there would be no suggestion in a few months' time that there had been any breach of faith.

I think this attitude was readily accepted by the managers from the Legislative Council, and there was no suggestion of any undertaking not to disturb this and no suggestion that the Council would consider that it should not be disturbed. We now have a Bill substantially in the form that it left this Chamber, except for the amendment we made last Thursday that will nullify the general rule that a person guilty of a breach of statutory duty is *prima facie* guilty of negligence. Personally, I regret that decision and think that we have made a mistake, but we now have a Bill providing for the compulsory wearing of seat belts in South Australia. The Minister will, I think, announce the Government's time table for bringing it into operation. I do not want to anticipate what he will say, but all I say is the sooner the better, because with every day that passes we take the risk of losing lives and of citizens sustaining loss and injury that could be avoided. Therefore, I hope that the Bill will operate soon and that it will have the beneficial effect that we all believe it will have. I believe that this is a great step forward in the fight for safer roads in South Australia. It is by no means the only step, but it is a great step forward.

I desire to raise one other matter: I do not wish to debate it but, as I will have no other opportunity to speak about it, I refer to it now and hope that I will have your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, to do so. In this conference we embarked on a new procedure. Instead of the members who were not managers having to wait round for the House to sit again after the conference was over, the House adjourned yesterday before 6 p.m. until this afternoon. I am sure that this procedure was a relief to those members not concerned in the conference, and I understand their feelings about it. However, all I can say, having experienced this procedure, is that some of the misgivings that I voiced yesterday when we suspended Standing Orders and others that I have from the experience of this conference have now been confirmed. The managers lose the spur to finish the conference and have the matter wound up once and for all. Last evening we found that the library was not open, and that is the first time that I have known that to occur. We wanted to look at a South Australian State report. The bar was open, and why the library was closed and who decided to close it, I do not know, but it was a mistake.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow the honourable member to continue on this line.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have only two other quick points to make.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member would be reflecting on a decision of the House about the adjournment, and I cannot allow that.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I shall not discuss the other two points at this stage concerning the lack of advice and the breaking into Question Time. I hope that, before we use this procedure again, the deficiencies, disadvantages, and drawbacks that we, the general public, and the press experienced will be critically considered, because I am not sure that this is a good procedure.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Roads and Transport): I support the motion. It is now about three months since the Bill left this place, during which time all sorts of manoeuvrings have taken place. Finally, we have reached a situation that I think will show for all time that vanity is not the preserve of the female sex but the preserve of another place, because somehow we had to find a face-saver for those members who had gone wrong. The present position is almost a joke, especially as it appears that it will now be more difficult for a person charged with a seat-belt offence to get out of that offence because of the provision inserted. That is the way a conference works out when the situation was as this one was.

As the member for Mitcham said, the further amendment was discussed this morning. True, legislation will be introduced this session, early in 1972, dealing with several matters of which notice has already been given publicly, namely, alcohol tests, traffic signals and matters of that type. We will then look at the amendment that has been introduced. However, I make plain (as I think the member for Mitcham tried to do) that, although this was foreshadowed at the conference this morning, it was stated clearly that the managers of the other place in no way gave an undertaking that they would accept anything that was to be included in this new legislation. They were not asked to do that: they were merely informed about this, as an act of courtesy. Although the member for Mitcham and I have agreed about most aspects of this matter, we have not agreed on two things. On Thursday afternoon, in the Government's time (although this was a private member's Bill we dealt with it then in the Government's time), all the members of this Chamber except seven, of whom the member for Mitcham was one, agreed to an amendment from the other place

that we believed was a very good amendment. I also disagree with what the member for Mitcham said about the conference held last evening: I think the adjournment of this Chamber was an excellent idea; I do not think the conference lost anything. If the managers had asked for the library to be kept open, it would have been kept open.

Mr. Millhouse: We didn't know we would need it.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: No, and I do not think we could have used any number of libraries; we had to deal with five stubborn people. Finally, I expect to have regulations available early next week. They will be examined and I hope they will be laid on the table in both Chambers as soon as possible. I hope this will be done next week or certainly the week after. I will then discuss with Cabinet a reasonable operative date, which I hope will be as near as possible to December 1, so that this year we may have a white instead of a black Christmas.

Mr. EVANS: I support the motion, even though my original thought on the compulsion part of the Bill is still the same. At least the amendment gives a chance in some cases for a person to be let off without penalty. By introducing this legislation, we have started at the wrong end of the ladder. We are saving injury but not stopping accidents. If we took action about offences involving liquor we would have an even whiter Christmas than the Minister suggests.

Motion carried.

### QUESTIONS

#### WESTERN TEACHERS COLLEGE

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Education say what reductions have been made in the funds allocated to Western Teachers College?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: No reductions whatsoever have been made. Inevitably each year in Budget discussions that take place every part of the Education Department and every part of any Government department makes submissions as to the appropriate level of funds that will apply for the following year. These submissions are then aggregated into a total sum and there may then be reductions in the total sum available. No doubt, the Leader of the Opposition, as a former Treasurer, would be well aware of this process. The process occurred this year and it was not possible to provide all the additional positions for which the teachers colleges asked. There was a total of 34

additional lecturing positions for all teachers colleges and, in addition, about a dozen ancillary staff appointments were provided, as well as some additional part-time assistants. I think, from memory, that the additional number of positions on the lecturing staff at Western Teachers College was nine or ten, because some expansion in enrolments is still taking place. The enrolments at Western Teachers College are expanding relatively more rapidly than is the total number of enrolments and Western Teachers College would have received more than a purely proportionate share of the increased number of positions. In summary, there is an increased allocation to Western Teachers College on account of expanded staff to meet increased enrolments at the college. Of course, there is the further increased financial provision for Western Teachers College on account of the increase in salaries that has taken place, not only for the academic staff but also for the non-academic staff. Without checking the matter in detail, I should think that the financial provision for Western Teachers College would have been increased by between 20 per cent and 25 per cent, a significant part of that increase being due to increased wages and salaries, but some part of the increase was due to the proposed expansion in the college. If any complaints have reached the Leader's ears, I presume they are simply based on the fact that the college did not get all it asked for. I imagine that that is a basic fact of life that many people experience at various times, and it is something we all have to put up with.

#### BLUE ARMY

Mr. WELLS: Will the Attorney-General investigate the business affairs of what is known as the Blue Army? The Blue Army is registered as the United Home Traders Services. It is situated at 315 South Terrace, Adelaide, which is the address of the Australian International Merchandise Company. The army purports to provide skilled tradesmen, such as painters, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, ironworkers, and cement workers. This company has advertised in the daily press for tradesmen, and I have been reliably informed that membership in the army entails a \$350 fee. This proposal produced a nasty odour in my nostrils. As I consider that this matter should be investigated, I should appreciate the Attorney-General's co-operation.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I shall see what I can find out about the soldiers blue.

## KANGAROO ISLAND TRANSPORT

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In this morning's *Advertiser* under the heading "Expert Management for Troubridge?" appears the following report:

From the public's point of view it is important to know soon whether the Government will aim to keep that loss at a minimum by engaging as its operations manager the Adelaide Steamship Company, which is the only available group with first-hand knowledge of the management of the service.

Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether the Government is interested in coming to an arrangement with the Adelaide Steamship Company and, if it is interested, what terms it intends to seek?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I could probably draw attention to about six misleading reports of Parliamentary activity in this morning's *Advertiser*, and the one to which the honourable member has referred is included in that group. This matter is currently being considered by the Government and, when decisions have been made, appropriate announcements will be made.

## PYRAMID SELLING

Mr. SLATER: Can the Attorney-General say whether legislative action is likely to be taken in respect of pyramid selling? I understand that, at a recent conference of Attorneys-General, pyramid selling was discussed. In addition, many people in the community are anxious that action be taken to obviate the dangers of pyramid selling.

The Hon. L. J. KING: At the conference of Attorneys-General held in Melbourne in July, instructions were given to the officers to study the possibility of legislation being enacted by the States to control the evils associated with the practice known as pyramid selling. At the conference of Attorneys-General held in Hobart last week the officers reported that they had been unable to devise any satisfactory means for the States to legislate in respect of this practice. The problem has been to define the practices that ought to be prohibited, and the problem of the practices involving more than one State has also created difficulties. The officers concluded that the only effective way of dealing with the problem was to constitute something in the nature of an unfair trade practices tribunal, which has been appointed in some parts of the United States of America, which would consider each scheme on its merits, and which would have power to make prohibition orders against schemes that were thought to be unfair. However, I think this system is clearly beyond the resources of the State. It was decided by the Attorneys-General not to try to legislate

on a State basis but to ask the Commonwealth Government to consider the possibility of legislating on lines which could be related to the Commonwealth restrictive trade practices legislation and which could be administered by the existing trade practices tribunal. The Commonwealth Attorney-General agreed to refer this proposition to his Cabinet, but I have no information yet whether the Commonwealth Government will try to legislate along these lines. I think the only course I can take regarding pyramid selling is once again to issue, to members of the public who may be contemplating entering into this sort of arrangement, a warning that they should consider the matter seriously and obtain professional advice before entering into any such transaction.

Mr. Jennings: What sort of professional advice?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I think the advice of a solicitor and an accountant may be advisable before entering into such a transaction.

Mr. Jennings: I know a case where solicitors were leaving their practices to take it up!

The Hon. L. J. KING: I think anyone entertaining such a proposition should have regard to the many people in all parts of Australia who have lost large sums as a result of investing their savings in such schemes, which because of their nature are fraught with great danger, and because of which inevitably someone (and usually many people) will suffer loss. One aspect of the scheme is, I think, now clearly illegal: that is, the clause in most agreements that the distributor may not sell the goods at less than the price fixed in the agreement. I think that this provision is clearly illegal under the new Commonwealth law prohibiting retail price maintenance. This enables some distributors to get rid of products that are left on their hands and thereby to cut their losses. However, in doing so, they further jeopardize the interests of those who are trying to adhere to the letter of the agreement. Even though certain distributors manage to sell the product at cut prices and so minimize their losses, they still suffer severe losses. Once again I think that the appropriate advice to give to members of the public is that they should think hard before entering into such schemes and that they should have regard to the many people who have suffered heavy losses as a result of being involved in such schemes.

## GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Premier any information about Government office accommodation in the city of Adelaide? Following

the opening of Allen Commercial Building in Waymouth Street, reports indicated that a substantial area of office accommodation would be made available to the Government in that building. Can the Premier say which departments are likely to be housed in that building and when they will move into it? Further, will he ascertain what is the estimated cost to the State of renting such accommodation? I understand that the Premier referred to the fact that the Labour and Industry Department would also be accommodated in that building. Was he referring to an extension of that department's activities, or is it intended that the department will move to this building from its premises in Grenfell Street?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a full report for the honourable member.

#### MARINO WATER SUPPLY

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Minister of Works have inquiries made with a view to obtaining a normal water supply for the residents of Bundarra Road, Marino, and surrounding areas? On Tuesday last, between 5.30 p.m. and 6 p.m., the people in this area suddenly found themselves without a water supply. Officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department were promptly on the scene, and I have had no further complaints from people in the area. However, as this sort of thing has occurred on and off over about seven years, solving this problem should not be beyond the wit of man.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: We will put the wit of the department to the test.

#### SHOPPING HOURS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I direct my question to the Minister of Labour and Industry although, as it concerns a matter of policy, the Premier may prefer to answer it. Can the Minister say what is the Government's attitude to the campaign, which was reported in this morning's newspaper, of the Shop Assistants Union for a five-day 40-hour working week between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. each day, with no Saturday morning work? The lead story in this morning's paper is about a well attended meeting last evening of the Shop Assistants Union at which a five-point campaign was adopted to try to achieve the objective I have just read out. It is also reported that the Secretary of the union (Mr. Teddy Goldsworthy) said that the union would channel the fight on a political basis because the matter had become a political hot potato. Referring to the Government, he said that the

union could no longer accept the decision of the Government. Later he said, "It is only deciding what it wants." He then accused the Government of purely political manoeuvring. In the light of this report, the apparent determination of the union (I understand it was a unanimous vote), and the various statements made by the Minister and the Premier on this matter, I ask the Minister whether by answering this question he will clarify the Government's proposals.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: All I have to say on this issue is what I have said so often before. Before it acts, the Government will have before it the views of everyone interested in shopping hours, not the least of which will be the views of the public of South Australia. Various interested bodies are entitled to their views. The member for Mitcham has referred to the statements made by the Secretary of the Shop Assistants Union (Mr. Goldsworthy), but Mr. Goldsworthy now categorically denies having made those statements and claims that he was misreported. I suggest that the honourable member read the next edition of the *News*.

#### RIDGEHAVEN FIRE STATION

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary what will be the cost of the fire station currently being constructed in Dewar Avenue, Ridgehaven; when it will be completed and operating; what will be the staffing arrangements; and what will be the area at Tea Tree Gully to come under the control of the Fire Brigades Board, replacing the present service provided by the Emergency Fire Services?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will refer the question to my colleague.

#### DRUGS

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health whether the Minister is satisfied with the present programme of education on drug abuse that is currently being conducted by the Public Health Department? Recently, newspapers have published figures showing an alarming increase in the number of drug offences reported in South Australia. I believe that the Minister of Health has expressed considerable concern about this. The programme of drug education, which is being financed by a grant from the Commonwealth Government and is being administered by the Public Health Department, received publicity some months ago but little has been heard about it recently.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will ask my colleague whether he is satisfied with the present programme.

#### PROBATE

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Treasurer a reply to my recent question whether payments can be made by the Savings Bank without probate being produced?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The matter of increasing the amount which may be paid by savings banks without requiring probate or letters of administration will be listed for inclusion in possible amendments when the Succession Duties Act is next under review.

#### SOLDIER SETTLERS

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Works received a reply from the Minister of Repatriation to the question I asked last week concerning drainage requirements in respect of surrendered properties under the war service land settlement scheme?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that, in the course of lengthy negotiations including direct approaches by him to the Commonwealth Minister, Commonwealth authorities were informed in the strongest possible terms of a need for the drainage and rehabilitation of the properties to be taken into account in the terms and conditions to apply for the disposal of reverted holdings at Cooltong and Loxton. In these circumstances my colleague considers that no good purpose would be served in making further approaches on this question. The present situation is that the sections have been declared surplus to the war service land settlement requirements and are being offered for allotment under irrigation perpetual lease to existing settlers. Successful applicants will not be eligible for advances in respect of such land, nor can Commonwealth funds be applied to developmental expenditure such as drainage installation.

#### SOUTH-EASTERN FREEWAY

Mr. EVANS: On Tuesday, the Minister of Roads and Transport told me that he had a reply to my recent question concerning the South-Eastern Freeway but I had a deputation waiting for me and I could not stay in the House long enough to ask for the reply. On Wednesday he again informed me that he had a reply and he has told me again today. I ask whether he will now give me that reply.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am only too happy to give the reply because it would have gone back to the office and stayed there

if it had not been asked for today. I am sick and tired of bringing it down to the House if the honourable member is not interested in the reply. There is no reason in the world why it could not have been asked for yesterday other than the instructions from the honourable member's boss that he was not allowed to ask for it.

The report states that the incident to which the member refers occurred on a widened section of the Mount Barker road and involved a vehicle loaded beyond the normal limits permitted under the Road Traffic Act. The vehicle was travelling under a special permit with police escort at the time. When this section of the old Mount Barker road was widened, the down track (to the city) was constructed on a new alignment and a new bridge built but, following extensive investigation, it was decided to retain the existing bridge on the up track (away from the city). This bridge is adequate for traffic loaded in accordance with the Road Traffic Act, and the expense of providing a new bridge necessary for excessive loads on rare occasions is not considered warranted at this stage. Every attempt is made to restrict traffic interference to a minimum, whenever re-routing of heavily laden vehicles is necessary.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Will the Minister direct the Highways Department to re-advertise for tenders to provide equipment for work on the South-Eastern Freeway in order to make it possible for South Australian contractors to tender where a successful tenderer from another State cannot meet his commitments? I asked a related question, although not the same question, yesterday relevant to this matter, and the Minister suggested in his reply that he would get some details so that I could sort myself out. I assure the Minister that I have the facts sorted out and I ask that he give some of this information to the Highways Department so that some clarification can be given. Tenders were called for five 30cub.yd. scrapers for work on the South-Eastern Freeway. These scrapers are not available in South Australia, but many 20cub.yd. scrapers owned by contractors in South Australia are at present lying idle. Thompson Plant Hire Proprietary Limited of Melbourne, was the successful tenderer, but apparently the company could not supply this machinery, because it does not own the machinery itself, and the company had not started work by October 25, which was to be the starting date. The member for Heysen and I looked at the site works

this morning and saw that one section was being worked by bulldozers scraping material into a heap and loading it on to trucks, which carted the material away, and then it was consolidated. Experts assure me that this is a most inefficient way to handle this material, whereas a scraper can do it in one operation.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Who are the experts? Was the member for Heysen one of them?

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: They are executive members of the South Australian Earthmoving Contractors Association, if the Minister wishes to know who are concerned. Obviously, this matter is of considerable importance to South Australian contractors who cannot get work for their equipment, and apparently the equipment sought is not available in South Australia (certainly, it was not available from another State by the starting date). I believe that the job can be done efficiently by the somewhat smaller units that are readily available in South Australia. Some Highways Department scrapers on the job are smaller than the 20cub.yd. ones that are available. In view of the information that I have given to the Minister about the equipment and the position of the successful tenderer from Victoria, I ask the Minister to consider the matter.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: In reply to a similar question recently, I assured the honourable member that I would have the matter considered and bring down some information. The honourable member has asked this afternoon whether I will direct the Highways Department to re-advertise for a smaller-size scraper. Although the honourable member may properly suggest that the work can be done with the smaller machines, he has not said whether it can be done economically with them. I said previously that I would get that information for the honourable member. In relation to his question as to whether I will direct the Highways Department to re-advertise, the reply is, "No, I will not, unless there is something wrong with the tenders that have already been accepted."

#### DRAINAGE WORK

Mr. NANKIVELL: In view of the reply that the Minister of Works gave me earlier this year about the expected costs of drainage works outlined in the Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey report, can the Minister say what is the present estimate of the cost of the work outlined in this report and what works have been planned or are being planned to be proceeded with in this State? I think I am correct in saying

that the Minister has stated that the present estimated cost of the essential works that need to be carried out in Chowilla-lock 6, Renmark-lock 5, Fisher Creek evaporation basin, and the Waikerie areas is about \$9,000,000 instead of the \$1,500,000 that is stated in the report. I also understand that there has been an assessment made of the costs of work required to provide similar drainage for Loxton, as an alternative to the present Katarapko Island basin. As this is still an urgent matter and does not seem to have been provided for in any works that have been announced up to the present, and because this work is basically in South Australia, I ask the Minister whether works are planned and what is the present expected cost of those works. I also ask him, as an afterthought, what assistance the Commonwealth Government is likely to provide for this type of work in South Australia, in view of the fact that work is being carried out in Victoria with Commonwealth Government assistance.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member may recall that, immediately the Government received the Gutteridge report, I set up a committee to report to me, and that committee told me very expeditiously that the estimate made in the Gutteridge report (I think it was \$1,900,000) was nowhere near the amount that would be required to overcome the situation in South Australia. My current information is that not \$9,000,000, but about \$11,500,000, will be required to satisfactorily resolve the situation in South Australia. In fact, only this week I made a submission to Cabinet on this question, but obviously I cannot reveal that submission to the honourable member at this stage. I can tell him, however, that this may lead to the sort of investigation required to get the details we need to accurately assess the amount required to be spent to resolve the situation. The honourable member would also know that, soon after the Gutteridge report was made available, we made submissions to the Commonwealth Government for, I think, \$2,500,000 (and again, I am quoting figures from memory). This is based on preliminary information given as a result of the findings of a committee that I appointed and it is also based on the fact that the Commonwealth Government had made available to the Victorian Government an amount of, I think, about \$4,000,000 (although not all that money was spent) to put in salinity control works on Barr Creek, in Victoria.

I am not certain whether we have heard from the Commonwealth that further details are required or whether the submission was rejected on the basis that it was too early at present. Certainly, there has been a reply from the Commonwealth Government on the matter, but I cannot say what that reply contains. That is not because I am not willing to reveal it but because I cannot recall the details of the reply. I assure the honourable member that the department is pursuing this matter and I may be able to give him more information next week.

### SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Education say what progress the Government has made towards giving special consideration to the status and salaries of teachers at special schools? This morning I, along with other members from both sides of this House and from another place, welcomed the opportunity to visit the Kensington Special Senior School. This arrangement was made following a question asked about the new Gepps Cross school about two weeks ago. On November 3, 1970, I asked the Minister the following question:

Can the Minister of Education say whether he or his department has considered the advancement of teachers who choose to concern themselves with the education of retarded children or of other children who require special attention?

In reply, amongst other things, the Minister said:

Clearly, our approach to the matter of promotion within the normal promotional scale must be altered with respect to people such as special class teachers who have this special talent but who have no specific academic qualifications.

I am not suggesting that this is necessarily the case concerning the teachers we saw at Kensington this morning. It was obvious from the visit we made that they are undertaking a magnificent task for people in the community, especially for the 80 children under their care. Can the Minister say what progress has been made in this field that will permit these people, who have so much to offer, to remain in this area, or will they have to transfer elsewhere in order to improve their status and salary?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: One of the main problems occurring in the Education Department is that the Teachers Salaries Board lays down certain minimum qualifications that are necessary for any position, and salaries are determined accordingly. For example, a senior master must have the minimum qualification for promotion past head-

master grade 4. One difficult problem is that some teachers teaching in special schools do not have any formal qualifications and, therefore, under current arrangements (from memory), they cannot go beyond the seventh rung of the assistants' scale. The difficulty here is that any arbitral authority uses the qualifications required for a position as a basis for determining salaries and, if those qualifications are eliminated, when the person concerned next goes to arbitration he automatically does not do as well regarding salary. For many years the tendency has been for some upgrading of qualifications for certain positions to be required and for this upgrading to be used as a basis of a claim before the arbitration tribunal (in this case the Teachers Salaries Board) to justify a higher salary. Our only means around this difficulty at present is to provide release-time scholarships for those people who are particularly able but who lack certain qualifications that are required for promotion.

It may be of interest to members who visited the Kensington Senior Special school this morning to know that the Headmaster at that school (Mr. Trenorden) will be on a release-time scholarship next year, and this will enable him to improve the qualifications he holds. Certain possibilities may be open to us if the area of special education can be appropriately defined, so that there is no question of something applying in the area of special education automatically flowing on to other areas. So far we have not been able to do that.

Dr. Eastick: You'll continue to pursue it?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: There are likely to be increasing problems in this area as we develop the training courses for the teachers of the handicapped, because this in itself creates qualifications for such teachers that can be earned by those teachers. If qualifications are available for teachers to obtain, and these qualifications become part of the prerequisite for qualifying for a certain position and affect the salary applicable to that position, one is back to the same rigmarole that applies generally. It is not a question that can be readily answered but, as a result of the honourable member's question, I will certainly have another look at the matter to see whether there is any room for manoeuvre, and I will bring down an appropriate reply.

### LAURA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Education obtain a detailed report on the condition of the residence required to be occupied by



the Headmaster of the Laura Primary School? In the course of my activities, I was recently at Laura and inspected the Headmaster's residence. The house is small and I am led to believe that it may have been one of those houses brought down from Radium Hill.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will examine the matter.

#### NARACOORTE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. RODDA: Can the Minister of Education say when the showers and boys' change room at the Naracoorte High School will be completed? On August 11, the Minister said that the contract for this work had been let on February 12 and that it was expected that the work would be finished in about 40 weeks, or early in November. From my observations of the work, however, it appears that the walls of the building are only half to three-quarters finished in some places and that no work has been done for some time. Apparently, some people who win contracts do not get off their tails and finish the work. As I judge it from the work done in this case, the date that the Minister has given will obviously not be achieved. These facilities are needed at the school, but I imagine they will not be ready until the next school year. In asking this question, I add a protest regarding contracts being let to people who start the necessary work and then go off and do another job elsewhere.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member may be interested to know that I did not come down in the last shower. The estimated date of completion was for the end of November or December this year and, whenever such a date is given, it is always subject to the vagaries of the weather or difficulties that may arise in relation to certain contractors. Sometimes contractors undertake work without having a penalty clause in the contract, simply because of the difficulty we have in getting contractors to tender for work in certain areas in the State. The honourable member would be aware that Naracoorte is an area where building costs are significantly higher than they are in the metropolitan area. I should have thought that the honourable member had not come down in the last shower, either, and that he would recognize that the difficulty experienced by the school, if the change room was completed by the beginning of the 1972 school year, would not be significantly greater than if it were completed by the end of November this year. After all, the change room could be used only for the

last two weeks of the current school year, at best. However, I will ask for a detailed report on the position and ascertain what is the revised expected date of completion. I assure the honourable member that the Public Buildings Department, in carrying out projects in various parts of the State, experiences considerable difficulties through no fault of its own in ensuring that the work is completed on time.

Mr. Mathwin: Why not apply a penalty rate?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Because in many cases we cannot get a contractor if a penalty rate is applied.

#### SCHOOL COUNCILS

Mrs. STEELE: Will the Minister of Education clarify the position with regard to the changed composition of school councils? I understand that discussions had taken place with, and representations had been made to, the Minister, based on the recommendations of the Karmel committee. Further, the difficulty in reaching agreement on some of the aspects raised in this matter has caused delay in the appointment of representative members of school councils. If the Minister can indicate the current position, I am sure it will be appreciated by most members.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Earlier, we asked school councils to continue on for a further six months because we wished them to operate on a calendar-year basis. It is expected, therefore, that technical high school councils will be reconstituted from the beginning of next year, or whatever is the appropriate date for this purpose. As I have received submissions from all the interested parties, I hope to be able to make an announcement shortly on exactly what will be the constitution of the new councils. Area school councils could conceivably be reconstituted without an amendment to the Act, although there is a provision in the Act which requires that no more than seven parents shall be elected at a meeting and no more than five, I think, appointed by the Minister. So there could be certain problems associated with the existing legislative provisions in the Act and in the recommendations of the Karmel committee, or some version of them. Regarding primary school committees, the Act specifies that there shall be no more than seven members elected by the parents at a meeting, and it will not be possible to reconstitute primary school committees until the Act is amended. However, that provision does not apply to high

school councils because the current position in respect of such councils is specified in the regulations, not in the Act.

### COURT SENTENCES

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Attorney-General take steps to have the following cases reviewed? I have received a letter from a constituent of mine, who writes in the name of justice and whose letter states, in part:

Please find enclosed a cutting from the *Advertiser* dated October 8, carrying a report on two 22-year-old criminals who were dealt with by the Chief Justice on October 7. I am frankly staggered that two thugs, both of whom admitted their crimes, should be let loose to prowl society when in each case armed robbery was involved.

Enclosed with the letter is a press cutting which states, in part:

Two 22-year-old men, both first offenders, were granted suspended sentences by the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court yesterday for separate armed hold-ups. George William Dawson, of O'Neil Street, Parafield Gardens, described as a compulsive gambler, admitted that on August 7, at Pennington, while armed with a knife, he robbed Anton Frank Zupanovich, an acting hotel manager, of about \$237. Dawson was ordered 18 months' gaol, but the sentence was suspended on him entering a \$100 good behaviour bond for two years. David John Ashton, of Richmond Road, Hawthorn, admitted that on July 7, at Cumberland Park, he robbed a man in a shop of \$18 while armed with a toy pistol. He was ordered 15 months' imprisonment, suspended on him entering a \$100 good behaviour bond for two years.

These men were given suspended sentences. If I give the information I have to the Attorney-General, will he have this matter investigated?

The Hon. L. J. KING: No. Fortunately for all of us, the administration of criminal justice is in the hands of independent judges who are appointed for this specific purpose. I am happy that that is so and that the decision in criminal cases is in the hands of competent, highly qualified and independent judges, such as the Chief Justice, and is not in the hands of considerably less qualified members of the public who are seldom in possession of the facts but who are often willing to express their ill-informed opinion of a case.

### LICENSING ACT

Mr. BECKER: When does the Attorney-General expect to introduce amendments to the Licensing Act as a result of an interim judgment given on March 11, 1971, by the Full Bench in the matter of an application

for a restaurant licence for premises situated at 320-324 North-East Road, Klemzig, to be known as the Pizza Palace Restaurant and as a result of an article in the *Sunday Mail* of March 27, 1971? The article, headed "Loophole in Licensing Act Threat to Companies", states in part:

A loophole in the Licensing Act which could create major problems for the South Australian liquor trade is likely to be plugged by the Government . . . . The loophole was discovered during application hearing by the Licensing Court Full Bench on February 25. Capricorn Enterprises Proprietary Limited, which runs Pizza Palace restaurants, sought a second licence for a restaurant to be built at Klemzig.

In the judgment, the Full Bench referred to section 82 (1) and said:

The law with regard to a company seeking a full publican's licence is quite clear . . . . A company seeking a licence other than a full publican's licence must be incorporated in this State and it need not have as its sole object the carrying on of the business which it seeks to operate. The problem now before us centres around the construction of the words "any licence" in the penultimate line of the subsection.

The Pizza Palace at Klemzig, which cost \$150,000, is due to open on Monday and is awaiting Government action in respect of the issue of a licence. In view of the time since the interim judgment on March 11, can the Attorney-General say when amendments to the Licensing Act are likely to be introduced?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Legislation on this topic will be introduced this session.

*Later:*

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Attorney-General say whether he intends to introduce a Bill to amend the Licensing Act before the House rises for the—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. That question has already been asked this afternoon.

Mr. Millhouse: No. I have not even completed the question.

Mr. Mathwin: The Minister does not even know what it is.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The question is this: Does the Attorney intend to introduce the amendment to the Licensing Act before the House adjourns for the Christmas break?

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The question has been asked previously.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Sit down!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Thanks. The Minister of Works is a bad-tempered fellow this afternoon. With your permission, Sir, and the concurrence of the House, I desire briefly to explain the question. Earlier in Question Time the Attorney-General said, in reply to the member for Hanson, that it was intended to introduce, during this session, an amendment to the Licensing Act to cover a problem arising out of section 82 of the Act. My earlier understanding had been that an amendment to the Licensing Act would come in and probably would be passed before Christmas. My question is directed to finding out whether the Bill will be introduced before Christmas or whether it is to wait until we come back on February 29. I cannot understand why the Minister of Works jumped down my throat on the matter.

The Hon. L. J. KING: Every effort will be made to introduce the proposed amendments to the Licensing Act before we adjourn on November 25. There is however a substantial volume of urgent work in the hands of the Parliamentary Counsel. I cannot say at this stage whether it will prove to be possible this year, but the relevant legislation will certainly be introduced into the House this session.

#### SCEALE BAY JETTY

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Marine reconsider his decision to demolish the Sceale Bay jetty as a result of the decision of the District Council of Streaky Bay to lease the jetty under certain conditions? A letter dated November 1 from the council's District Manager states, in part:

Council is keen, for a number of reasons, to see this jetty remain for as long as possible. You are very aware of the tourist potential of the Sceale Bay area and also of the fact that the jetty receives a lot of use, even if this is intermittent. The council may consider leasing the jetty if suitable terms can be arranged.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have already told the honourable member three times that I am not prepared to reconsider my decision. I, too, have received a letter from the district council, which I have read. The council has not told me that it is prepared to spend \$20,000 on the jetty in order to make it safe for people to use, and I am sure the council would not want to spend \$20,000 on the jetty to ensure the safety of people using it. In due course, I will reply to the council's letter stating that, if it is prepared to spend \$20,000 on the jetty, I have no objection to leasing the jetty to the council on that condition, in which

case the jetty will remain standing; otherwise, it will be demolished.

#### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I ask my question of the Attorney-General, although it is a matter of policy and the Premier may prefer to reply to it. Does the Government intend to take action, as far as it is able, to implement the policy announced last Monday by the Leader of the Commonwealth Labor Party to replace third party and workmen's compensation insurance with a scheme to cover all disabling injuries? The Leader of the Commonwealth Opposition (Mr. Whitlam) is reported in last Monday's paper to have given details of the Labor Party's plans to replace these forms of insurance with a national compensation scheme to cover all disabling injuries. One would expect that such a scheme would require complementary legislation by the States to have any hope of being constitutionally valid and therefore effective. I presume that the policies of the Commonwealth and State Parties have been dovetailed. This morning I noticed that the first letter in the "Letters to the Editor" section was written by Mr. Mark Harrison, who is the endorsed Labor Party candidate for Mitcham at the next election.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is commenting.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: In the letter, he bitterly attacks Mr. Whitlam and suggests alternative—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Attorney-General.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Well, Sir—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member asked a question and sought leave to make an explanation.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: What was the matter with it?

The SPEAKER: It was not an explanation: the honourable member was commenting.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Just because I referred to the Labor Party.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Attorney-General.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The plan announced, as part of Commonwealth Labor policy, by the Commonwealth Labor Leader (Mr. Whitlam) is clearly one that would be implemented as part of a national insurance plan and therefore could be implemented only at a Commonwealth level. I think that the member for Mitcham may be assured that, if he has to choose between Mr. Whitlam and

Mr. Harrison as to who is the official spokesman for the Labor Party at the Commonwealth level, the decision must fall on Mr. Whitlam. Regarding South Australia, no Government decision has been made on any aspect of this matter. However, I think it can be safely assumed that, if the Commonwealth Government implements a scheme of the kind announced by Mr. Whitlam, the South Australian Government would be happy to co-operate regarding any complementary legislation that may be necessary.

#### BOYS CRAFT CENTRE

Mr. RODDA: Can the Minister of Education give any information about a projected boys craft centre at the Naracoorte High School? I was told some time ago (I do not think it was by the present Minister) that it was intended to start work on this craft centre in 1971 and that it would be completed in 1972. However, from investigations I have made at the school, it does not now even seem to be a twinkle in the old man's eye. As there is a real need for this type of centre at this school, I ask the Minister whether he will confer with his good officers and then inform the House what is happening about this projected centre.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Naracoorte craft centre is more than a twinkle in either my eye or the honourable member's eye; it is on the design list and it will be part of additions to be made to the Naracoorte High School. I will get a report for the honourable member on when it is due, and I will explain to my good officers that the honourable member does not really mean what he implies about how craft centres are produced.

#### RENMARK WATER SUPPLY

Mr. CURREN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the Renmark town water supply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The overall system at Renmark can be described as a limited pressure system. The town is essentially flat and supply pressure is determined by an overhead tank adjacent to the pumping station on the river bank at the north-eastern corner of the town. Necessarily, all water is chlorinated and pumped to the tank to provide contact time. Thus, the maximum head available is determined by the elevation of the tank. High-water level is about 100ft. above the average ground level of the town, and normal heads available fall well below

this figure during high-demand periods, particularly in the southern and south-western areas of the town. However, Sixteenth Street, where Mr. Crowle is situated (the gentleman who raised this specific problem) is not badly situated in this regard. Recently, enlargements of mains and connecting mains have been laid as part of an overall improvement to the more remote areas. Further plans for improvement include an additional elevated concrete tank to be built on block 97, a few chains south of Twentieth Street. For this purpose, \$215,000 has been included for 1973-74 on the five-year Loan works programme. It is planned to construct this tank at the same elevation as the existing tank and thus provide balancing storage at each end of the system. By this means pressure drop due to demand will be appreciably lessened.

#### RURAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Lands to a question I asked recently about the rural reconstruction scheme?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that some meetings have already been held in an endeavour to acquaint farmers with the conditions of the reconstruction scheme. In co-operation with the United Farmers and Graziers Association, further meetings have been arranged, and officers will address meetings at Loxton on Monday, November 8, Kimba on Tuesday, November 9, Lock on Wednesday, November 10, and Cowell on Thursday, November 11. Opportunity will be taken at these meetings to give as much information as possible on the requirements to complete the form. If further meetings are required and if these are arranged my colleague is prepared to make officers available to address them. Farmers can also contact the district officers of the Lands Department who are situated at Port Lincoln, Streaky Bay, Whyalla, Jamestown, Murray Bridge, Loxton, Naracoorte, Mount Gambier, and Kingscote (Kangaroo Island), and rural economists attached to the Agriculture Department who are located at Loxton, Naracoorte, and Kadina.

All of these officers have details of the scheme together with application forms and will assist with inquiries which applicants may wish to make. I must stress that the officers are not in a position to fill in the forms, as this can be done only by the farmers, who would have information which is being sought. My colleague also points out that, in addition to

the foregoing, many hundreds of interviews have been conducted at the rural industry assistance office to acquaint applicants with the requirements of this scheme so that as much information as possible can be made available to assist them in preparing applications.

**Mr. GUNN:** Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question on the form of application for rural assistance?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The present application form for rural assistance is designed to cover all forms of primary production and as far as possible all the likely contingencies that may confront an applicant. Consequently, it is most unlikely, and indeed this has been shown in practice, that an applicant would need to complete every sheet. The information requested in the form is of the type that would normally be required by any person concerned in examining an application for the lending of money. The application form and the questions are detailed and the form has been prepared in this way so that it can be readily understood. It should not be confusing if an applicant has kept reasonable farm records.

True, the initial Victorian application form consists of only four pages. However, in addition to completing this application form, it is necessary for an applicant to supply a budget of income and expenditure, together with copies of his income tax returns for the past three years. Furthermore, it is understood that the Victorian authority, before proceeding to consider an application for assistance, requires an additional follow-up that involves a further 12 sheets of information. It is clear that there is little difference between the information ultimately required in Victoria and that which is initially sought in this State. The Minister of Lands believes that in seeking all relevant information initially this State is able to process applications more quickly and economically.

#### INSECTICIDES

**Dr. EASTICK:** Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question about insecticides?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** My colleague states that all insecticides prepared for the prevention and treatment of blowfly strike are registered under the Stock Medicines Act in common with other stock medicines. The Stock Medicines Board, in its consideration of each application for registration and re-registration, is guided by the published scientific evidence concerning the active constituents, the clearance or refusal by the Technical Com-

mittee on Veterinary Drugs, and any recommendations made by specialist committees, and approved by the Standing Committee on Agriculture. Although the board has received reports which indicate that resistance by blowflies to some organo-phosphorus compounds is widespread throughout Australia, these reports also indicate that the insecticides on the market all give a period of protection even though the period may not be as long as when they were first introduced. The reports do not indicate that any particular organo-phosphorus compound is of such low efficiency that it should be refused registration nor has a request or recommendation to this effect been received.

#### WATERWORKS ACT

**Mr. COUMBE:** Can the Minister of Works say whether the Government intends to introduce further amendments to the Waterworks Act and the Sewerage Act this session? There have been recent amendments to both of these important Acts, and I understand that there was to be a full-scale review of their provisions. Can the Minister say whether this review is still continuing and, if it is, when it will be completed and legislation introduced to give effect to it?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The matter is under review, and I have listed the Waterworks Act for amendment this session, but I cannot say whether or not this will occur. As the honourable member will appreciate from his own experience, sometimes difficulties are encountered through the unavailability of the Parliamentary Counsel, whose time is limited because of the demands made on him.

#### EGGS

**Mr. McANANEY:** Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question about eggs?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** My colleague has received the following information from the General Manager of the South Australian Egg Board:

The price variation came into effect on Sunday, August 29, 1971. The recorded sales by grading agents for the three weeks ended August 28, 1971, were 408,487 dozen. For the three weeks ended September 18, 1971, following the price variation sales were recorded as 406,542 dozen, a decrease of .41 per cent (1,945 dozen). As a matter of interest, during last year an egg price reduction occurred at the same date (August 30, 1970). However, although the reduction in price was not as great as this year's variation, the trend of recorded sales over the six weeks was similar in that a 7.07 per cent decline in sales was experienced following the reduction in egg prices.

## KING STREET BRIDGE

Mr. BECKER: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of October 28 about work on the King Street bridge?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Very little roadwork will be associated with the King Street bridge works. The bridge will be not totally rebuilt but extended at each end as required by the enlargement of the Patawalonga Basin. As a result, roadworks will consist of connecting and improving the immediate approaches. Easier approach curves and the installation of some traffic control devices are planned.

## MORPHETTVILLE PARK SCHOOL

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Minister of Education say what progress has been made regarding minor alterations to convert a cloakroom at the Morphettville Park School into a kitchen area? The work involves only minor alterations in knocking a hole through a single brick wall to provide a servery to the general purpose room, but the general purpose room has no facilities for a sink or stove. The Parents and Friends Committee must carry water into this general purpose room in a bucket and empty the dirty water by the same process. The room concerned is conveniently situated near the drainage in this area. The matter has been considered, and the committee understood from information it received that the work would be commenced in June last. I ask the Minister whether he will get a report on the matter.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Yes, I will examine the matter.

## WEEDS

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my question about weeds? The Minister has been kind enough to tell me, on the same number of occasions as the Minister of Roads and Transport has told me, that he has replies to my questions. I have not asked for the replies for the same reason as I have given earlier, and I hope that the Minister of Works does not adopt the same arrogant attitude as the Minister of Roads and Transport has done.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: There are at present 37 "Trespassers Prosecuted" signs around the perimeter of the Happy Valley reservoir reserve. These are at locations where unauthorized entry is most likely. In

addition, at five other places on the boundary of this reserve are notices displaying the waterworks regulations as they affect trespassers and two "Closed to Visitors" signs at the main entrance gates. I thought I was replying to the honourable member. However, he is not only not interested in asking for the reply to be given but he is also not interested in hearing the reply.

Mr. Evans: I am sorry; I was with the Speaker.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will expedite giving the reply, then. Although it would seem that there are at present sufficient signs, arrangements are being made to erect a further 12 "Trespassers Prosecuted" signs on the reservoir reserve.

## NUNJIKOMPITA SCHOOL

Mr. GUNN: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question about the provision of flyscreens at the Nunjikompita Rural School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Public Buildings Department has informed me that tenders have been called for the provision of fly-wire screens and that a contract is expected to be let soon. Work should be completed within six weeks from the letting of the contract. The poor water pressure which resulted in the breakdown of the septic system was caused by corroded pipes and the distance from the main. Funds are at present being sought to have 3in. pipeline replaced with a 1½in. plastic pipeline which should result in a considerable increase in water pressure at the school and rectify the septic system problem.

## DEEP SEA PORT

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Marine further information about the report on the next deep sea port in South Australia? The Minister has been particularly patient towards me regarding my questions on this matter. However, I think that by this time the Minister should be able to report some further progress, as it is some time since he received this report.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, I received a report, as the honourable member has said, some weeks ago: that would be fully two weeks ago! The honourable member would probably appreciate that one must read a report of this kind very carefully and assimilate what is in it. Not only must I read the report: I think it is fairly important that my colleagues also have the opportunity to read the report, which I have had "for some

time". I believe in giving my Cabinet colleagues time to read reports so that in due course I can discuss the matter with them in Cabinet, because the decision involved is the sort of decision that I think even the honourable member would agree may have to be made by Cabinet, not by me, as an individual Minister.

Mr. Venning: Hear, hear!

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am pleased that the honourable member agrees with me. I have read the report very carefully and have given my Cabinet colleagues copies of it. In due course, when I consider that they have had sufficient time to read and assimilate this very important report, Cabinet will discuss the matter. After that discussion, I may be able to tell the honourable member something further.

#### EXAMINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. NANKIVELL: I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Education.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The member for Mitcham is niggly today.

Mr. Millhouse: The Minister of Works is not only niggly: he's also wrong.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mallee received the call, and the member for Mitcham has had his call in turn. He did not receive the call to ask a question of the Minister of Education, and I want both to extend to the member for Mallee the courtesy he deserves. He is always one of those gentlemen who waits his turn.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Education ascertain whether or not it is correct that employers are at present giving preference to people who have obtained the Public Examinations Board Leaving certificate rather than to those who have gained the departmental secondary school Leaving certificate (the internal examination)? Is it correct that such positions as those held by nurses, office workers, teachers and bank officers, etc., are now closed to students who have gained the internal examination certificate, as opposed to the P.E.B. certificate? If it is correct, will the Minister do something in the way of public relations to persuade employers of the comparative value of the track 2 course as opposed to the O course? Alternatively, will he ensure that every effort is made to provide both courses at area schools so that children who, because they live in the country, are obliged to attend area schools will not be denied the job opportunities that are apparently denied them at present?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is delightful to receive such an intelligent question from one of the Opposition members; we realize that it is not possible for all questions to be like that. The position with respect to internal certificates, as I think the honourable member will appreciate, has existed for a long time, and I believe some employers discriminate against students who have an internal certificate of the school in question, as opposed to those with the P.E.B. certificate. Indeed, there is a tendency by some employers to over-employ in the sense that they prefer P.E.B. qualifications for certain jobs, where such qualifications are not necessary. I do not think for one moment it is correct that certain jobs are closed to students who have gained internal certificates. The position in relation to a number of the cases mentioned by the honourable member has been checked in the period since I have been Minister, and I assure the honourable member that what he has indicated is not, in fact, the case. I think he will appreciate that for a considerable time the technical high schools have been graduating students who have only an internal certificate, so the position therefore is not peculiar to area schools: it also occurs at high schools, as well as at technical high schools. Inevitably, no matter what the department tries to do, and even though the position has improved in recent years, some employers and some parents over-rate the value of P.E.B. certificates. I believe that we will not get employers and the community generally to assess the position properly until we eliminate public examinations. I hope that I shall soon be able to announce the formation of a committee to investigate the possibility of establishing alternatives to the P.E.B. Leaving and Matriculation examinations. When such alternatives can be introduced so that every student is more or less on the same footing, the kind of suspicion that exists to the effect that a student may miss out on a job because he or she has only an internal certificate will be groundless, and cases involving the preference of some employers for P.E.B. students, and the effect that has on students who have gained an internal certificate, will no longer exist.

#### LAMB CARCASSES

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question about lamb carcasses?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The percentage of lambs rejected for bruising over the past two years is as follows:

	1969-70	1970-71
	%	%
Gepps Cross . . . . .	4.79	5.80
Port Lincoln . . . . .	7.28	8.31

The privately owned killing works at Noarlunga, Murray Bridge and Peterborough do not keep a record of the causes for rejections; therefore, a comparison with these works cannot be made. The Director of Agriculture, however, considers that a factor contributing to the higher incidence of bruising at the Port Lincoln works may be the higher proportion of poorer quality lambs killed there. At Gepps Cross, no distinction is made between "dark" bruises and "light" bruises, so it is not possible to attempt to pinpoint the origin of bruising, as has been done at Port Lincoln.

**METER READING**

Mr. EVANS: Will the Minister of Works ask the appropriate officers of the Electricity Trust of South Australia to inform a consumer when a meter reader considers that, because of the presence of a dog, it is too great a risk to enter that consumer's premises? A person who came to live in this State last January paid the acceptable deposit to the trust of \$20 and received his first account of \$5.92 in February. In April, he received an account for \$20.37; in August he received an account for \$25.75; and in November the account totalled \$84.83. The person concerned (Mr. J. Walker) lives in Coromandel Valley and, on checking with the trust, he was informed that the meter reader concerned thought it unwise to enter the premises to read the meter. Although that may be a satisfactory explanation, I point out that the amount of power used was estimated at more than three times as much as in the largest of the previous accounts, and this is the basis of the complaint. If the person concerned had been informed that the dog was considered dangerous, he could have taken some action to ensure that the way was clear for the meter reader to enter the premises. As this may occur in other cases, I ask that in these circumstances consumers be informed when a dog is considered dangerous, so that the trust will not consider it necessary to take the action that it has taken on this occasion.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: There is no doubt that this is a nation-rocking problem!

Mr. Evans: It affects someone's pocket.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I think the time of Parliament could be better spent—

Mr. Millhouse: It's a proper question to ask.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I didn't ask for an opinion from the honourable member, either.

Mr. Millhouse: No, but it is a proper question.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is not the prerogative of the member for Mitcham to say whether or not a question is proper. That is the Speaker's prerogative. When the Minister is replying to a question, particularly one asked by one of the honourable member's own colleagues, it is most discourteous of him to interrupt. The Minister should be shown courtesy, and interjections are out of order. I call on the honourable Minister of Works.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I take it that the honourable member is not disputing that the \$85 should properly have been paid.

Mr. Evans: The meter wasn't read.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: If an estimate is made, it could be based on the wrong premise. The average consumption by a consumer must be obtained to assess accurately the quarterly consumption.

Mr. Evans: The account for the previous quarter was for \$25.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: But the meter had never been read?

Mr. Evans: It had been read.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, for the first month.

Mr. Evans: For the first three quarters.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I thought the member said that fewer than four quarters were involved. The meter had been read for three quarters, but not for the fourth quarter, and the bill was \$85?

Mr. Evans: That's right.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I misunderstood: I thought the member said that the actual meter reading led to the account for \$85, but that was not the case. The average was about \$24 over that period, and he contends that the correct sum to be asked for would have been about \$24.

Mr. Evans: That's right.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall have this matter checked. However, I do not blame meter readers for not entering premises from which the occupants are absent and in which dogs are kept. I think it is proper that they should not read meters in those circumstances. I do not think they should have to call back twice in order to read the meter, and I think the trust's method is reasonable.



### PATAWALONGA BOAT HAVEN

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister of Marine ensure that, during alterations next year to the Patawalonga boat haven, the locks and the outlet channel, the existing boat ramp will not be closed during the building of the new boat ramp, or that a suitable alternative all-weather boat ramp will be made available in the vicinity? An article in last Monday's *News* states that the Sea Rescue Squadron was involved in two rescues during Sunday and Monday morning. I believe that at least one boat played an important part in both rescues. Local residents and boatowners are concerned that, while alterations are being made to the boat haven, the existing ramp could be closed, and this would deprive the squadron of a ramp within a mile of its West Beach headquarters. The only other boat ramp available for out-board boats would be either Outer Harbour or farther south (at Brighton, for example). I should therefore appreciate the Minister's co-operation in this matter.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member may anticipate my co-operation, but I cannot give him the assurance he seeks. I shall have this matter investigated to see whether it is possible to do what he has asked but, if it is not possible, I cannot give him the assurance he seeks. However, I will see what I can do.

### ELECTORAL DEPARTMENT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Some time ago, I think the Premier (or, if it was not the Premier, it was the Attorney-General) handed me a slip saying that he had a reply to a question on the Electoral Department that I asked during the Estimates debate.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Don't you know who it was?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It was not signed. I have no idea who it was. I therefore ask whether the appropriate Minister could give me the reply.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I recall the member's raising a question in the Estimates debate regarding the Electoral Department, and I recall obtaining the reply and handing out the slip. It all seems a long time ago, but I remember it. I do not have the reply now.

Mr. Millhouse: Will you get it for me?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I think it must be a fortnight or more since I handed the slip out, but if the member still wants the information I will get it for him.

### STURT HIGHWAY

Dr. EASTICK: In the temporary absence of the Minister of Roads and Transport, has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my recent question about the Sturt Highway?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The bituminous surfacing of the Gawler-Morgan road between Gawler Belt and Sheoak Log has been indicating some evidence of deterioration for about three years. The surface cracking is a result of subsoil movement associated with the gradual ageing of the seal. Light surface seals have been, and are being, used to extend the life of this road while future reconstruction is being planned. Apart from the pavement, some aspects of the design standards are not up to present-day requirements. It is expected that reconstruction will not be necessary before 1974, and long-range financial provision and pre-construction activities are being arranged accordingly.

### COLEBROOK HOME

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs make available the report on the use of Colebrook Home? I notice in the report of the Aboriginal Affairs Board that the report which I sought from a committee when I was Minister was completed last May and forwarded to the Minister.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The report is being studied now and, when the study has been completed, I shall be able to answer the member's question.

### PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I move:

That for the remainder of the session Government business take precedence of all other business except questions.

I inform honourable members who have business on the Notice Paper that they will be given an opportunity to have a vote taken on those matters before the end of the session.

Motion carried.

### SAVINGS BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Savings Bank of South Australia Act, 1929-1969. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

I apologize to honourable members for the fact that advance copies of the Bill are not available. However, the matter will not be debated until next week, when copies will be available. This short Bill is designed to extend to officers, clerks and servants of the Savings Bank of South Australia the Government's policy of enabling employees of the Crown and Crown instrumentalities and authorities annual recreation leave of four weeks. At present, section 21 of the principal Act precludes the trustees of the bank from granting more than three weeks' recreation leave in each year. The Board of Trustees has informed the Government that it has decided in principle that all officers should be allowed four weeks' annual leave, and clause 2 of the Bill seeks to give effect to that decision, which accords with Government policy.

Mr. BECKER secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### PRICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Prices Act, 1948-1970. Read a first time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

Its principal object is to extend the Prices Act for one year. In support of the Bill, attention is drawn to the fact that the Prices Act has continued in operation since 1948, and has been of substantial benefit to the people of this State. Maximum prices are currently fixed for a number of items some of which are important to family groups and people on low incomes, and others of which affect rural industry costs. In addition, the Prices Commissioner also examines price movements of a wide range of non-controlled goods and services, and a number of arrangements exist with industries with regard to advice and discussions before prices are increased.

The reasons why price increases should be limited to reasonable levels are only too well known. As stated last year, prices of a number of commodities in this State are still below those in other States but there is continual pressure to lift local prices to interstate levels, even though costs might be lower in this State. One of the attractions for new industries to become established in South Australia is its favourable cost structure as compared with other States. It is considered important that, to maintain this position, a restraining influ-

ence be exercised on unwarranted price increases. Other important functions carried out by the Prices Commissioner include the fixing of minimum prices for wine grapes, which is of considerable benefit to wine-grape growers, and the supervision of the consumer protection provisions of the Prices Act.

Following the amendment to the Prices Act last year giving additional powers for the protection of consumers, the number and variety of complaints received by the Prices Branch has increased. For the year ended June 30, 1,505 complaints from consumers were investigated. Of the complaints which concerned excessive charges, in 612 cases reductions or refunds were obtained, amounting in total to \$40,448. In other cases, arrangements were made for faulty goods to be replaced, work to be completed, or unsatisfactory work to be redone. In addition, more than 2,500 general inquiries were handled and advice given.

One area where the number of complaints has grown substantially is used car sales. For the year, 327 complaints were received. Whilst many adjustments have been obtained for people who have complained, a number of persons would have suffered through the unfair activities of a relatively small number of dealers. With regard to misleading advertising, 66 complaints were investigated. In nearly all cases, where warranted, advertisers were prepared to delete or change the wording of the advertisement. A number of warning letters were sent and one company was successfully prosecuted. The extension of the operation of the Act for a further year will enable the services provided to the public to be continued.

The Bill also seeks to alter the title of the Commissioner to the South Australian Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs, as the present title gives no indication of the considerable time and effort spent by the Prices Branch in dealing with consumer protection affairs. The Commissioner has become aware that his present title has caused some confusion and in some cases has deterred consumers from approaching the branch for assistance. The Bill also contains various statute law revision amendments.

I will now deal with the clauses of the Bill. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 amends the interpretation section of the Act. The definition of "Commissioner" is amended so as to recognize the new title provided in this Bill. A new definition of "Minister" is inserted, so as to conform with the recent amendment

to the Acts Interpretation Act. Subsection (2), now obsolete, is deleted. Clause 3 amends section 4 of the Act so as to recognize the new title given to the Commissioner and also to recognize the fact that the Commissioner and all officers and employees are now appointed under and are subject to the Public Service Act. This change was effected by administrative act, and has been effective since July 1, 1969. The South Australian Prices Commissioner is deemed to have been appointed as the South Australian Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs.

Clause 4 amends section 5 of the Act by correcting an incorrect reference to "authorized persons". Clause 5 repeals section 6 of the Act, which is no longer necessary as the Commissioner and his staff are now subject to the Public Service Act. Clause 6 remedies several incorrect references in section 9 of the Act. The passage "authorized officer" is the correct reference, as it is defined in section 3 of the Act. Clauses 7 and 9 repeal sections 20 and 23 of the Act respectively. These sections were in the nature of transitional provisions, necessary in 1948, but have long since become obsolete. Clause 8 effects a minor statute law revision amendment to section 22e of the Act. Clause 10 prolongs the life of the Act up to January 1, 1973.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### OFFENDERS PROBATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Offenders Probation Act, 1913-1969. Read a first time.

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

*That this Bill be now read a second time.* It is designed to overcome a weakness in the provisions of the Offenders Probation Act to which Their Honours the judges of the Supreme Court have drawn attention. The Act at present provides that it shall be a condition of a recognizance that the defendant, who is released under the provisions of the recognizance, must appear before the appropriate probative court "when called upon at any time during such period, not exceeding three years, as is specified in the order of the court". A subsequent section of the principal Act provides for the probationer to be brought before a court where he has failed to observe any condition of the recognizance. Their Honours think,

however, that because of the form of the recognizance the probationer cannot be required to appear before a court to be dealt with for breach of the recognizance where the term of the recognizance has expired. Accordingly, a probationer who acts in breach of a recognizance towards the end of its term may quite possibly escape the sanctions provided for the breach because for some reason it is not possible for a court to deal with him before the term has expired.

The present Bill overcomes this problem by providing that the probationer's undertaking under the recognizance should be to appear before the appropriate court if he fails during the term of the recognizance to observe its conditions. The provision that his actual appearance before the court should be within that period is thus eliminated. The provisions of the Bill are as follows: Clause 1 is formal Clause 2 provides that the amending Act shall come into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 3 makes the operative amendment. It strikes out the provision suggesting that the probationer's appearance before the court should be within the term of the recognizance and inserts more appropriate wording in its place.

Mr. MILLHOUSE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### ROAD AND RAILWAY TRANSPORT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Roads and Transport) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Road and Railway Transport Act, 1930-1971. Read a first time.

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

*That this Bill be now read a second time.* It has two principal objects. First, as with the Municipal Tramways Trust and the Railways Commissioner, it is desired to place the Transport Control Board established by this Act under the control of the Minister of Roads and Transport. I have previously stated to members the reasons for having overall Ministerial control of all bodies which form part of the transport service in this State. The Transport Control Board is an essential part of this service, in that it deals with the co-ordination of transport by both railways and vehicles on roads. The Government believes that this body must be subject to general direction by the Minister so that any possibility of conflict in the provision of a cohesive transport service plan is avoided.

Secondly, proposals are under consideration for the re-organization of the functions of the Transport Control Board. Investigation and discussions are still being held on all aspects of this proposal and it is unlikely that a decision will be made one way or the other for quite some time. However, as the terms of office of the present members of the board are due to expire on December 10, 1971, the Government seeks to have written into the Act the ability to appoint the members for a term shorter than the three years provided in the Act as it now stands. In this way, if a decision is made to discontinue the Transport Control Board at a future date, terms of office will not be unnecessarily interrupted.

I shall now deal with the clauses of the Bill. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 inserts a new definition of "Minister", which conforms with the recent amendment to the Acts Interpretation Act. Clause 3 inserts a new section in the Act which renders the Transport Control Board subject to Ministerial control and direction. Clause 4 provides that members of the board may be appointed for such term not exceeding three years as the Governor may fix.

Mr. HALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### CATTLE COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 26. Page 2487.)

Mr. VENNING (Rocky River): I support the Bill and in supporting it I inform the House that I have conferred with the two grower organizations of this State, the Stock-owners Association and the United Farmers and Graziers, both of which have for some time advocated what is contained in this Bill. I have made a survey myself and I believe the legislation has been introduced so that buffalo health can be kept in line with cattle health. Should anyone bring buffalo down from the Northern Territory and set up domestic breeding, which could only be done at great cost, and then find that the animals are, or become, infected with tuberculosis or any other disease, in the interests of the beef industry the person so concerned should openly declare such stock, even if it is only thought to be diseased, and be compensated for the animal's destruction, rather than harbour a diseased animal.

I believe that the way must be kept open for buffalo breeding and we need safeguards for any development which may be undertaken or which may be desirable in the future.

All States of the Commonwealth, with the exception of Queensland, support the domestic breeding of buffalo. The buffalo is bred domestically in thousands in the Northern Territory and it is considered most unlikely that large numbers of buffalo would come down from the Territory: first, because of the demand for buffalo meat in the North; and secondly, because it is necessary to have a licence to catch buffalo, and the number permitted to be caught is regulated by the licence. It is an offence to shoot buffalo on Crown lands in the Territory, but buffalo can be caught on Crown lands and taken for domestic use. A charge of \$25 a head is levied on buffalo caught, and it has been estimated that it would cost about \$100 a head to bring buffalo down to South Australia. Therefore, I do not think the cattle industry in this State should be concerned about buffalo being brought into South Australia in great numbers. There are two properties in the South-East of South Australia on which 26 head of buffalo are being used for domestic breeding. Mr. Bob Hawke of Salt Creek (I do not know whether he is related to the wellknown Bob Hawke who is the colleague of members opposite, but I would think there was no connection whatsoever) is the owner of some of these animals and he has told me that buffalo do not cross with cattle. They graze side by side with cattle without either having a detrimental effect on the other, and they do not annoy each other or create any problems in respect of fencing.

Buffalo do not mature as quickly as cattle, but females are known to breed up to 27 years of age and even longer. The period of gestation is 11 months and it is usual for a buffalo to have one calf a year. I believe that, correctly speaking, buffalo flesh should not be referred to as meat, but as game. I understand that it would be three years before buffalo meat could be expected to appear on the South Australian market. The Bill amends section 4 of the principal Act by striking out from subsection (1) the definition of "cattle" and inserting in lieu thereof the following definition:

"cattle" means any animal of the genus *bos* or any animal of the genus *bubalus*.

I shall give more information on these words by quoting the definitions in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*. *Bos* is defined as follows:

A genus of ruminant mammals including the wild and domestic cattle and sometimes the water buffaloes and related forms, distinguished

by a stout body and by hollow curved horns standing out laterally from the skull.

The definition of *bubalus* is as follows:

A genus of *bovidae* comprising the nearly hairless mud-wallowing buffaloes of Asia, certain large extinct relatives, and in some classifications the buffaloes of Africa.

I support the Bill.

Dr. EASTICK (Light): I, too, support the Bill. Although only small, it is of considerable importance and, I believe, has far-reaching effects. This is an amendment of convenience, similar to another Bill which we considered recently and which conveniently extended the definition of foot and mouth disease beyond its normal scientific involvement. We are extending the definition of cattle beyond the definition of ordinary cattle and to include buffaloes. Both genera referred to in the amendment are in the family of *Bovidae*, sub-family of *Bovinae*. The genus *bos* has seven species, of which the two particularly important ones are *taurus*, the domestic ox (and this includes all the breeds, both dairy and beef), and *bos indicus*.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the honourable member please speak in English.

Dr. EASTICK: This information is available, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am giving the English definitions of these species. The *bos indicus* includes the hump-like animals, such as the zebu and the brahman. This is particularly important in the cattle industry in Australia, because the cross between the *bos indicus* and the *bos taurus* is responsible for many animals in the Northern Territory and Queensland that are important to our overseas exports. During 1969-70, five-eighths of the number of animals passing through the export abattoirs in Queensland had some of the *bos indicus* cross in them.

Members opposite may be interested to know that one of the other species of the genus *bos* is the yak. The particular genera included in the Act by this Bill, the *bubalus*, has only one species. It is *bubalus bubalis*, which is commonly called the Asiatic water buffalo. As the member for Rocky River has said, the Asiatic water buffalo does not cross-breed with *bos*. It is unfortunate that the term "buffalo" should be included, because it immediately conjures up thoughts of the American buffalo, which is not buffalo at all, not even in regard to Buffalo Bill! It is the bison, and the genera and species have one and the same name—*bison bison*.

It is possible to cross-breed the American bison and ordinary *bos* cattle, and these animals are known as catalos. The suggestion

that buffalo meat may be considered as game has been mentioned, but I do not know of that position, other than the comment by the member for Rocky River. However, buffalo meat has been available in South Australia for some time. It comes from certain areas of the Northern Territory and is used as pet meat and also in some smallgoods.

Abattoirs licensed by the American Department of Agriculture for the export of meat to the United States have not hitherto undertaken the slaughter of buffalo, but arrangements are now being made for the buffalo in certain parts of the Northern Territory to enter these abattoirs. It is possible that buffalo meat will soon be exported. Tests have been carried out at the University of Queensland, particularly by Prof. R. M. Butterfield, a South Australian graduate of Roseworthy Agricultural College. In fact, only about six or eight weeks ago he was given the Award of Merit of that college as the Agriculturist of the year for his work in the meat industry, particularly for his work on the grading of carcasses. At one stage, he practised at Oakbank, in the Adelaide Hills, and he subsequently went to the University of Queensland for post-graduate work. He is now Professor of Veterinary Anatomy and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney.

His work is reported in a paper entitled *Some Anatomical Characteristics of Importance in Assessing the Potential of the Water Buffalo for Beef Production in Australia*, and that paper is recorded in the proceedings of the Australian Society of Animal Production (Volume 8, 1970) at pages 95 to 99. The summary of this paper indicates that comparison of carcasses of three buffalo bulls, approximately 18 to 21 months old, with carcasses of three grade brahman bulls of similar weight and age suggests that the buffalo compares favourably with cattle with respect to anatomical characteristics of importance in beef production.

In a recent private comment, Professor Butterfield has indicated that the three criteria associated with carcasses (or, more importantly, with the meat whether from beef or buffalo carcasses) of tenderness, juiciness and flavour are equally apparent in the *bos* and the *bubalus*. There is an indication that there is a higher ratio of muscle to bone in *bubalus* and generally there is less fat. This is important to the overseas market.

Another feature that I wish to mention is that, if we can take the Northern Territory

experience as an example, this breed of buffalo will often give rise to fat buffalo in identical situations that produce skinny cattle. The adaptability of buffalo to certain climatic and ecological conditions enhances their value compared to that of ordinary cattle. Possibly in certain areas of the South-East, around the Coorong and other places where there are waterholes, the returns to the owner could be markedly better than if ordinary cattle were involved. Buffalo meat has been coming into South Australia and has also been sent to Hong Kong. The three Northern Territory meatworks sending meat to South Australia and Victoria are Mount Bundy, Jimmy Creek and Mudgenbre.

As a result of the Northern Territory domestication programme, there is now access to the Katherine and Darwin export meatworks. In every other way, the export of this meat is comparable with that of beef and is carried out under the Commonwealth Trade Descriptions Act and the Commonwealth Customs Act.

Fear has been expressed by some that the inclusion of this genera in South Australian legislation could lead to the depletion of the buoyant Cattle Compensation Fund, but I suggest that under the existing arrangement, whereby all cattle and buffalo coming into South Australia must undergo veterinary testing, especially in relation to tuberculosis and other diseases, together with the fact that no animal which has come into South Australia is subject to compensation until it has been in the State for at least three months, we will minimize any problem that may have otherwise existed.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

#### REGISTRATION OF DOGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 21. Page 2437.)

Mr. CARNIE (Flinders): There has been growing concern in recent years about the number of cases of children who have been savaged by stray dogs, and no doubt that is the reason for this Bill. In his second reading explanation, the Minister of Local Government said:

A number of incidents have occurred in which children have been terrorized and exposed to risk of injury by stray dogs, and the purpose of the present Bill is to provide sufficient powers to enable these situations to be adequately dealt with.

There is no doubt that an anomalous situation exists under the present Act whereby, although

a dog worrying stock in a farmer's paddock may be destroyed, a dog attacking a child may not be. The person concerned would have to apply to the court in the appropriate case. The Bill seeks to remove this anomaly, although it applies only to straying dogs and does not provide power to destroy dogs involved in attacks on a person's own property. I am not happy that the Bill should have such wide application in certain respects, and I have been approached on this matter by both the Animal Welfare League of South Australia Incorporated and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. New section 20a provides, in part:

Where . . . a member of the Police Force is of the opinion that the behaviour of the dog is such as to suggest that the dog presents a danger or potential danger to the public . . .

It is the term "potential danger" that I consider to be too wide, because who can interpret "potential danger"? Could a dog's bark or growl be interpreted as a potential danger? It could or could not be so interpreted. Then there is the common situation in which a dog attacks a child who has been teasing it. In many cases the dog in question may be a half-starved stray animal but, nevertheless, the child has been teasing it and it has attacked that child. I am not saying that such a dog must receive better treatment than the child must receive, for children must be protected from any animal that may attack them. Where a dog has attacked because of teasing, an adult with sufficient firmness could in some cases control the dog so that there would be no need to destroy it. The dog could be seized, impounded and returned to the owner, or it could be sold if the owner did not come forward, or it could be destroyed after the statutory four days' impoundment as provided for by the Act. Although the original Bill was too wide I would still have supported the second reading so as to be able to amend it in Committee. The amendments I considered moving would have been along the lines that an attempt should be made to seize the dog and that, if the officer concerned thought that he could not seize it without risk of injury either to himself or to other people, he should then have the power to destroy it.

An attempt should be made to go not as far as destroying the dog, if this could be avoided. When the Bill becomes law, I do not suggest that all policemen would automatically destroy every dog they thought was dangerous, because I do not think they would act in that way. However, the Bill leaves the door open for

that to be done. The Minister has filed amendments which, in my view, remove any objection I had to the Bill in its present form and, as I am not permitted to speak about the foreshadowed amendments, I support the second reading.

The Minister said, and the Bill provides, that stray dogs are of prime concern. Insufficient provision exists in the Act to proceed against people who allow their dogs to stray, and it is these people who are the true culprits, not the dogs. If people who own dogs allow them to roam the streets at all times, the dogs could constitute a danger to many people. When I read the Act it became obvious that, after the Bill had been introduced, there could be a case for a rewrite of the Act because many anomalies exist in it. However, this Bill sets out to cure one of the anomalies.

The Bill does not warrant much time being spent on it. Because I recognize the need for the protection of the public, particularly children (and this was obviously in the Minister's mind when he introduced the Bill), and because I consider that the foreshadowed amendments will also provide adequate protection for the dogs, I support the second reading.

Mr. SLATER (Gilles): The Bill, which is a simple necessary amendment to the Registration of Dogs Act, provides that, when a dog presents a danger or potential danger to members of the public, particularly children (as instanced by the member for Flinders), in a public place or on premises not belonging to the owner, a member of the Police Force has the authority to destroy the dog or cause it to be destroyed. As the member for Flinders has rightly pointed out, an anomalous situation exists at present whereby the law currently provides for the destruction of a dog in certain circumstances (for instance, a female dog in a certain condition in a public place), but it does not provide for the destruction of the dog after a member of the public has been attacked or savaged by it.

Members will no doubt recall that last year a dog savaged children in the Klemzig schoolyard and inflicted severe facial injury on one child and injured other children. In that case, the authorities were unable to restrain the dog. As a result of that incident, the parents of children attending the school expressed concern, and the police, being unable to restrain the dog and not having the power as provided in this Bill, could not destroy it. They were in a difficult position. This was only one of several incidents involving savage attacks in

a public place in which the dog could not be restrained. The Bill will also ensure that owners of dogs that might be inclined to attack a person in a public place will take greater care and responsibility for the dogs' actions. I support the second reading.

Mrs. STEELE (Davenport): The member for Flinders has said most of the things I intended to say. This is not surprising because, after taking the adjournment of the debate, and until the amendments appeared on file, he considered that, after reading the Bill, he could not support it, and I agreed to take the adjournment. However, he has taken the adjournment on behalf of the Opposition. As the member for Flinders has said, the Bill has really been introduced as a result of the attacks made by savage dogs. Not only has this happened here, but it has also happened in England. I remember a case in which a child was savaged in a perambulator and, extraordinarily, the dog was allowed to survive, with the support of the child's parents, until a week later when the authorities decided to destroy it. Here such an attack has taken place in a school playground and members of the public would obviously, be in sympathy with a Bill that takes care of this kind of attack on a child or an adult.

I hope that, in the event of the dog not being able to be apprehended in a schoolyard and of its having to be destroyed, care will be taken to see that the dog is not destroyed in front of children, because that would be most undesirable and would have a bad effect on them. Most children have a great affection for dogs. I believe that provision should be made for dogs not on an owner's property to be kept on a leash, because I do not think that dogs should be permitted on public roads or in public places unless on a leash and unless being led by the owner or by someone authorized by the owner. The member for Flinders said that, after reading the Act, he concluded that this might happen, and this point might be considered. I do not want to say anything more about the Bill.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Should dogs be unleashed on the beach?

Mrs. STEELE: I think they should be on a leash. I support the Bill.

Mr. JENNINGS (Ross Smith): In supporting the Bill, I merely wish to assure the House that it has my accolade. Although we like animals and want to see them treated kindly, anyone who does not think this Bill is necessary has more regard for animals than for human

beings. Although I believe we should treat animals kindly, we must keep things in perspective. There would be no need for the Bill if people who had the custody of dogs or other domestic animals looked after them properly, but so many people do not control their dogs adequately. Therefore, as previous speakers have said, we must protect children and older human beings. I agree with the member for Flinders that this Act needs revising, but unfortunately that applies to almost all of the Acts on the Statute Book. When we will get around to revising them, I do not know. I think that the Bill and the foreshadowed amendments adequately cover what is required in this case.

Dr. EASTICK (Light): In Committee certain amendments will be moved that will improve the position with regard to those who will have to undertake certain actions under this legislation. In its present form, there would be great difficulties facing members of the Police Force as they tried to carry out their duties in this connection. It is difficult to tell when a dog is dangerous or potentially dangerous. Having been associated with the canine species for 20 years, I appreciate that there are situations where it is necessary that dogs be put down. I suggest that police officers could be placed in an invidious position under the Bill with regard to dogs who curl their lips out of fear or who cower in a corner, looking aggressive. Officers may regret having taken action when they receive full information later.

Dogs which are hit by cars or bicycles, or which are tripped over or kicked unintentionally, in many instances run away and subsequently show what, to an inexperienced person, might appear to be aggressive behaviour or, broadly, behaviour that is dangerous to public safety. Actually it is fear or apprehension. The foreshadowed amendment, which provides that the police officer can have the support of experienced people well versed in handling dogs, is commendable. This will add to the Bill a measure of common sense. The Minister's reference in his second reading explanation is relevant to the situation that exists when a savage dog is in a schoolyard. However, the ramifications of this measure cover a far wider aspect. The Bill gives the opportunity to a police officer or other persons involved to destroy or otherwise handle a dog that is a persistent charger—a dog that always runs out of his owner's premises at bicycles or motor cars. Such a dog is just as much a danger to human life as is a dog that may savage, or has savaged,

someone. The ramifications of the Bill go further than covering the incident referred to by the Minister or that referred to by the member for Gilles.

The member for Ross Smith said that there were many unsatisfactory features about the Act. I agree, as many of its requirements are not known to the public at large. In fact, if councils, which administer most of the provisions of the Act, followed the requirements of the Act, much of the work of the Animal Welfare League, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and other bodies would be totally stopped. This is particularly relevant when we realize that moneys obtained from the sale of dogs that have been impounded should go to the council in whose area the dog has been seized. The unsatisfactory features of the Act could unnecessarily hamper the work of organizations in the community that are concerned with the plight of stray dogs. I support the second reading, so that in Committee we can deal with the amendments on file.

Mrs. BYRNE (Tea Tree Gully): I support the Bill, with certain reservations. Like other members, I am pleased that an amendment has been foreshadowed, otherwise I should not be happy about supporting this legislation. I realize that it is necessary to protect the general public, especially children, from dangerous dogs which attack people in public places. I should not like to see a law enacted which would empower any person to destroy a dog without good reason. Dogs may attack human beings, but on the other hand there is sometimes a reason for the attack; dogs are sometimes teased, and sometimes they are ill-treated and neglected by their owners, which causes them to stray into the streets. A stray dog may be injured and, when cornered, may growl in self-defence. It could be shot; however it was only acting in that way because it was frightened.

We must have laws to protect human beings but on the other hand we must have laws to protect animals, too. I think the Bill covers this. However, I do not like the words "danger or potential danger to the public". I do not know how a person authorized to destroy a dog is going to decide whether the dog is a potential danger. Unfortunately, some people do not like dogs, and I would not like to see a dog destroyed unnecessarily. I shall be interested after this legislation becomes law to see how it works.



Mr. WARDLE (Murray): I support the Bill, and I am sure local government authorities will be pleased to see this attempt to make it easier for them to rid schoolyards and public places in their areas of dogs that create a nuisance.

Mr. Nankivell: They want a dog ranger.

Mr. WARDLE: Many councils have dog rangers, but they are not always able to pick up the dog causing the trouble. Many ways have been used to help the ranger in his attempts to catch stray dogs. Some of the ways have been ingenious. The type of dog that the member for Tea Tree Gully has spoken of is the type that is owned by somebody who does not care for it and it has to find its own food and shelter. I am sure that this is not the type of dog that we want straying in the community anyway.

I agree with the view of the member for Davenport and the member for Flinders that it would be a good thing if this Act could be rewritten and brought up to date in many respects, particularly in the matter of the impounding of dogs, fees, and to whom the fees rightly belong. It is expensive for local government to try to catch straying dogs. In Murray Bridge there are fewer than 2,000 houses and yet between 600 and 700 dogs are registered, more than half of which are always roaming the streets. I am pleased that under this Bill when a headmaster reports that a dog is straying in the schoolyard the children will not necessarily have to encourage it out to the footpath so that the inspector can catch it. The inspector will be able to go to the premises, and I believe this provision will assist local government tremendously in its execution of the requirements of the Act.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Clause 2—"Destruction of dangerous dogs."

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Local Government): I move:

In new section 20a to strike out "a member of the Police Force" and insert "an authorized person".

This amendment will mean that it is necessary to define "authorized person", and this will be done in a subsequent amendment. It is expected that an officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Animal Welfare League or any other person whom it is deemed desirable to have authorized in this field will be authorized.

Mr. CARNIE: I support the amendment. In the city a person other than a policeman has usually been called out to destroy a dog. Very often an inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. has to perform this function. The writing of this amendment into the Act will prevent another anomaly arising under the Act.

Dr. EASTICK: I support this amendment. It is extremely important, because it takes away from the police the situation in which they could find themselves of having to destroy a dog in front of children. Police-men are placed on a high pedestal by children as persons to protect them and their property, and this position could be seriously jeopardized if the policeman had to destroy a dog in front of them. I am not suggesting for one moment that we would hope to see the situation where a dog that had created a mischief, or a dog with a history of attacking, could be left to commit the same crime again. But the amendment certainly creates a situation where the Police Force will not be lowered in the eyes of schoolchildren and other people. This desirable alteration allows a policeman who does not feel competent to assess the position to obtain support from someone who understands this work.

Amendment carried.

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

In new section 20a after "may" to insert "if he is unable to seize the dog with safety". I move this amendment at the request of the Animal Welfare League and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and I consider it to be desirable. When an officer who is authorized to destroy a dog decides that it is a danger or a potential danger to the public, he must first decide whether he can seize the dog with safety. We are not asking this officer to risk his well-being to seize a dog. If he considers that he is unable to seize the dog with safety, the provision regarding destruction applies. Whilst he is authorized to destroy the dog, he should not do so unless he is satisfied that he cannot seize it with safety.

Mr. CARNIE: I support the amendment, and I could not support the Bill if this provision was not included. It covers any doubts that the Animal Welfare League, the R.S.P.C.A., or animal lovers may have had. The provision can be interpreted as referring to the safety of the authorized officer or anyone else, and it gives the authorized person more latitude in deciding whether the dog should be seized, impounded or destroyed.

Amendment carried.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO moved to insert the following new subsection:

(2) In this section—

“authorized person” means—

(a) a member of the Police Force;

or

(b) a person authorized by regulation, or by instrument under the hand of the Commissioner of Police to exercise the powers conferred by this section.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 5.16 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 9, at 2 p.m.