

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, August 8, 1972

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: ROBERT MARTIN

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): I ask leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L. J. KING: During the course of his contribution to the Address in Reply debate, the member for Mitcham asked me to make known to the House the contents of an exchange of letters between the Commonwealth Attorney-General and me relating to the circumstances in which a prisoner, Robert Martin, addressed a meeting outside the walls of Yatala Labour Prison. I now do so. The letter from the Commonwealth Attorney-General (Senator Ivor J. Greenwood), addressed to me and dated June 14, 1972, is as follows:

My dear Attorney-General,

I am writing to express my deep concern at the action, reportedly attributed to or approved by you, in allowing Robert Martin to hold a press conference at Yatala prison and to leave the prison to address a meeting convened to protest against the National Service Act. I appreciate that the action was within the relevant legislation and in accordance with the statutory power conferred on the Comptroller. I also appreciate that there are political differences between your Government and your Party on the one hand, and the Commonwealth Government, on the other, about the operation of the National Service Act. But it is, in my view, unfortunate for the administration of justice generally that these differences should be allowed to intrude into the administration of a prison system so as to permit a prisoner the special privilege of speaking publicly, at a political meeting, against the law under which he is imprisoned. I believe it weakens respect for the rule of law and for the fair and equal administration of our system of justice and prison administration.

The Commonwealth expects that its offenders will be treated in the same way as State offenders housed in the same prison. They ought to be accorded no special privileges, nor should they be subject to any special restrictions, merely because they are Commonwealth offenders or merely because of the character of the law against which they have offended. This proposition has always been accepted in practice; it accords with the spirit of section 120 of the Constitution and is now given statutory effect in the Commonwealth Prisoners Act, 1967. I think it highly regrettable that a disagreement in policy matters between a State Government and the Commonwealth Gov-

ernment should be reflected in any special privilege granted to or any special restriction placed upon a Federal offender housed in a State prison.

I replied to the Attorney-General for the Commonwealth in a letter dated June 21, 1972, as follows:

My dear Attorney-General, I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 14 regarding Robert Martin who is a Federal prisoner serving a sentence of imprisonment at Yatala Labour Prison in this State for a breach of the National Service Act of the Commonwealth. No distinction is made in this State between the treatment of prisoners serving sentences for breach of a Federal law and prisoners serving sentences for breach of a State law. In accordance with good prison practice, the management of a prisoner is determined to a degree by his personal characteristics and antecedents. The character of the law which he has broken may be relevant in an assessment of these factors. A prisoner who has been sentenced for a crime arising out of the negligent management of a motor vehicle is not necessarily managed in prison in the same way as a prisoner sentenced for violent crime. I repudiate the suggestion implicit in your letter that it is incumbent upon the State authorities to treat a prisoner of excellent character and antecedents who finds himself in prison because of convictions which make it impossible for him to comply with a particular law in precisely the same way as a typical criminal. Mr. Martin may be regarded as a political prisoner or as a prisoner of conscience. He is certainly not the typical criminal who finds himself in prison. This factor cannot be properly ignored when decisions are made as to his treatment and management.

Your suggestion that the decisions made with regard to Mr. Martin weaken respect for the rule of law and for the fair and equal administration of our system of justice and prison administration is baseless. Respect for the law is not weakened by the humane treatment by the State authorities of a political prisoner of conscience.

If there is a weakening in respect for the rule of law, it is attributable to the existence of the National Service Act, which is regarded by wide sections of the community as harsh, oppressive and unconscionable. In consequence, large numbers of our fellow citizens feel free in conscience to disobey that law. The indignation of other sections of the community at the continued operation of the law results in sympathy for the offenders and of further deterioration in the respect for the rule of law. I am disturbed at anything which brings the law into disrepute. The harm which the National Service Act is doing to respect for the rule of law in this country is great. It is surely incumbent upon the Commonwealth Government and you, as its Attorney-General, to consider whether any supposed benefits which might be derived from military conscription can possibly outweigh the social harm which results from widespread contempt for and disobedience of the law.

QUESTIONS

PETROL SHORTAGE

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Premier say what specific factors prevent a more rapid return to a normal supply of petrol than is predicted currently? The community at large, and certainly the Opposition, have acted very responsibly in the difficult situation associated with the fuel emergency. Some frustration has been associated with the availability of permits, although the unfortunate need to queue for extended periods at the central metropolitan permit issuing office has been relieved somewhat by additional venues. The situation has not been helped by the volume of reports that indicate a stockpiling of supplies equivalent to the normal sales of metropolitan garages for between two and three weeks. Many such operators say they have never been asked to say what stocks they held at the time of the Government's proclamation. So that the public of South Australia is totally aware of the reasons for any delay in general supply, will the Premier drop his plaintive cries of "Opposition politicking" and explain the position clearly for the benefit of the public which we both represent?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Cabinet yesterday reviewed the petrol situation following a meeting between senior public servants and managers of the oil companies and the refinery. Production has been resumed at the refinery, 500,000gall. having been produced over the weekend. However, no further supplies will be available from the refinery until Thursday. Although it has been possible to relax the controls further by issuing permits to a wider range of people, it is still impracticable to remove the restrictions generally throughout the State; in fact, it would be irresponsible for the Government to do so. There is just not enough petrol to enable every motorist to have some. Slightly more than 500,000 motor vehicles are registered in the State. Yesterday morning the combined storages at the refinery and at metropolitan and country terminals of the oil companies amounted to 3,184,000gall. which is an average of slightly more than 6gall. of petrol for every vehicle in the State. While it is a very attractive suggestion to let everyone have 5gall. (which was one suggestion advanced), this would leave nothing for essential services and industry and would defeat the whole object of the restrictions, which has been to maintain an emergency supply and to keep essential services and industry operating. The public has responded magnificently in the

emergency, and we have had full co-operation from industry. I give an assurance that restrictions will not be retained for an hour longer than necessary. There can be no advantage to the Government in keeping restrictions imposed, and our aim is to remove them at the earliest possible moment.

Dr. Eastick: This is what the public wants to know.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The public has been told continually what the situation is, and this has not been improved by cries that we should release petrol—irresponsible cries made by people without knowing the facts or giving any attention to what has been said publicly about what supplies are available. As supplies of petroleum products were unloaded at Portland, Victoria, by sea tanker on Sunday, from which port the South-East part of this State obtains its supplies, there was no need to continue the permit system in that part of the State, for there was already in bulk storages and service stations in that area a good deal of petrol. Accordingly, as from midnight last night the restrictions were lifted south of a line drawn from 10 miles north of Frances across to Kingston.

Unfortunately, other parts of the State are not so well placed. Less than two days normal supply is held in bulk terminals at Port Pirie, which cannot be replenished until supplies are received from a tanker expected to arrive next Saturday. No further supplies can be obtained in Port Lincoln until the arrival of a tanker expected on Monday, August 14. The rest of the State, including the metropolitan area, is supplied from Adelaide. There is no immediate prospect of supplies of refined product coming from another State or overseas.

The earliest date on which, we have been informed, a tanker with refined products will berth at Port Adelaide and supply the Birkenhead terminal is September 9. This is the position after representations from this Government to the Commonwealth Government and the inter-governmental committee set up by the Commonwealth and State Governments to try to obtain and rationalize effective supplies of petrol during the emergency. In the meantime we will have to get by on what can be produced by the Port Stanvac refinery.

Suggestions have been made to the Government that the 600,000gall. presently held by service stations in the metropolitan area should be released to the public without restriction. However, this would not last a day if released immediately, because a sudden heavy demand could be expected. While the restrictions will

be lifted at the earliest possible moment, the position now is really no better than when the restrictions were imposed at the end of the week before last. The situation is being kept under continuous review, and a further meeting with representatives of the oil industry will be held on Thursday. At this stage, I hope that it will be possible to remove all restrictions shortly.

Mr. Millhouse: How shortly?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At this stage I cannot say more: it would be improper for me to say more than that, and the honourable member knows it. In the meantime, as from today permits are being issued to any employer, irrespective of the type of his business, to enable industry and commerce to be kept operating without interruption and to ensure that everyone possible is kept in employment. These permits will include a sufficient supply to enable an employer to supply fuel to any of his shift workers who can demonstrate they need the fuel to travel to work.

Also, self-employed persons are also now being issued with permits if they can demonstrate that it is necessary to use their vehicles to carry out their day-to-day business activities. Let me indicate the knowledge that we have had of the forecasts of petrol stocks. On Saturday, July 29, representatives of the oil industry stated that the metropolitan holdings were 800,000gall. of premium petrol and 850,000gall. of regular petrol (the I.O.C. figures were supplied on July 30). In the nine days to Monday, August 7, these figures had been altered to 620,000gall. of premium and 1,434,000gall. of regular petrol. Some regular petrol was produced by the refinery, and some companies revised their earlier figures, less offtakes of 250,000gall. of premium and 110,000gall. of regular petrol which were apparently sent to the country. To this is to be added the refinery production of 700,000gall. of premium over last weekend, so the total stocks on Monday, August 7, were 1,320,000gall. of premium and 1,434,000gall. of regular. On the assumption that daily offtakes from Monday to Thursday will average 100,000gall. of premium and 20,000gall. of standard, stocks on Thursday evening (that is, on the basis of the permits we have so far issued) will be 920,000gall. of premium and 1,354,000gall. of standard. The refinery expects to have 1,400,000gall. of premium available on Thursday; pumping will commence on Thursday evening. With that, the stock of product in the refinery and metropolitan terminals will be (in addition to the 600,000gall. in resellers' tanks) then, after

Thursday, 2,320,000gall. of premium and 1,354,000gall. of regular. There will doubtless be a distribution problem. The oil industry expects to deliver 800,000gall. of premium and 200,000gall. of regular the day before the permit system is terminated, which would markedly deplete stocks in the metropolitan terminals.

That is the present position. As soon as it is clear (and I hope it will be clear shortly) that we can maintain that pattern, an announcement will be made of the removal of the permit system. That will not mean that petrol will be available for everyone in the quantity he will demand: it will mean that we shall be far short of the normal economic demand for petrol in South Australia. However, as soon as the permit system is ended, we expect that the oil companies and the service stations themselves will operate some restrictions on supply to their customers, which they have done at other times and which some of them were doing before the restrictions under the Act were imposed. At the same time, I appeal to motorists to take all possible action still to conserve petrol because, until the tanker comes in on September 9, which is the earliest date we have so far been able to establish, South Australia will not be getting anything approaching its normal petrol supplies.

Mr. Millhouse: Do you expect a relaxation before the weekend?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have said as much as it is possible or proper for me to say at this stage. We propose to revoke the permit system prior to our having complete supplies of petrol sufficient to meet all economic demands. There will inevitably be some dangers in doing this, but I believe we should be able to get the co-operation of the public, the oil industry and the Automobile Chamber of Commerce in providing for a reduced use of petrol until such time as adequate supplies are available in South Australia for everyone. That will mean that we shall still have to take some measures to provide us with safety, in these circumstances. If we did not get the co-operation of the public once the permit system was revoked, we would run out and would have to reimpose restrictions. Under the present legislation, there is no provision for revocation of the system and reimposition of it in an emergency. Therefore, a special amending Bill will be brought before the House to give us that power, should it prove necessary. I hope it will not. I believe that the public, the Automobile Chamber of Commerce and the oil industry will co-operate to obtain the necessary reduction in the amount

of petrol used in South Australia to bring it within what is available to us, which is very much less than our normal usage of petrol.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Will the Premier consider removing restrictions on petrol sales on Kangaroo Island? The Chairman of the Kingscote District Council has informed me that he has made inquiries that have shown that there is plenty of petrol on the island to last for several weeks. Although his inquiries were made a few days ago, he has no reason to believe that his conclusion is incorrect. No doubt the Premier will state the correct position if I have stated it incorrectly; if what I have said is correct, it seems that there is a very good case for removing restrictions on petrol sales on the island. Clearly, Kangaroo Island is very sparsely settled, and some people would have to travel more than 50 miles if they wanted to go to the trouble of obtaining a permit. There is no public transport on the island, and only in very few cases are deliveries of goods made to farms. Therefore, if the petrol stocks on the island are as great as I am informed they are, it would seem that there is a strong case for removing the restrictions, particularly since it is impossible for motorists from other districts to queue for the petrol on the island.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I shall have the matter examined immediately and see what can be done.

Mr. COUMBE: In his discussions with the oil companies, has the Premier canvassed the question of distributing petrol to specific service stations when the permit system is revoked? Is the Premier aware that some service station operators face great personal hardship because their storage tanks are completely empty, whereas other operators have considerable stocks of petrol that are frozen? When the permit system is revoked those service station operators who now have stocks of petrol will be in business immediately, whereas those who now have no petrol will face great hardship. Can the Premier say whether a system is being discussed whereby those operators who now have no petrol will receive preference in the distribution of petrol from oil companies?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Government has no control over that situation. The problems of distribution have been discussed with the oil companies, which naturally we have urged to act as equitably as they can in all the circumstances. No doubt the honourable member will appreciate that decisions regarding distribution are in the hands of the oil companies, not of the Government.

Mr. ALLEN: Can the Premier say whether the Government will consider releasing petrol supplies in the north-eastern part of the State, particularly to petrol stations on the Broken Hill road? I understand that some service stations on this road have a normal two-week supply of petrol on hand. In that part of the State communications are few and people rely to a large extent on petrol for their means of communication.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: On the surveys they have made so far of available petrol stocks in the State, the oil companies have informed us that there is an inadequate petrol supply in all areas except the South-East. In these circumstances, it would be difficult for the Government to remove from restriction that part of the State the honourable member has mentioned. Although some service stations in that area have petrol, others do not have adequate supplies. However, I will refer the question to the committee.

Mr. EVANS: The Minister of Labour and Industry indicated last week that he had a reply to the question I asked on August 2 regarding petrol quotas issued to union officials. Will he now give that reply?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I had the reply last week and, indeed, I told the honourable member that I had it. However, for some reason he did not then ask for the reply. I am sorry to say that I have not now got it with me. I will therefore let the honourable member have the reply tomorrow.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Premier say whether nurses, especially those charge nurses on night duty and occupational health duties, will be considered regarding a petrol permit in future? Some of these people in important positions who are finding difficulty in getting to work and commencing duty on time would appreciate some assistance in this regard.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I understood that supplies had been made available through hospitals to such people.

Dr. Tonkin: Some have had difficulty.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have had no report of any difficulty but, if the honourable member will give me details, I will look into the matter.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Premier conveyed to Mr. Hawke the thanks and congratulations of the people of South Australia for the part he has played in trying to break a deadlock between the unions and the oil companies? If the Premier has done this, and if he has done it in writing, will he table the letter he wrote to Mr. Hawke? On July 27

the member for Adelaide asked the Premier if he would "convey to Mr. Bob Hawke, the President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the gratitude of the South Australian people for his part in breaking the monopolistic situation existing . . .". In reply to that delightful question the Premier undertook as I have set out in the words of my question. Of course, since that time events have caught up with Mr. Hawke (to put it mildly), but I am sure that the Premier would have acted immediately and that he would be in a position to answer my question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Premier.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I did convey to Mr. Hawke the congratulations of members of this House and of the State—

Mr. Millhouse: You might write to Mr. Justice Moore now.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: —but I did not do it in writing. Mr. Hawke is a friend of mine and I was able to talk to him and convey our gratitude to him in person. I had a most interesting conversation with Mr. Hawke and happened to be in his office right at the time that Sir Reginald Ansett telephoned him last Monday morning, and I know that Mr. Hawke's subsequent comments on that conversation were completely accurate. I thanked Mr. Hawke on that occasion and also for his work in relation to my representations to the Disputes Committee of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, because it meant that the South Australian refinery was working earlier than any of the other refineries that had stopped production in Australia.

Mr. EVANS: The Premier last Thursday informed me that he had a reply to a question I asked regarding petrol quotas for union officials. I ask the question today because one other Minister has attacked me on this basis. Last Thursday I asked a question on behalf of the member for Mitcham in relation to abortion, and two other Ministers informed me that they had replies to earlier questions asked other than on union petrol. I had asked for those two replies and I was called out of the House to answer the telephone and did not have time to ask for the two replies I have asked for today.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A permit was authorized at the time. When the answer to this question was given to me it had not been issued.

Mr. Millhouse: You said "at that time"?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The member for Mitcham interjected "at that time".

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Mitcham must learn to contain himself and to conduct himself in a proper manner. The member for Fisher asked a question and he is entitled to hear the reply in silence. Interjections are out of order. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The unfortunate thing is that when I am trying to give clarity to any honourable member in this House, it does not matter what is the subject, there is an interjection from the member for Mitcham implying some unpleasant innuendo.

Mr. Mathwin: We get that, too.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This is what goes on regularly from the member for Mitcham. The reason I gave the reply in the way I did was that at that time there were particular forms of permits issued which did not apply to union officials. Now, in relation to union officials permits would apply because of the relaxation, and I simply made that point of clarification.

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question concerning Mr. Hawke's statement about petrol prices?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No record can be found of Mr. Hawke having publicly claimed that out of present profits the oil companies could pay their employees a \$25 a week increase in wages, and reduce the number of working hours a week to 35. However, several daily papers have reported Mr. Hawke as having said that a settlement of the pay claims made by striking refinery workers could have been obtained at a cost of \$660,000 a year to the oil companies. An additional cost of \$660,000 would result in a cost increase of less than 0.01c a gallon if related to all petroleum products or about 0.028c a gallon if related only to motor spirit.

Award rates for oil industry employees in South Australia range from \$63.20 to \$93.54 a week, according to job classification. The majority of such employees work a 40-hour week. With regard to the effect on petrol prices of a 35-hour week and a \$25 a week pay increase to all employees of oil companies, it is estimated that the additional cost could be as high as 2c a gallon if related only to motor spirit.

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Premier say what is the position regarding heating fuel, which is in short supply in the Hills area, where many people supplement their normal heating facilities with oil? If these people do not

receive supplies soon, they will be placed in a difficult situation. Although the pumps are filled with petrol, proprietors cannot sell it, and there is a definite shortage of heating fuel.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: True, heating fuel has been in short supply. However, the supply is likely to be more plentiful shortly, and I shall be able to make a further announcement on the matter later this week.

PORT AUGUSTA GAOL

Mr. KENEALLY: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my recent question about the Port Augusta gaol?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Chief Secretary states:

It is not intended to return the old Port Augusta prison to service in its present form. Half of it is being re-formed for use by women, the works involved being the sewerage of cells and the building of appropriate messing and recreation rooms, showers, laundry, offices and storage space. The other half will be maintained only for reserve accommodation in the event of other prisons becoming overfull. It is not intended to demolish the old prison at this stage, as from a historical point of view it is the end of an era and provides a most interesting comparison of penal facilities.

CHEMISTS' SUPPLIES

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Premier have investigated the circumstances that I shall outline, to determine whether some drug companies are operating restrictive trade practices or are otherwise acting improperly in the way they market their goods? When various people in my district go to chemist shops they are surprised to find that some commodities are in short supply. On asking why they are in short supply, the customers are told that the drug companies, with one exception, will not meet orders for goods valued at less than \$10 at a time. The chemists allege that one firm will not supply goods to chemist shops unless they are willing to accept such goods at the rate of not less than \$1,000 a month. This situation is rather disturbing, particularly for people who patronize small shops in sparsely populated districts on the edge of the metropolitan area.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I shall have an investigation made.

POLICE PISTOLS

Mr. PAYNE: Has the Attorney-General a reply from the Chief Secretary to my question of July 26 regarding police pistols?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that all members are required to keep their firearms concealed from the public, by carrying them either in a shoulder holster underneath

their coat or tunic or in concealed hip holsters. In summer, when not wearing a tunic, the uniformed police have a special pouch built into the trouser pocket that secures the firearm by press studs.

THEBARTON INFANTS SCHOOL

Mr. SIMMONS: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of July 25 concerning the Thebarton Infants School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A proposal to have complete schools at South Road and at Hayward Avenue was considered in the early 1960's, when surveys were conducted on the numbers of children living in the areas surrounding the two schools, but it was decided not to go ahead with any such plan at that time. The Headmaster has now been asked to conduct another survey of the numbers of children living in the areas, but it will not give data relating to the sociological weakness mentioned by the honourable member. However, as soon as the survey results are known, the position will be examined.

Mr. SIMMONS: In order to get a more complete picture, will the Minister ask the Headmasters of the Cowandilla and Flinders Park Primary Schools to make a survey of pupils at their schools who live within 500 m of the Thebarton Infants School? The two schools I have referred to are just over 1,500 m from the Thebarton Infants School, the Cowandilla school being that far distant as the crow flies and the Flinders Park school being that far distant by the nearest practicable route. (The existence of the Torrens River would necessitate the use of the term "flying fish" to enable a similar comparison to be made in respect of the latter school.) A radius of 500 m would therefore represent only one-third of the distance between the respective schools, and children living within this distance would not only be saved a much longer walk but also avoid having to cross two very busy roads (Henley Beach Road and Holbrook Road) if they attended a primary school at the site of the Thebarton Infants School.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: If that can be done, I shall see that it is carried out.

RESTRICTED FILMS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Attorney-General inquire so as to satisfy himself that the policing of restrictions on persons under the age of 18 years attending cinemas showing restricted films is working satisfactorily?

To explain my question most easily, I will give an example of what happened last weekend, as reported to me. Last Saturday a 15½-year-old girl asked her father's permission to go with her 18-year-old boy friend to see the film *Clockwork Orange*. She told her father that her boy friend had already booked two tickets to attend the film. He gave her his consent to go, although he told her that he doubted whether she would be admitted to the theatre. In fact, she was allowed in with her boy friend, without any question being asked or any request made that she make a declaration about her age. Although he had no objection and his daughter went with his permission, out of curiosity about the system the father has since been to see the manager of, I think, Wests Theatre, where the film is being shown. He has been given, and he has handed to me, a copy of the certificate of age which people who it is thought may be under the age of 18 years are asked to sign. I see that the certificate relates only to the age of the one person who makes the declaration, for it states:

I hereby certify that my true age is years.

Provision is then made for the date and place of birth, and so on. If more than one ticket is bought, there is no question of any declaration being made as to the age of the possible users of the other tickets. I wonder how many people under the age of 18 years, under the system I have described (which is apparently being used at that theatre anyway), have seen this and other restricted films against the wishes or without the knowledge of their parents or guardians. If he wishes, I will give the Attorney the name of the person concerned in this case.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I can only say that, having kept in touch from time to time with the operation of this law, I have not had misgivings concerning this matter expressed to me either by the Inspector, Places of Public Entertainment, or by police officers. I suppose that we all recognize that it is inevitable that some persons under the prescribed age will gain admission to theatres where restricted films are being shown. Provided that that is not the common thing, it probably has to be tolerated as the price of having adult films shown to adults. Nevertheless, I think it is of prime importance that the system should be policed as effectively as it is possible to police it. The honourable member will recognize that the admission by the theatre management of this girl to this

film is an offence against the Act. If the management seeks to rely on the signing of a certificate as giving it reasonable grounds for believing that the person was over the prescribed age, I should think it would want something more than a certificate signed by someone else at the time of purchasing the ticket. I will certainly have inquiries made into this matter. If the honourable member will (as he has indicated he will) supply me with the name of the person concerned, I will have specific inquiries made into this case.

However, I believe that it is not only the responsibility of theatre managements to ensure that immature persons are not admitted to restricted films; I think that parents also have a great responsibility (perhaps the primary responsibility) in this regard. It is somewhat disappointing to learn that in this case the father of a 15½-year-old girl did not take action. I suppose that he exercised his judgment in the case of his own child, but I point out, first, if he had not seen the film, he took the risk of what effect it would have on the child and, secondly, by taking the action he did take he placed responsibility on the management in excess, I think, of the responsibility that properly belongs there. If this system is to work, I believe that everyone (film theatre managements, parents, and law enforcement authorities) should be concerned in policing the legislation. I will certainly look at the general system of the certificate that is apparently being used at this theatre and also at the facts in the specific case, if the honourable member will give me the person's name.

MODBURY LAND

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of July 25 about two parcels of land at Modbury?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The first parcel of land, between Meadowvale Road and Loch Lomond Drive, Modbury (lot 117, section 837, hundred of Yatala), is the subject of current negotiations with the Tea Tree Gully Council and a disposal valuation is being prepared. The other parcel, between Corroboree Road and Alexander Avenue, Modbury North (lots 119, 137-151, part 120 and 136 and part sections 296 and 676, hundred of Yatala), was the subject of an exchange of land, formerly owned by council, required for road purposes. This exchange, which was for no monetary consideration on an area for area basis, was gazetted on January 6, 1972.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Mr. WRIGHT: Will the Minister of Works say whether investigations into the faulty cement pylons used in the construction of the Government Printing Office at Netley have yet been completed and, if they have, will the Minister inform the House of the details of those investigations?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Inquiries have not yet been completed. The interim report supplied to the Public Buildings Department about two weeks ago by the consultants employed by the Government to check out the design of the new Government Printing Office has been evaluated by the Assistant Director for Planning and Design (Mr. Ralph), who in turn reported to the Director of the Public Buildings Department (Mr. Dunn) only yesterday. Mr. Dunn is currently preparing a report on the matter for me, and I expect to receive that report, possibly on Thursday. If it is in my possession then, I will make certain recommendations to Cabinet in a report next Monday. When that is done, I will inform the honourable member of the outcome of the inquiry.

SUPREME COURT BUILDING

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works a reply to the question I asked recently regarding a new Supreme Court building?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The proposal for a new Supreme Court building, to be constructed on the Mill Street frontage of the Supreme Courte site, is before the Public Works Standing Committee. On July 4, 1972, the Chairman of the Law Courts Building Committee gave evidence supporting the need for the new building. Plans and cost estimates are being prepared by the Public Buildings Department for submission to the Public Works Standing Committee within the next few weeks.

CLARE GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Mr. VENNING: Will the Deputy Premier, in the temporary absence of the Premier, say whether the Government has any plans to establish a regional Government office of any kind in the township of Clare?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I know of no plans concerning my own department. However, it could well be that other Ministers have plans to establish an office of their department in Clare. I will therefore refer the honourable member's question to the Premier so that the various departments can be circularized and so that the honourable member can be told whether or not any

Government offices are to be established in Clare. The honourable member will appreciate, of course, that the Government desires to establish offices or regional offices of Government departments wherever possible. We believe in decentralizing Government departments, and the latest example has been the opening, in Mount Gambier, by the Minister of Roads and Transport of an office of the Motor Vehicles Department that is capable of doing for motorists all the things that are done in the head office in Adelaide. Later (I think in September), a further office of that department will be opened in Whyalla.

STRATHALBYN WATER SUPPLY

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question about the Strathalbyn water supply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Three alternative schemes have been designed for a branch main from the Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main to serve the Callington, Hartley and Strathalbyn areas. Hydraulic designs, cost estimates, and revenue statements have been prepared for each scheme. However, it will be some time before a decision can be made.

RURAL EMPLOYMENT

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Lands whether his colleague considers that there would be any usefulness in his approaching the Commonwealth Government to find out whether some of the funds obtained by the State Government under the Commonwealth rural employment relief grant could be used to retrain, or train for the first time, some of the people now employed on unskilled work under this scheme? I have seen, as doubtless other honourable members also have, young people, some of whom I consider may be working for the first time in their lives, engaged in extremely elementary work in country towns under this scheme. I am not criticizing the fact that they have been able to obtain employment: I consider that desirable, but it seems possible that those young people would be better off if the same amount of money was used to train them in some kind of skill that would benefit them permanently rather than used to give temporary assistance.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I point out to the honourable member that one of the limitations that the Commonwealth Government has placed on money being made available to the State to disburse amongst the

various country councils in South Australia is that any money spent must be spent on the basis of 66½ per cent for labour and 33½ per cent on machinery, equipment, fuel, or whatever it may be. This limits the type of activity that councils can engage in and it has led to some criticism of the way in which councils are administering the scheme, when in fact they have had little choice. Many people have said that money has been wasted because lads or young girls have been employed on raking gardens or doing things of that kind. I think the honourable member will appreciate that the Commonwealth Government's demand that this criterion be followed does create a problem.

Mr. Hall: This is the basis of the question.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes. On the other hand, one can understand that the Commonwealth Government is anxious that as many people as possible be employed. I think the answer probably would be to reduce that and give us more money. In that way, we would get more effective work done. I must say that really good work has been done in Millicent and in other towns. Work of a kind that otherwise would never have been carried out has been left to councils, because there always has been some other purpose in the minds of councils (and probably correctly so) that would be more important than the work being done. I will refer the matter to the Minister of Lands to find out what can be done about it.

BRIGHTON ROAD

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I recently asked about work on Brighton Road?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: That section of Brighton Road between Don Avenue and Strathmore Terrace has already been fully reconstructed and requires only the application of a final seal coating. As announced previously by the member for Brighton, this work will be carried out following the completion of the laying of a water main by the Engineering and Water Supply Department, and trench consolidation. Reconstruction of the section of this road from Dunrobin Road to Anzac Highway is also dependent on the laying of this water main, and work will proceed as soon as practicable.

FISHING

Mr. GUNN: Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to the question I asked on July 20 about

submissions made by the South Australian Fishing Industry Council?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The three submissions made by the Australian Fishing Industry Council (South Australia) are still being considered by the Government.

EYRE PENINSULA WATER SUPPLY

Mr. CARNIE: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question concerning the Eyre Peninsula water supply?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Engineering and Water Supply Department with the assistance of the Mines Department has expended large sums of money in investigational work to locate and assess the underground water resources of Eyre Peninsula. Several methods of assessing yield can be used and, because of the very many unknowns associated with such work, the answers obtained often vary over a wide range. Safe yields determined from hydrogeological studies often have to be modified when a particular source is used and/or long term observations are made. There are nine major water-bearing areas. Four basins (Robinson, Uley-Wanilla, Lincoln and Polda) have already been developed and plans exist for the early development of Uley South followed by Kappawanta. Development of Uley South has been estimated to involve the expenditure of over \$3,000,000 and construction is programmed to commence in 1974-75. Programmed expenditure in the western region for the next five years totals \$16,500,000, which is already a disproportionate percentage of the State's funds. However, despite this level of spending the Tod reservoir cannot be phased out in the foreseeable future. Although at times the salinity of the water becomes too high for many uses it is still a valuable source of stock water. It is clear that all concerned have a real responsibility in ensuring the future of the peninsula, and serious conservation of known sources of fresh water must be practised at all times.

TEA TREE GULLY SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my question of July 27 concerning the acquisition of land to be added to the Tea Tree Gully Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is agreed that the school site at Tea Tree Gully, which has an area of about 4½ acres, is small for a school of this size. The co-operation of the Tea Tree Gully Council in making the recreation ground available for use by the children for sports and physical education purposes is

much appreciated. However, it is recognized that there is a need for increasing the area of the school grounds. Information about the two blocks mentioned by the honourable member has been received in the Education Department from the school. An investigation will be carried out on the spot and, if the land is found to be suitable, steps will be taken to negotiate purchase.

PREFERENCE TO UNIONISTS

Mr. WRIGHT: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question concerning the dismissal of an Australian Workers Union member some weeks ago at Wallaroo?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The person referred to by the honourable member was in fact employed by the Wallaroo council under the Rural Unemployment Relief Scheme during the last period when the grants were operated. Toward the end of June, along with a number of others, he was discharged as funds were almost completely exhausted and fresh grant levels had at that time not been determined. A small number of personnel was retained for a period of one week to complete minor tidying up operations and then their services were terminated also. As the scheme had been implemented by the Commonwealth to provide employment opportunities in rural districts for those people unable to get a job due to the rural recession, the corporation endeavoured to provide employment for those in greatest need. In doing so insufficient attention was paid inadvertently by the council to the preference clause in the appropriate award. This matter has now been rectified.

SMOKING

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my recent question concerning smoking?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague the Chief Secretary has supplied the following information:

Persons suffering from medical complaints in which excessive smoking is a significant factor are treated in the out-patient departments, general wards and the cardio-vascular or respiratory clinics of our general hospitals in the same manner as others attending these areas with complaints caused by other factors. In these cases, appropriate support, treatment and professional advice on the effects of smoking would be given to the patient by the attending physician. It is known also that other persons who have a genuine desire to give up smoking consult with their general practitioner who is in the position to prescribe appropriate support and treatment or, if thought advisable, to refer the patient to an appropriate specialist. As it is considered that there is a multiplicity

of medical services available in the community to persons who genuinely desire to stop smoking, no plans are contemplated at the present time for the establishment of separate out-patient centres at the public hospitals for the treatment and support of persons wishing to stop smoking.

INDUSTRIAL WASTE

Mr. KENEALLY: Can the Minister of Works say whether untreated liquid industrial waste is being dumped into the sea or allowed to flow into the coastal waters of South Australia; if it is not, what action has been taken to prevent this happening; thirdly, can the expected increase in liquid industrial waste be controlled adequately? My question is prompted by a current affairs programme, run by the Australian Broadcasting Commission recently, during which it was stated that approximately 7,000,000gall. of untreated industrial waste runs into the coastal waters of South Australia each day.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is not true that 7,000,000gall. of untreated industrial waste flows into the coastal waters around South Australia; in fact, no untreated industrial waste at all flows into the sea. This is a matter that concerns me, as Minister of Works, but concerns also my colleague, the Minister of Environment and Conservation. Primarily, the responsibility for the treatment of this effluent or industrial waste rests with me, as Minister of Works, because some prior treatment does take place in certain industries in the metropolitan area, and following that treatment the waste is discharged into the sewers. From the four treatment works in the metropolitan area there is a discharge of treated effluent of a very high standard; so much so, that re-use takes place of some 90 per cent of the total treated effluent from the Glenelg treatment works in the summer period for irrigating the aerodrome, sportsfields, and the West Beach reserve, and so on.

Toxic industrial wastes are carried by tanker to certain areas owned by people who dispose of them, and whose business it is to do this, but this is controlled to a certain extent and access is rather difficult. Discussions have been going on between myself and the Minister of Environment and Conservation as a result of a report made by the Engineering and Water Supply Department to the Committee on Environment, suggesting that the Engineering and Water Supply Department should take over the treatment of all these wastes. At present local government has some responsibility in this area, and this

results in some inconsistency in approach to the matter. This aspect is still under consideration by the committee, but my colleague and I have had preliminary discussions and perhaps later in this session the Government will introduce legislation to control toxic industrial waste that is not disposed of into the sewer treatment works. However, I assure the honourable member and the people of South Australia that the matter is under control fairly satisfactorily; indeed, we are very fortunate that this is so, because evidently it is not the case in some other States.

BONDING

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked recently on bonding?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Students entering a course of one year's duration must sign an agreement on entry. The agreement requires the student to teach for one year in a departmental school on completion of the course. Students entering a course longer than one year must sign an agreement within nine months of entry to the course. The agreement requires the student to teach for three years in a departmental school on completion of the course. The above conditions apply to a married woman entering a teachers college and accepting the bonded scale of allowance. Special conditions apply to single woman students who marry and wish to continue their courses. These conditions are: (1) if the student elects to continue to receive allowance her contractual liability will not be halved on marriage, or (2) if the student elects to continue her course without allowances her contractual liability will be halved on marriage.

Where a student resigns in order to take care of her child her contractual liability may, at the discretion of the Minister, be waived, and the Education Department is not obliged to offer re-employment. The general basis for these concessions is sociological, so as not to impose any reasonable impediment to marriage. Males can continue teaching if they fulfil the condition of the bond if they marry, but it is not always possible for females to do so.

PORT HASLAM JETTY

Mr. GUNN: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to my recent question about the jetty at Port Haslam?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The barrier erected on the Haslam jetty by the contractor has been replaced with a more substantial structure.

GYMNASIUM

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister of Education say who decided not to allow the gymnasium at Woodville High School to be named in honour of the former Mayor of Woodville (Mr. Peter Tonkin) and why such a decision was necessary?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: This decision was made by Cabinet, and it was a general one. It was decided that no Government building would be named after any member of Parliament, State or Commonwealth, or any political candidate. For instance, this gymnasium could not be named the Hall gymnasium or the Dunstan gymnasium. This was a general decision that applied equally to members of either Party, and it was made by Cabinet on my recommendation. If public buildings are to be named after people concerned in politics, it was decided that the naming should occur after they had retired from politics, and that was the basis of the decision. Next year the Burnside school gymnasium could be named the Joyce Steele gymnasium, and if such an application were made I cannot imagine any difficulty in my acceding to that request. Indeed, when Mr. Tonkin has retired from politics and an application is received from the Woodville High School Council to name it the Tonkin gymnasium I would see no difficulty in complying with that request.

CAR SAFETY

Mr. HALL: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning the alleged failure of the body of which he is a member to implement satisfactory standards in motor vehicle construction in Australia?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I understand that the honourable member acknowledges now (before I give him the reply) that it was an "alleged failure".

Mr. Hall: I will see what you have to say.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Australian design rules concerning reversing signal lamps (ADR 1), door latches and hinges (ADR 2), and seat anchorages (ADR 3) as they presently apply to classes of vehicles, have been adopted without modification under the Road Traffic Act, 1961-1971. Further classes of vehicle are to be brought within the scope of these design rules in accordance with the recommendations made by the Australian Transport Advisory Council, and this will necessitate amendment of the existing regulations at the appropriate time.

In respect to glare reduction, a regulation is currently in course of preparation to implement the requirements of Australian design rule 12, glare reduction in field of view, within the State's legislation. This regulation will apply to all passenger cars, passenger car derivatives, and multi-purpose passenger cars manufactured on and after January 1, 1973, and all other motor vehicles (except motor cycles and specially constructed vehicles) manufactured on and after July 1, 1973. Again, no "watering down" of the nationally accepted standard is contemplated. As stated in my reply of July 25, 1972, Australian design rule 13 has yet to be allocated to a specific topic.

BALED HAY

Mr. ALLEN: Can the Premier say whether the Government will consider appointing a committee to investigate the reason for the high costs of loading baled hay on to ships at Port Adelaide and to recommend means by which the costs could be reduced? Members will recall that last Thursday the Deputy Premier said that it was costing from 60c to \$1.15 a bale to load hay on to ships at Port Adelaide. The people connected with this industry are amazed at the present costs, and have asked that an investigation be made.

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

CONTRACEPTIVE LITERATURE

Mr. MATHWIN: On the committee or body being set up are there any members of the medical profession or any members of the parents association? In reply to my question about contraceptive literature which I asked last week and which caused much trouble, the Minister of Education said that the department was currently preparing a new health education syllabus for secondary schools, and that a section of this syllabus would cover questions relating to sex education. He also stated that he felt great concern in this regard, and I agree with that remark.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I cannot reply offhand to this question, but I will obtain details for the honourable member. I know that it is proposed that consultation should take place about this matter with the appropriate authorities before any final decision on the syllabus is reached.

RAILWAYS PUBLICITY

Mrs. STEELE: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say why the South Australian Railways does not make more use of the

journal published by the Australian Railways, *Network*? I read this publication with much interest, because it gives information about happenings in the various States. However, sometimes three successive issues do not contain a word about what is happening in South Australia. I cannot believe that nothing is taking place in this State of interest to people who freight goods to other States or those who use the passenger services of the railways which could not be publicized to the advantage of this State. Will the Minister ascertain from the Railways Commissioner whether South Australia could participate to its obvious advantage by its public relations officers using this journal more frequently?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to take the matter up and, if there is a problem in getting material to ensure that South Australia's cause is included, I will see whether it can be solved. This is a publication concerning the railways of Australia and I do not think we would have any editorial control. That may well be the trouble.

Mrs. Steele: But all the other States seem to be represented in this publication; why not South Australia?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: From time to time articles from South Australia appear in it, but I agree with the honourable member that there are far too few of them. If there is a way of improving the South Australian image, I will certainly discuss it with the Railways Commissioner.

SUCCESSION DUTIES

Mr. VENNING: What additional assistance had the Treasurer in mind other than what he had previously expressed (I refer to his comment about considering the waiving of interest on overdue payment of State succession duties) when last week he replied to a question from the member for Gouger on succession duties? On July 26 the member for Gouger asked whether the Government would consider introducing legislation to assist the primary producers and small business people in this respect, and the Treasurer said at the end of his reply:

If the honourable member has special cases he wishes to put to me showing difficulties and anomalies, I shall be happy to examine them and to discuss them with him.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think it would be useful to the honourable member if he was to see (I presume he has not seen) correspondence between the United Farmers and Graziers and me on this matter.

I understand he is a member of that organization so presumably he would have seen the correspondence. However, if he has not, I will try to get a copy of it for him.

NAILSWORTH TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Mr. CUMBE: Will the Minister of Education give me a reply to my recent question about the proposed amalgamation of the Nailsworth Girls and the Nailsworth Boys Technical High Schools and the proposed co-educational efforts?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: As the honourable member knows, it is intended to amalgamate the Nailsworth Girls and the Nailsworth Boys Technical High Schools to become the Nailsworth High School. The present situation is that amended plans are being finalized preparatory to a revised estimate of costs being obtained. Subject to the availability of funds and the relative priority of other essential school projects, it is expected that the new school should be ready for occupation during 1975. In April, Education Department and Public Buildings Department officers attended a meeting of the combined school councils to discuss the sketch plans and complete arrangements for the assembly hall. Council members were impressed by the standard multi-purpose activity area in the Tea Tree Gully High School design, which provides facilities for indoor physical education including a full-size basketball court and a separate drama workshop. They considered this would meet the overall needs of the school far more effectively than a functional assembly hall and subsequently wrote to confirm that they accepted this standard plan. The Public Buildings Department has been advised of this and the architects are now in a position to finalize the sketch plans.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Community Welfare a reply to my question of August 4 about recreation facilities for youth?

The Hon. L. J. KING: An amount of \$100,000 was allocated by the Government in 1971-72 towards the provision of suitable facilities for the promotion of community welfare. The Community Welfare Grants Advisory Committee was established to make recommendations to the Minister regarding the allocation of these funds. During 1971-72, the funds were specifically directed towards facilities for youth. Applications for assist-

ance were invited from organizations or groups actively engaged in promoting the welfare of youth through either a general programme or a particular activity. Grants were made towards the erection or improvement of buildings, or the provision of equipment. Maximum grants were generally \$5,000 for new buildings, \$2,000 for improvements and \$500 for equipment. Applications for assistance totalling \$308,803 were received up to June 30, 1972, and all of the funds of the committee were committed by that date, save \$1,000 in relation to two applications still under consideration. Some applications were deferred to 1972-73. Details of grants approved have been provided. They are purely statistical, so I ask that I have leave to have them inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

GRANTS APPROVED

A. CATEGORIES OF ACTIVITIES

Category	Grants		Total
	Buildings	Equip-ment	
	\$	\$	\$
Camp sites	29,810	3,485	33,295
Youth centres and youth clubs	27,900	6,415	34,315
Scout and Guide groups (including camp and training sites)	10,850	1,620	12,470
Drop-in-centres and coffee lounges	12,900	3,120	16,020
Youth counselling centres	2,900	—	2,900
Totals	\$84,360	\$14,640	\$99,000

B. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

(1) Country Areas—

a. Eyre Peninsula	\$
Camp site (Tumby Bay)	1,300
Youth hostel (Port Lincoln)	5,000
	\$6,300
b. Mid-North	\$
Camp site (Pekina)	5,500
Camp site (Port Pirie)	1,450
Camp site (Maitland)	1,000
Youth club (Port Augusta)	500
	\$8,450
c. River Area	\$
Camp site (Barmera)	2,150
Camp site (Barmera)	3,500
Youth centre (Murray Bridge)	5,000
Youth centre (Berri)	2,000
	\$12,650

d. South-East	\$
Camp site (Meningie)	3,000
Camp site (Nelson)	500
Camp site (Clayton)	500
Youth centre (Mount Gambier)	4,500
Youth centre (Naracoorte)	5,000
	<hr/>
	\$13,500
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Total Country	\$40,900
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(2) Adelaide Hills Area—	\$
Camp site (Victor Harbour)	5,000
Camp site (Kuitpo)	2,000
Camp site (Gumeracha)	1,605
Camp site (McLaren Vale)	3,240
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Total Adelaide Hills	\$11,845
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(3) Metropolitan Area (approx. 15-mile radius)—	\$
Coffee lounge, Brighton	500
Coffee lounge, Edwardstown	600
Coffee lounge, Glenelg	200
Drop-in-centre, North Adelaide	750
Drop-in-centre, Hindmarsh	1,750
Drop-in-centre, Port Adelaide	1,450
Drop-in-centre, Kilburn	5,500
Drop-in-centre, Adelaide	270
Counselling centre, Adelaide	2,500
Counselling centre, Glenunga	400
Youth centre, Campbelltown	500
Youth centre, Tea Tree Gully	5,500
Youth centre, Elizabeth	5,500
Youth centre, Salisbury	2,000
Youth club, Findon	4,000
Youth club, Christies Beach	240
Youth club, Adelaide	400
Youth club, North Adelaide	900
Youth club, G'iles Plains	500
Youth club, Burnside	275
Youth club, Elizabeth	1,000
Guide group, Henley Beach	500
Scout training camp site, Stirling	5,000
Scout group, Sturt	320
Scout group, Alberton	400
Scout group, Taperoo	400
Scout group, Largs Bay	300
Scout group, Parafie'd Gardens	2,700
Scout group, Seacliff	700
Sailing club, Port Adelaide	500
Gymnasium club, Magill	500
Gymnasium club, Glenunga	200
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Total Metropolitan	\$46,255

HALLETT COVE

Mr. BECKER: In the temporary absence of the Minister of Environment and Conservation, can the Premier say what action the Government has taken to preserve the area known as the amphitheatre at Hallett Cove?

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

DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Attorney-General say whether the Government intends to introduce amendments to section 14 of the Dangerous Drugs Act or to have regulations made pursuant to section 14(7) of that Act? In proceedings in the District Criminal Court last month it was held by His Honour Senior Judge Ligertwood that, since the Crown had failed to tender the relevant regulations referred to in section 14(7) of the Dangerous Drugs Act, the certificate of the analyst referred to in that provision was not admissible in evidence. In the circumstances of the trial, there was no other evidence that the substance tendered in evidence was a drug to which the Act applied. Accordingly, the learned judge found there was no case to answer. In fact I am informed by counsel in the case that, after a most diligent search, they could not find that any regulations dealing with this topic had ever been made.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I shall take up the matter with the Minister of Health and let the honourable member know.

NORTH ADELAIDE ROADS

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning negotiations between councils and his department dealing with North Adelaide roads?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Discussions have been held between the Highways Department and the Walkerville and Prospect councils on future plans for the intersection of Robe and Fitzroy Terraces with Main North Road and Le Fevre Terrace. As plans for this intersection are affected by proposals of the Adelaide City Council regarding the status of O'Connell Street, Margaret Street and Le Fevre Terrace, in respect of arterial traffic, it is proposed to involve the Adelaide City Council in further discussions to be convened by the Mayor of Walkerville.

SCHOOL BUSES

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Education a reply to my recent question concerning accidents in which school buses have been involved?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Education Department operates 344 buses, with a further 346 contract and subsidized services. These 690 vehicles travel a total of 38,500 miles a day and convey 24,800 children on each school day. The department has details of minor mishaps involving departmental buses, such as

reversing into a parked car, etc., because of claims for damage costs against the department. Most of these occur while the buses are not carrying children. However, no information is available regarding privately owned buses involved in accidents of this type, while the buses are empty, as these are a matter for settlement between the owners of the vehicles and their insurance companies. The department is informed of accidents to privately owned school buses when any children are injured. As far as accidents to departmental buses are concerned, there were six in 1970 driven by teachers and one driven by a private driver, whereas in 1971 the figures were three and four respectively. No children were injured in these accidents and no children were injured in contract school buses during 1970-71, according to the information available. In February, 1972, a contract bus was hit by a truck which failed to stop on leaving an access road to the Gawler by-pass. Several children were bruised and shaken, but none was seriously injured.

OAKLANDS RAILWAY CROSSING

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning the Oaklands railway crossing?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: It is expected that final plans for the proposed rail-road grade separation at Oaklands will be completed by mid-1974.

JUVENILE COURTS ACT

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Has the Minister of Community Welfare a reply to my question of July 26 concerning the procedure adopted by the Juvenile Court in dealing with a juvenile offender?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The facts relating to the boy referred to by the member for Mitcham in his question are as follows. The boy was born on September 7, 1958. On February 23, 1972, when the boy was 13 years of age, he wounded a young woman by stabbing her with a pocket knife. Three days later he attacked a girl aged 10 in a playground, using a pocket knife to intimidate her. On March 30, 1972, he appeared before the Juvenile Court in relation to these matters. On a charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm he was committed to Brookway Park, without conviction, until 18 years of age. A charge of indecent assault was dismissed without conviction under the Offenders Probation Act. He was examined by two psychiatrists. Dr. Karl Jagermann, who saw the boy a

number of times, summarized his findings as follows:

I would consider William to have evidenced a pathogenic yet transient reaction pattern of early adolescent frustration rather than a cool and callous act of antisocial behaviour which requires further detention and safe management. In my opinion he has been punished enough, and any further added punishment can only serve to promote further insecurity and self-doubt in his young and questioning mind. He is more likely to benefit from other measures to induce growth, and the emergence of better self-control such as I have already attempted to outline in my report.

Having considered the reports of the psychiatrists, Mr. K. Choularton (Senior Psychologist of the Community Welfare Department) reported as follows:

William is in need of psychiatric care. He is sufficiently motivated, and is intelligent enough to benefit from psychotherapy. His parents should also be involved in therapy since they will provide the models necessary for his successful sexual identification. The fact that he does not know why he committed the offences, or at least will not admit to the reason for them, is disturbing. It is difficult to say whether he will reoffend or not. My opinion is that society does not need to be protected from this boy, provided he seeks psychiatric help immediately. I agree with Dr. Jagermann that he will benefit more by being returned to his parents than by being placed in custody. It is respectfully suggested that William be released to the care of his parents and that a welfare officer be appointed to supervise the boy and assist with family counselling.

The boy was detained in the Brookway Park centre and was taken by his parents each day to Pulteney Grammar School. He was under constant adult supervision. Private psychiatric treatment by Dr. Jagermann was continued. As a result of the psychiatric advice that the offence was unlikely to be repeated, the boy was discharged from Brookway Park reformatory to his parents at the end of the school term, May 4, 1972. The condition of the release was that he be under constant adult supervision by either parents or masters at the school which he was attending for a period of six weeks.

Psychiatric treatment continued during this period. The boy's probation officer felt that, at the expiration of the six week period of adult supervision, there should be a move towards the boy having a greater independence from the restrictiveness of his parents. On the psychiatric assessment of the boy, this view of the probation officer cannot be faulted. The boy's parents therefore let their son go out on Sunday, June 18, by himself on an errand

to a local shop. It was on this errand that he stabbed a girl aged 14 years in the chest. In a subsequent report the psychiatrist (Dr. Jagermann) comments as follows:

Up to that time there was no evidence to support another opinion than the one that I expressed in my report. Up to that time, also, it appeared that William had fully co-operated in all requested ways, and had also taken his prescribed drugs as directed. Up to that time, likewise, it appeared that his mental state had been helped by those measures of trust that were gradually returned back to him. As the further incident of yet another stabbing clearly contradicts this trust and raises the possibility of a much more serious disturbance, I have since reflected on my knowledge and observations of William. Whereas clearly my optimism has been wrong, I can only state that, up to the time of William's last attendance at my rooms on June 1, there were no discernible and alerting symptoms or signs to support such a conclusion.

All who have been concerned in this matter, including me, are deeply distressed at the injury which the 14-year-old girl has suffered. The decision to release this boy to his parents was taken with my knowledge and I concurred in it. At the time, I was troubled by the nature of the original offence, as were the departmental officers. We were, however, faced with the certainty that the boy must be released sooner or later. The psychiatric assessments led to the inference that the behaviour was unlikely to be repeated. In the event, the optimism of the psychiatrist proved incorrect. I am convinced, however, that, on the information available to them, the departmental officers acted correctly. Having reviewed the docket, I can only say that, on the same information, I would have arrived at the same decision.

It is now obvious that the boy is suffering from a deep psychiatric disturbance and that it is not safe for him to be at liberty. He is held in a secure section of Brookway Park reformatory and will undergo psychiatric treatment and supervision. I referred the comments of the member for Mitcham, as to the operation of section 76 of the Juvenile Courts Act, 1971, to the Juvenile Court judge. He comments as follows:

Section 76 of the Juvenile Courts Act, 1971, allows only "the result" of the proceedings, that is, the charge found proved and the order made by the court, to be published and it prohibits the press, when publishing a result, from including any information revealing the name, address or school of, or any particulars calculated to lead to the identification of, a child concerned in court proceedings. Section 76 makes two exceptions to these general provisions: (1) the court may order that the result be not published; and (2) the court may

authorize the publication of the name, address or school or other particulars calculated to lead to the identification of a child concerned in the proceedings.

During my term of office as judge of the court, no order has been made suppressing the result of a hearing from publication and I have not found it necessary to release the name of any child offender for publication.

When the case of the 13-year-old boy came before me on July 10, I was asked by press representatives whether they could attend the proceedings. With the consent of Mr. Hollidge, counsel for the boy, I allowed them to remain in court during the hearing, on the usual understanding that the provisions of section 76 of the Juvenile Courts Act, 1971, would be observed and that no more than the result of the proceedings, that is, the charge found proved and the order of the court, would be published. It was also agreed that the court would allow a request by the parents of a girl, 14 years of age, who had been wounded by the boy, to attend the hearing. All of the orders made by the court in respect of this offender were available to the press for publication.

My opinion on the matter raised by Mr. Millhouse is that it would be a retrograde step to amend the Juvenile Courts Act to enable the press to publish details of cases. Whilst publication of the details would, in some cases, provide interesting material for the newspapers, it is my belief that such publication would in no way assist to further the public interest and that it would make the task of those responsible for the administration of the law and the proper conduct of Juvenile Court hearings even more difficult. Far from being useful, I feel that such publicity would, in many cases, do a good deal of harm and hamper the efforts of juvenile courts, officers of the Community Welfare Department, parents and other persons, towards the rehabilitation of young offenders.

It is clearly in the public interest that every effort should be made to rehabilitate the offender referred to in this report so that he may take his place in the community without endangering the lives of others. My hopes as to the likelihood of successful rehabilitation have decreased following the publicity given by the press to the statement made in Parliament about this case. It is now inevitable that other children at the institution in which he is confined, persons living near his home, school associates and others will become aware of the reasons for his detention and that this will make the task of total rehabilitation even more difficult.

Furthermore, I feel that the publicity will cause a great deal of additional distress to the boy's parents and be of little comfort to others who have suffered as a result of the attacks. I realize, of course, that it was not intended or even contemplated that these results would follow the press publicity, and my purpose in mentioning them is to illustrate the point that publicity in respect of Juvenile Court hearings can be damaging from the point of view of rehabilitating the offender and also from the point of view of

the community's best interests. Another disturbing feature of this publicity is that it included a statement that the offender has been previously sentenced by the court on a charge of "attempted murder". This is not correct; the charge was laid by the police but, on the invitation of the prosecutor, who tendered no evidence, and with the consent of counsel for the offender, it was dismissed for want of prosecution. The dismissal order in respect of this charge, like the other orders that I have mentioned, was available to the press. It is my duty to uphold the law, whether or not I agree with it. In this case the law under attack, that is, section 76 of the Juvenile Courts Act, 1971, has my full support and I am opposed to any amendment designed to extend the rights of the press in respect of Juvenile Court hearings.

I agree with the comments of the Juvenile Court judge, and it is unnecessary for me to add anything to what he has said on the matter.

NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. RODDA: In the temporary absence of the Minister of Environment and Conservation, I address my question to the Premier. Can the Premier say whether consideration could be given to the appointment of an additional officer to take care of national parks in the South-East? If such an appointment were made, could the officer be stationed at Penola? A recently appointed development and promotion committee in Penola has taken an immense interest in conservation. As the South-East has many areas of parks and reserves, it is advisable that an officer or ranger be appointed to see that these areas are looked after, and as Penola is so centrally situated this committee is interested in having the officer stationed at Penola.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a report from my colleague.

WHEAT

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture whether any progress has been made in relation to framing legislation to eliminate black marketing in wheat? When I asked a question about this matter last year, the Minister said that he would raise it at the Agricultural Council meeting. As I understand that much black marketing in wheat is continuing and as no legislation has been introduced, I should like to know what progress has been made in this regard.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will ask my colleague for a report.

LAMEROO SCHOOL

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Education say whether is it still intended to call tenders before the end of this month for the construction of the Lameroo Area School and, if it is not, can he get a report on when it is expected that tenders will be called?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I shall be pleased to do that for the honourable member. I may add that the Education Department intends to go on with the construction of the Lameroo Area School as soon as possible.

CITRUS JUICE

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister of Education say whether the Government will consider providing citrus juice, as well as milk under the free milk scheme, for schoolchildren? Many parents have asked me to approach the Minister about this matter, as milk has ill effects on some children, especially those suffering from skin complaints. As providing citrus drinks would also help the citrus industry, I wonder whether the Government would consider this suggestion.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The State Government is prepared to consider it, but the Commonwealth Government is not. On several occasions the matter of issuing citrus juice to those who want it, as a partial substitute for milk under the free milk scheme, has been taken up with the Commonwealth Government, but on each occasion the answer has been in the negative. I do not know whether it is worth while making a further approach at this stage; I will see when the last approach was made, and determine my action on that basis.

TELEPHONE MESSAGE

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister of Local Government consider in future confirming, by telegram or letter, messages relayed to councils by his officers? When I telephoned him the other day, the Minister was good enough to explain to me precisely what it was that he had instructed his officers to relay to councils, before he appealed to councils to exercise control over the use of fuel. Unfortunately, there was confusion amongst the councils because various officers interpreted the Minister's intention differently. In future, when such instructions are issued, will the Minister confirm in writing or by telegram what information he intends to transmit to the councils?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am very sorry that the confusion occurred, particularly as there was no need for it. As soon as it was possible to solve the problem and bring back

order out of chaos, this was done. Perhaps there would have been some merit in confirming the message by telegram or letter, but we must take into account the circumstances involved. On the Saturday evening, the officers concerned were asked to come to the office on the Sunday, and they spent the whole of that day telephoning the message to councils. As these were exceptional circumstances, I do not think we could lay down any precise pattern to be followed in future. I suppose it is fair enough to say that we hope we shall not be involved in a situation of this type in future, although one never knows; perhaps a similar situation could arise for other reasons. However, I think that what has happened in this case has shown the desirability of not relying on verbal messages: messages should be written. I think the honourable member's suggestion has merit.

RURAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. RODDA: Has the Minister of Works obtained from the Minister of Lands a reply to the question I asked a fortnight ago about providing employment in the Naracoorte area?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The policy regarding the allocation of funds to local governing authorities is basically unaltered and is related to the degree of unemployment in a certain district compared to the overall State situation. Funds provided by the Commonwealth are sufficient only to provide employment for 20 per cent to 25 per cent of those available, and the council has been advised of this fact. Consequently, it cannot reasonably expect a grant in excess of this level. It is true that in the final weeks of the January-June period of grant allocation this year the council was employing about 30 people. However, this was possible only because the council had not completely expended funds available to it under the scheme, and it was essential that this be done before June 30, hence an unusually high employment level for a short period.

RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport make available a list of the railway crossings at which electrical warning devices are to be constructed during 1972-73? Although I have heard a report that such crossings have been named, to my knowledge no public announcement has been made about the matter.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As I do not have that information with me, I will obtain it and let the Leader have it.

CRAIGBURN

Mr. EVANS: In the temporary absence of the Minister of Environment and Conservation, will the Premier obtain a report about the department's policy on the future use to be made of the Hills property owned by Minda Home Incorporated and known as Craighburn? This property, which comprises overall about 2,000 acres, was originally intended to be left as a rural buffer zone. Under present proposals submitted by the Mitcham and Meadows councils, however, some of the area has been made available for subdivision. Conservationists and many residents in the Hills believe that perhaps the property should be left as park lands or as open space for recreational purposes. They realize that 250 acres will be left for recreational purposes because legislation already on the Statute Book provides that 12½ per cent of land must be set aside for this purpose in areas that are subdivided. As a motion for disallowance can be moved, at the latest, next Wednesday, will the Premier say whether a report on the department's policy in this respect will be brought down before then so that members will have an opportunity to investigate the matter more thoroughly and so that, if necessary, a motion for disallowance can be moved?

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

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. SIMMONS: Will the Minister of Education say what action is being taken to guarantee that primary school students acquire the necessary basic skills to enable them to cope with secondary school studies? A report in the *News* of July 25 quoted Mr. Tom Roper (Tutor in Education at LaTrobe University) as saying on the Australian Broadcasting Commission radio programme *Insight* that half the schoolchildren in Melbourne's western suburbs were almost illiterate. He said:

One of the ideas behind traditional education is to turn out literate, numerate people . . . Quite frankly and quite obviously it has failed in that.

Further, in a publication entitled *English in Australian Secondary Schools*, another expert, Barry Carozzi, states:

Perhaps the simplest index of the extent of the remedial problem in the schools is the information on reading failure. Something like 15 to 20 per cent (Victoria Education Department, 1970) of children entering secondary school have reading ages two years or more below their chronological ages. Obviously, the situation will differ from State to State—

I would hope—

and from school to school, but the overall situation is clear: one in five of the children entering secondary school may be termed "functionally illiterate"—they are unable to read independently.

Will the Minister say how effectively the primary schools fulfil this function and what steps are being taken to overcome deficiencies acquired by the time students have reached secondary school or upper grades of primary schools?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The honourable member having been kind enough to inform me last Thursday that he would ask this question, sufficient time was available to enable a reply to be prepared. One of the goals of primary education has been, and still is, to assist children to acquire the skills required for future learning. These skills include the ability to read and to comprehend what is read, and the ability to understand number and to carry out operations in it, commensurate with age and ability. Most of the children leaving South Australian primary schools have sufficient skills to cope with work at secondary school. However, all children of the same age are no more equal in academic ability and attainment than they are in batting, running or swimming. Herein lies, in the main, the explanation of the statement made by Barry Carozzi that one in five of Victorian children entering secondary schools has a reading age of two or more years below his chronological age. The same tests would have shown that an approximately equal proportion of children entering secondary school would have a reading age of two or more years above their chronological age. This is inherent in the method of establishing reading age norms used in the tests.

The norm for the reading age is only the average reading age of children of that chronological age. Thus, there will be a wide spread of reading ages above and below the norm for any chronological age. A similar pattern would exist in the measurement of number ability and attainment. There is a variety of reasons for this spread of achievement, including sociological factors at home, bilingual migrant children, physical and neurological factors, and the school. Some can be corrected, some remedied, but not all. This problem besets all countries and is more acute where promotion is made largely on chronological age. A great deal of research has led to a variety of ways of catering for the different abilities and achievements of children, such as streaming, ungradedness, family grouping and

continuous progress plans. Despite the efforts of researchers and teachers there has not always been success. The following is the position in South Australian schools:

- (1) The problem of differential achievement and its causes is generally recognized.
- (2) The main aim is to cater for the differences by carrying out remedial corrective and compensatory measures within the classroom and school in the belief that it is better for the child to be with a class of his peers in the normal classroom situation than to be separated for special work.
- (3) Measures taken include:
 - (a) The increasing use of graded reading materials suited to the reading age of the student. Sets of this material are provided to new schools and to open-space schools. For 1972, 139 sets of graded reading material were supplied to schools that had special difficulties.
 - (b) Remedial and special classes have been set up in schools where a need for them has been established.
 - (c) An advisory service is offered by the Psychology Branch.
 - (d) Some schools have ungraded their structure for the basic subjects or have adopted other organizational devices to enable children to work at their attainment level in the basic skill areas.
 - (e) Consultants have been appointed in reading, English and mathematics.
 - (f) A reading development centre is being established at Gilles Street Primary School to carry out inservice education to assist teachers to deal with the teaching of reading and reading problems. It also offers an advisory service.
 - (g) A year's course in teaching reading is being prepared for introduction in 1973.
 - (h) Teachers of migrant children have been appointed to schools where a need has been established.
 - (i) Inservice conferences are organized to assist teachers to overcome problems of catering for individual differences.
 - (j) In the lower grades a wide variety of experiences is offered to children in order to develop the

wide usable vocabulary that is necessary for success in reading. This compensates for the lack of suitable language experiences of children from deprived homes.

In addition, the Secondary Division has gone to considerable lengths to provide a variety of material and thus ensure that children can work at their comprehension level.

THEATRE COMPANY

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Premier a reply to my recent question regarding appointments to be made to the South Australian Theatre Company, a matter that was the subject of some controversy in the press recently?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Although I have a note that this reply is available, I cannot now find it. However, I can remember the details offhand. A query such as that raised by the honourable member was also raised in the press in the form of a letter from the former Artistic Director of the South Australian Theatre Company, which was answered by the Chairman of the company's Board of Governors. There are altogether six governors, three of whom have been appointed and two of whom will be elected as soon as regulations providing for subscribers have been promulgated. Although these regulations are at present in the hands of the Crown Law Office, it will be some time before they are completed, some problems having been experienced in relation to the regulations themselves. The final governor will be elected by the players who are members of the permanent company with a contract of, from memory, six months or more. That permanency of contract cannot be obtained until they have been hired by the newly-appointed Artistic Director (Mr. George Ogilvie), who will not arrive to take up his duties for some weeks. It is expected that it will be possible to fill the other three vacancies on the board at about the same time—in September.

STUART HIGHWAY

Mr. GUNN (on notice): What plans has the Government to seal the Stuart Highway?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Construction and sealing of the Stuart Highway is proceeding northward from Port Augusta, the first 30 miles to Hesso being about 80 per cent completed at this stage. A contract will be let later this year for the next 15-mile section to Bookaloo, and construction is scheduled to continue towards Pimba thereafter subject to the availability of funds. It is expected

that the Stuart Highway will be sealed between Port Augusta and Woomera by late 1974. Scheduling of construction beyond this point is subject to negotiations with the Commonwealth Department of Supply as to the proposed route to Mount Eba.

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr. GUNN (on notice):

1. Where is the \$6,657,000, allocated in the Highways Department schedules for acquisition of land for the construction of roads and bridges during the financial year, 1972-73, to be spent?

2. Will any of these funds be spent on any projects recommended in the Metropolitan Adelaide Transportation Study plan?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The replies are as follows:

1. About 97 per cent of the total amount allocated for acquisition of land during the 1972-73 financial year will be spent within the Adelaide metropolitan area, the remainder being spent in rural areas. The projects necessitating this expenditure include the widening of arterial roads, the acquisition of properties on authorized transportation corridors and the construction of railway overpasses, etc. Where land is acquired for future transportation corridors, this will be in accordance with the routes indicated in the authorized Metropolitan Development Plan (as amended by supplementary development plans). The acquisition of land on these routes will normally arise from requests from owners, or as a result of subdivisional activity.

2. Yes, to the extent that 1 above and the M.A.T.S. plan coincide.

CHARTER FLIGHT

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. How much did the Premier's recent charter flight to Melbourne and return cost?

2. Who accompanied the Premier?

3. Will the fuel on this flight reduce the operations of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in this State?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The replies are as follows:

1. The sum of \$1,660. The cost was incurred to enable me to put South Australia's special case to the Disputes Committee of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and to return in time for the special meeting of Parliament. No other transport was available. The success of my representations was of inestimable value to the State, and the cost

was a fraction of the cost incurred by Commonwealth Ministers using V.I.P. aircraft.

2. Two officers—the Premier's Executive Assistant and the steno-secretary.

3. No.

LIQUID FUEL (RATIONING) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Liquid Fuel (Rationing) Act, 1972. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time. This short Bill is intended to ensure that the restrictions imposed by the principal Act, the Liquid Fuel (Rationing) Act, 1972, are removed in an orderly and systematic manner. Ideally, this removal should be effected in such a way that, as soon as it is practically possible, the general public will be given access to fuel supplies without prejudice to the needs of essential industry.

I will now deal with the Bill in some detail. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 removes distillate from the definition of "liquid fuel" so as to formalize the removal of restrictions on the supply of distillate. However, I draw attention to the second paragraph in this definition which gives the Government power to restore distillate to the definition should circumstances render this necessary. Clause 3 amends section 14 of the principal Act, and it is intended to make it quite clear that a person who buys fuel from a person authorized under section 9 of the Act does not commit an offence. Clause 4 amends section 19 of the principal Act and again is intended to make it clear that directions given under Part IV can be removed when the need for them is no longer apparent and, in any case, that those directions will cease to have effect on the expiry of the Act. Clause 5 repeals and re-enacts section 23 of the principal Act which provided for the cessation of operation of Parts III and IV of the principal Act. Although, on the face of it, the provisions of new section 23 seem a little complicated, they are intended to give the Government as much flexibility as possible in lifting the restrictions.

Proposed section 23 (1) gives power for the Governor by proclamation to lift the suspensions in relation to all liquid fuel or liquid fuel of a particular class or kind in relation either to the whole State or to a particular

area of the State. Thus, as soon as it is apparent that supplies may reasonably be expected to be available to the general public in part of the State, it will be possible to lift the restrictions in relation to that part of the State. However, it appears to the Government prudent that the right to reimpose these restrictions should be preserved in case, by reason of large-scale buying, it becomes apparent that essential industry in that part of the State will be embarrassed for fuel supplies. It is clear then that on the lifting of the restrictions the retailers of petrol will have a responsibility to ensure that available supplies are distributed fairly and equitably. It is thought that, if this power to reimpose the restrictions is granted to the Government, it may be that restrictions can be lifted a little earlier than they could be if the Government did not have this power. Proposed section 23 (2) and (3) merely spells out the legal effect of the imposition or removal of a suspension. In brief, it is proposed that the effects that will flow from the imposition or removal will be analogous to the effects that would flow if the principal Act were amended by another Act to achieve that end. Clause 6 is a consequential amendment and ensures that on the day of expiry set out in section 29 the amending Bill proposed by this measure will disappear from the Statute Book.

Dr. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.

Later:

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Alexandra): As I understand the Bill, I have no objection to it, except for one or two queries which I propose to raise in the Committee stage. I understand that the Government proposes to have the law amended so that if the Act is suspended by proclamation the Government will have the right to reimpose the restrictions later. What I am not clear about is whether the reimposition can take place after August 31.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Only up to that date.

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: In those circumstances, and with that satisfactory assurance, I am satisfied. However, I wish to explain why I would not have been satisfied and why I asked the question. One provision in the Act I have considerable reservation about, but do not oppose it. It is a far-reaching provision in that when a motorist is stopped and questioned by a police officer the Act provides that the motorist shall answer truly all questions put to him, or words to that effect. In normal circumstances a police officer can

question a person in the prosecution of his duty under the provision of any Act, but there is a basic safeguard about cross-examination and the rule thereto.

We have departed from those rules in this legislation, which is extremely far-reaching in that respect. It is an expedient which the House recognizes as such and, because of its far-reaching nature, we have moved to place some definite terminating date on the legislation, and that is August 31. I wish to make clear that, if this type of legislation is repeated for any purpose, and includes that type of provision, I would question its insertion. I agree to it in the present circumstances, but I consider that there is a possibility of grave injustice being done to people who may not be able to seek legal help when they are being questioned. I do not object to the Bill because, as the Minister has said, its provisions will not operate after August 31. I support the second reading.

Mr. EVANS (Fisher): I realize the Premier's reasons for introducing the Bill, but I have doubts about the problems that may soon occur in the industry. Rumours are current that tanker drivers may refuse to operate their vehicles. I wonder whether that possibility has been considered by the Government. If such a strike occurred, the only way in which the Opposition could debate the matter would be by way of a censure motion. As the member for Alexandra said, the Bill expires on August 31 and, because I do not think there will be any strong objection to this move, I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3—"Persons other than permit holders not to purchase fuel."

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Is there any restriction on people who may wish to give petrol away?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): There is such a restriction if a person has obtained petrol under the permit system. If petrol has been obtained under that system he cannot transfer it to anyone else for a purpose other than a purpose for which the permit was obtained. Of course, if a person has petrol that was obtained prior to the imposition of restrictions, he can give that petrol away. I repeat that if petrol is obtained under the permit system it can be used only for the purpose stated in the permit.

Clause passed.

Clauses 4 and 5 passed.

Clause 6—"Expiry of Act."

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: I take it that this clause still provides that the legislation will expire on August 31?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Clause passed.

Title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

FRUIT FLY (COMPENSATION) BILL

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for compensation for loss arising from measures to eradicate fruit fly. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

This is the second Bill of this kind to be brought before the House this year. The Bill is in the usual form for measures of this kind, and concerns the most recent outbreak of fruit fly, which occurred in the Hazelwood Park district. It provides for the payment of compensation to all persons who suffered loss owing to the eradication measures taken by departmental officers.

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 makes the appropriate provision for the payment of compensation, and clause 4 provides for the lodging of claims by August 31, 1972. No estimate can be made at this time of the number of claims likely to be made, but the number is not expected to vary significantly from the number of claims that would be expected following an outbreak in an area of this kind.

Mr. FERGUSON secured the adjournment of the debate.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 3. Page 545.)

The SPEAKER: Before calling on the honourable Leader of the Opposition to resume the debate on this Bill, I desire briefly to call the attention of honourable members to changes in the procedure on a Public Purposes Loan Bill and the associated Loan Estimates as a result of amendments made to the House of Assembly Standing Orders at the end of last session. The general debate on the Bill and the Treasurer's statement in relation to the Loan Estimates now takes place in the House on the second reading of the Bill, not, as previously, in the Committee of the Whole House on the first line of the Estimates. The honourable Treasurer, as mover of the second

reading of the Bill, is entitled to reply to the debate. After the second reading, the House automatically resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole and, in pursuance of Standing Orders 314 to 316, the Committee proceeds to consider the votes listed in the first schedule of the Bill in conjunction with the relevant Loan Estimates. On completion of this detailed consideration of the schedules and the Estimates, the Committee then considers the other clauses of the Bill. The remaining procedure is the same as for any other Bill.

Dr. EASTICK (Leader of the Opposition): I support the second reading. As I have said in the Address in Reply debate, obviously we are in an election year, because we find the Government's acceptance, which has not been obvious in its previous announcements, of the advantage that Commonwealth funds have been to South Australia. The first pronouncements by the Treasurer contain a chronicle of the increased funds made available by the Commonwealth in several different ways, both at the recent Loan Council meeting and certainly by special allowances made available in February this year. Those increases were in accordance with an increase that has been available to this State in each of the recent years and, as I pointed out for the benefit of members opposite in the Address in Reply debate, they have shown that South Australia has received considerable benefit, especially when compared to New South Wales and Victoria.

The additional amounts provided by special grants for this State, to which the Treasurer has referred, will, when the per capita figure is available (that is, when the amount is divided by the population) and when they are compared to the amounts made available on previous occasions, show a distinct advantage to this State. That advantage will be seen to be beneficial to every person in the State. The Treasurer has said, first, that there was an advantage of \$910,000 for additions to the school building programme, and this was made available to the State in December, 1971. He then said that new funds made available in February, 1972, to this State from Commonwealth Loan funds amounted to an additional \$4,390,000. This is highlighted in the Treasurer's statements to this House last week, when he said:

Under these arrangements, South Australia secured additional new funds on Loan Account of \$4,390,000, and the Government immediately authorized a stepping up of the rate of progress in capital programmes.

He went on to say that there had been some overspending of Loan funds: this has been referred to previously. He stated:

Actual payments at \$149,440,000 were \$6,500,000 in excess of the original estimate put to Parliament. The greatest emphasis on employment-producing works was by the Public Buildings Department, and for this reason, together with the effect of a long period of dry weather favourable to construction in the autumn and early winter, the department's actual total of payments in respect of schools, hospitals, and other Government buildings was more than \$8,000,000 above the original appropriation.

We have referred previously to this overspending. I am completely in accord with the Government's action in taking the opportunity, because of the climatic conditions, to proceed with works which, if effected now, would cost more because of the ever-increasing costs associated with all public works. The increase in the amount of road construction and in the public buildings programme during this time will benefit this State in the long term, and we on this side support any situation that is beneficial to the South Australian community.

I hope sincerely that the situation that allowed this overspending will not be evident during next year. That is because, whilst we accept this increased activity, the situation was close to desperate for the rural community, drought conditions having forced many people into a situation that has not helped their recovery from the recent agricultural recession. In fact, many people in some areas of the Mallee who, because of unfavourable climatic conditions, still cannot proceed with normal pursuits find that their position is deteriorating.

We have had a shift in the allocation of funds under the various major headings in the Loan Estimates. I shall point out to the House the variations, on a percentage basis, that have taken place in the Loan Estimates in this State between 1969-70 and the year covered by these Loan Estimates, namely, 1972-73. In 1969-70 there was an increase of 29 per cent in the funds provided for the State Bank. In 1970-71 the increase was 36 per cent, and in 1971-72 there was a decrease of 29.3 per cent on the previous year's allocation. For 1972-73 there is a further decrease of 8 per cent. Certainly, in an area where there is considerable ability to adjust to conditions, particularly agricultural conditions, these decreases should be highlighted, and the Treasurer should consider changing the position whereby funds being made available in that sector are decreased.

The amounts provided for highways and local government certainly have fluctuated considerably. In 1969-70 the amount provided was 83 per cent more than the amount provided in the previous year. In 1970-71 there was a decrease of 68 per cent, and in 1971-72 there was a further decrease of 11.1 per cent. The amount provided for 1972-73 is an increase of 165 per cent. Is this the forerunner of a further increase in activity associated with the Metropolitan Adelaide Transport Study plan, or is it something to be kept under wraps, members of this House and of the public being denied the opportunity to investigate it? In 1969-70, in respect of the line relating to lands, irrigation and drainage, there was a 20 per cent decrease on the allocation for the previous year; there was a 21 per cent increase in 1970-71; a 51 per cent increase in 1971-72; and a 43 per cent increase this year. One presumes that projects involving Crown lands and irrigation undertakings have benefited from these increases, yet the inclusion in this line of national reserves may well account for the increase.

In regard to railways, I am concerned at the need to improve facilities and to win back to the railway system additional passengers and freight. In 1969-70, there was a 31 per cent increase in the allocation; in 1970-71, there was a smaller increase of only 13.7 per cent; there was a 5 per cent increase in 1971-72; but there is a 2.7 decrease in 1972-73. This is difficult to understand, especially when we must consider urgently reorganizing and standardizing the northern line, yet the Treasurer made no reference to this standardization. In regard to Engineering and Water Supply Department undertakings, we find minimal increases in the allocations made in 1969-70, 1970-71, and 1971-72, and there is an increase of only 2 per cent for 1972-73.

Overall, we find a marked increase in respect of the "Miscellaneous" line: in 1969-70, there was an increase of 82.3 per cent; in 1970-71, an increase of 23 per cent; and for 1972-73 there is an escalation to an increase of 64 per cent. We will require considerably more information on this increase when discussing the lines. Regarding the grand total, we find that, whilst there was a 17 per cent increase in 1969-70, 8.8 per cent in 1970-71, and 35 per cent (a marked increase) in 1971-72, the increase this year is estimated at 6.8 per cent. That increase may well be expected to rise considerably as a result of additional funds

made available by the Commonwealth Government during 1971-72.

The Treasurer referred to a nominal deficit in the Loan Fund for 1972-73, totalling about \$32,000. There was a credit balance in the Loan Account of \$5,658,000 in June, 1968; \$12,477,000 in June, 1969; \$13,032,000 in June, 1970; and \$14,811,000 in June, 1971. The position deteriorated and the balance decreased to \$10,382,000 in June, 1972, and it is expected that by the end of next June there will be a deficit of \$32,000, reducing the overall balance to \$10,350,000. The Treasurer said that it was hoped that the position would improve as a result of funds received from the Commonwealth Government. I wonder whether we can really trade on this situation.

The Treasurer said that the increase in General Revenue Account had resulted from an additional \$7,500,000 granted to the State to complete the 1971-72 grant, giving a total of \$13,500,000 for the current financial year, with the expectation of more to come. However, I suggest that we cannot trade on this basis and expect that the grant in aid made available in future will necessarily be on the same basis or at the same annual percentage increase. I emphasize the need to examine this aspect closely before we accept the principle outlined by the Treasurer that we can expect the Loan Fund roughly to balance out. Unforeseen circumstances may make a considerable difference here, and we must urgently consider the prospect of unforeseen expenditures that may well require a revision of these lines.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: They are only Estimates, after all.

Dr. EASTICK: Yes, but we have proceeded far beyond the Estimates of 1971-72. It has been suggested that we may well exceed the Estimates for 1972-73, but we must accept our responsibility and alter our thinking considerably if necessary. The Treasurer referred to an overall 10 per cent increase to the States as a result of discussions that took place at the meeting of the Australian Loan Council, and he said:

Excluding special allocations, the increase in the basic programme was from \$432,000,000 to \$466,000,000—that is, by \$34,000,000, or about 8 per cent. In line with that programme South Australia has an allocation of \$23,696,000 of borrowing authority, an increase of \$1,729,000 above last year.

The borrowing from this authority is increased by 7.3 per cent. We also find a rather unusual statement about which Opposition members will need more information when we come

to detailed discussions of the lines. I refer to the statement that, because of the slowing in the rate of increase in demand for electric power, probably temporary, it is practicable this year to reduce the semi-government borrowing allocations to the Electricity Trust from almost \$9,000,000 to \$6,000,000. This 33 per cent decrease is a cause for grave concern. Does it result from a lack of industrial growth and a consequent reduced requirement? Is it because of a reduction in the number of new houses built? Certainly the figures available show an estimated decrease in that sphere. What is the real reason for the reduction of this allocation? The words "probably temporary" are hardly good enough from the Treasurer.

This may be a reflection of the inability and the failure of the Government to show any marked increase in industrial potential or industrial growth, a failure which could have serious repercussions in years to come. The advantage South Australia enjoyed over many years in holding the refrigeration, the washing machine and the motor car industries has been whittled away year by year since this Government took office. The position is being held, but there has been little improvement. We have seen the arrival of the Wilkins group, but there has been no other major development in this area, and members on this side, as well as people in the community at large, are concerned that our advantages have been whittled away by this Socialist Government and that this may well be a factor in the deterioration of South Australia's position. It is all very well for the member for Mawson, who is suddenly smiling.

Mr. Hopgood: You started to sound like your predecessor and we all know—

Dr. EASTICK: If the honourable member is able to smile about the situation we, as Opposition members, will be pleased to hear from some responsible person on the Government side of the actual growth that has taken place, as well as the potential growth.

Mr. Hopgood: I am sure this will happen.

Dr. EASTICK: It has not been forthcoming.

Mr. Hopgood: The debate has only just begun. You are the first speaker.

Mr. Coumbe: This is what the Treasurer said, and he is the responsible Minister.

Dr. EASTICK: The Opposition is eager to hear what progress can be expected. We accept the statement made by the Treasurer, pointing out the need to have faith in our own State, but it is equally important to have facts and results to present to the people of

South Australia showing some tangible improvement and some tangible increase in the industrial potential.

I am concerned about housing. The Treasurer has pointed out, quite rightly, that there is a tremendous backlog of housing for people in the group covered by the figures in the schedules. We have been given details of the funds available and the number of units completed during 1970-71 and 1971-72, but we are interested more particularly to note that the figures show only a decreased expectation for the coming year, even though it is only minimal. The 9 per cent increase in funds made available to this authority will be virtually eaten away by the escalation of prices associated with general building. Figures from across the Commonwealth show that, in the past 15 months, building costs have increased by between 13 per cent and 15 per cent, and the figure is increasing almost daily as new awards and new working conditions add to costs.

It is worrying to note that many people occupying Housing Trust houses at a low rental are people who, on a family basis, have income from several sources, perhaps from a husband and wife working unit or from senior members of the family who also contribute to the income. On the other hand, many people with large families, or those with young families, with only one income, are denied entry to Housing Trust houses because none are available. Government and Opposition alike must urgently consider some rationalization of this situation. We cannot continue a situation where low-rental Housing Trust occupancy is provided for people not actually in the financial group that these premises were originally intended to house, while at the same time denying houses to those in the community who are in real need. This matter must receive urgent consideration.

Although I do not intend to say much about the distribution of individual houses as it relates to certain areas of the State, it is interesting to note that the building programme in the metropolitan area appears to be balanced roughly between north and south. I stress the need for an increased number of pensioner cottages. Many members appreciate that we have a backlog of applications for general housing. In my own area the waiting time is from 10 to 15 months, but that is a short time by comparison with other areas, where the figure is perhaps three years or 3½ years. People requiring pensioner flats or one-room self-contained cottages must wait an

indefinite period. With the Commonwealth funds available on a two-for-one basis for housing for pensioners, I hope the Government will seriously consider increasing substantially the number of these units to be built in the future.

I am most interested in the situation that has unfolded in Victoria, where from today (and this item is quoted from the *Melbourne Age* of Saturday, August 5) there will no longer be any ceiling regarding State Savings Bank housing loans. In the *Advertiser* of July 1, it was stated that in South Australia the Savings Bank had increased the allowance for new and existing houses to \$10,000, and this improvement is welcomed by Opposition members. However, people in this State are at some disadvantage compared to those in other States, and I shall seek information about why people in this State are at such a disadvantage, particularly when we find that originally the ceiling of \$12,000 was allowed by the Savings Bank of Victoria and now that ceiling has been lifted. An increase in the allowance would certainly benefit the people of this State and should certainly be considered in future allocations of Loan funds to organizations such as the Savings Bank of South Australia.

During the discussions following the opening of this session I commented on the \$10,000,000 allotted for extensions and improvements to the Port River. One could be excused for believing, after reading the Governor's Speech, that work would continue on widening the dredged channel of the Port River to a minimum width of 500ft. at a total estimated cost of \$10,000,000. However, the Estimates indicate that already \$7,000,000 of that \$10,000,000 has been spent since 1964. The terms used in the Governor's Speech do nothing to indicate to the House, or to people reading that document, what the actual situation is, because we have to turn to the Loan Estimates to ascertain how much will be spent in the current financial year.

Mr. Coumbe: You are not suggesting it's a gloss!

Dr. EASTICK: It makes the cake look glossy if it has sugarcoating on the top. The figure looked particularly good in the Governor's Speech, whereas it related to a long period of expenditure and not to something that would take place during the present financial year. I have previously highlighted the doubts I had about the advantage accruing to this State of additional expenditure on port facilities. I am pleased that we are to have

effective and efficient port facilities but I am worried (as I know other members are) about a situation in which we have facilities which are not being used, which incur capital and maintenance expenditures and do not provide a just return, and which are not being used to the best advantage of the community. I still have this fear: it is not a fear that has been allayed in any way by any comment from the Ministry in recent weeks. Whilst I admit to having a certain degree of pessimism in this regard, I look forward to a firm comment from the Ministry that would give me and people in the community an understanding that we can expect an increase in the number of ships made available to this State and in the ability of this State to ship from its own ports much of the produce that now goes through other States.

The Speaker, earlier this afternoon, has pointed out that we are considering these matters in a somewhat different manner from that which has applied in the past. The alterations have been documented in the Treasurer's speech, and he made a particular comment about the changes that have taken place when he stated:

As to the validation of certain borrowings in 1971-72 for which clause 8 has been inserted in this Bill, members may recall that in February last there was a special Premiers' Conference and meeting of the Australian Loan Council.

The Treasurer then enumerated the additional funds made available to this State and said that they were immediately applied to public spending. Later the Treasurer said that the variations that had been incorporated in the present Bill had been discussed fully between the Under Treasurer, the Auditor-General, the acting Parliamentary Counsel and the Clerk of the House. That assurance is acceptable to me and to other members but, because a clause that allows the validation of a previous action is incorporated in this Bill, I hope that the House will be able to study (either by its being tabled or distributed to members) any documentary evidence that there may be and any documentary record of the meeting referred to by the Treasurer.

It is important that we be able to peruse these documents, particularly in relation to clause 8, as this requires a validation of a previous action. As recently as eight days ago, the validation of actions that had passed was highlighted in a debate in this House, and I consider that it is in the best interests of members and of the people we represent for us to be fully acquainted with any action that

is required to validate an action that has previously taken place. The procedure may be simple, but documentary evidence should be tabled so that members and the public will not hesitate to accept the situation as it is.

I shall not discuss at length the details of the Loan Estimates, because that will be best done when discussing the schedule, but we have seen tangible evidence of the advantage given to this State by the Commonwealth Government because of the additional funds which have been made available and which can be used to benefit the public. We look forward to the Government's keeping us informed about how these funds will be spent and of the changes of emphasis in its programme. Whilst the Minister of Works has said that these are only Estimates, they highlight the fact that in the past there have been several changes of emphasis in spending which have been revealed only subsequently when the next series of Estimates has been brought before this House. It would be to the advantage of all people in the community if these changes of emphasis were made known much earlier than they have been in the past. This plea may not be accepted or responded to by the Minister's officers but, on behalf of the people I represent, I suggest that some consideration be given to acquainting the House of these changes. I support the Bill.

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens): I support the second reading of this Bill. There are four significant differences that one must appreciate about this Bill and its schedules. First, it is the first time that this matter has been introduced in the form of a Public Purposes Loan Bill, as a result of the new Standing Orders of the House. Secondly, there is a record expenditure of some \$159,500,000. Thirdly, there is a record Commonwealth financial assistance to this State, to which the Leader has just referred. Fourthly, it is interesting to see that, in the schedule dealing with the summary of Loan Account transactions, the balance on hand at June 30, 1971, was \$14,800,000, and it is expected that at the end of June, 1973, it will be \$10,350,000. I recall that a year or two ago, when I was sitting on the bench now occupied by the Minister of Education, when one of the great Treasurers of this State, Sir Glen Pearson, had the foresight to provide \$12,000,000 in reserve, not only the then Leader of the Opposition (Hon. D. A. Dunstan) but also the then member for Glenelg (Hon. Hugh Hudson), now the Minister of Education, were most vociferous in their attack on the Liberal Government of that day for having the

temerity to "salt away" the money. Time has shown how things have changed. When things are different they are not quite the same. The present Government has, of course, followed the example set by Sir Glen Pearson in those days of putting away funds in Loan Account so that they can be used later. Last year, the present Government went not to a mere \$12,000,000 but to \$14,800,000, and this year, when it has had the advantage of being able to draw on some of those funds, the amount will be reduced to about \$10,300,000. The hypocrisy shown on that occasion still lingers in my mind—the barrage of questions and criticism put up at that time about the \$12,000,000 that the then Treasurer (Sir Glen Pearson) provided.

This Bill provides for a record expenditure of \$159,560,000 by the State. In reviewing the events of the financial year just concluded, the Treasurer said that the Government had over-spent its Loan Account. I have no great objection to that, provided these funds were used for the benefit of the people of this State and were wisely spent, not just frittered away. That may well happen this year, but I remember a few years ago when just the reverse happened: we had a severe winter with long spells of wet weather, and Loan funds, particularly in the Public Buildings Department and to some extent in the Engineering and Water Supply Department, could not be spent. It may well be that this year we shall find that this sum of money cannot be spent. There is no doubt that a record amount of money is being provided by the Commonwealth Government. As we are now in the third session of the Fortieth Parliament, doubtless we shall hear much in the next State election campaign about the record State expenditure by the present Government. It will be ramming down our throats and everyone's throat over the radio and television and in every hall it can hire this record expenditure, but we shall not hear a word about the magnificently increased Commonwealth contribution to this State. We shall hear that this Government has broken all records but there will not be a word about what the Commonwealth Government has done to help this result come about.

Let me look in detail at where all this money has come from, apart from normal sources. The Treasurer is obliged to detail this, as all Treasurers are. In his statement to the House last Thursday he said:

In February 1972 . . . South Australia secured additional new funds—

that is, additional to the ones allocated at the previous Loan Council meeting—
on Loan Account of \$4,390,000.

That is all right. Then he said:

An unexpected contribution of \$910,000 from the Commonwealth towards school building programmes arranged in December, 1971 . . .

These are two items over and above the normal Loan programme announced by the Treasurer as derived from the Commonwealth when he made his speech just 12 months ago. These are not bad little amounts just as starters—I shall come to others in a minute: one is \$4,390,000 and the other is \$910,000. The Treasurer then went on to talk about the balance, to which I have referred, and then came to the Revenue Account. Whilst I am not allowed to talk of the Revenue Account in this debate, I can refer to the statements made by the Treasurer. He referred to the \$21,000,000 that the Grants Commission has allotted to the State and to the deficit that is likely to occur by the end of the year. We know from past experience how money has been taken from Loan Account to help the Revenue Account. I hope that does not happen this year. I come now to the second leg of the financial grants made by the Commonwealth. The Treasurer stated:

At the meeting of the Australian Loan Council held in June last, the Commonwealth agreed to support a total programme of \$982,000,000 for all State works and services, including housing. This figure is an increase of \$90,000,000, or about 10 per cent, above the 1971-72 total of \$892,000,000 . . . The increase of 10 per cent is the most liberal increase supported by the Commonwealth for many years.

I was speaking on another measure, to which I cannot allude in detail now, a few evenings ago and I mentioned that no Treasurer of South Australia had ever received so much money from the present Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Treasurer as the incumbent Labor Treasurer of South Australia had. The increase of about 10 per cent is the most liberal increase the Commonwealth has awarded for many years. What was the amount of the increase? The Treasurer said:

South Australia's share of the total is \$134,628,000, which is \$12,338,000 above the final allocation for 1971-72.

Then he spoiled it all by saying, "Well, that might just get us out of the hole." He did not even pay any tribute to the Commonwealth Government, except a grudging comment.

I am pleased that this large sum of money is available to be used for the people of the State: I only wish it could be more. I hope

in spending all this money that the best use will be made of it by the various departments and that we get a 100 per cent return for it.

Mr. Harrison: You'll get it.

Mr. COUMBE: I am talking now about availability of labour, cost of materials, etc., as well as design, which is an important aspect and which I know is considered carefully by the Public Works Committee, which is represented by both sides of the House, to see that particularly school buildings and other Government buildings are designed in such a way that the State gets the best return for its outlay, as well as meeting the need for which specific buildings are designed. On top of all that, I note that the programme for semi-governmental borrowing, approved by the Loan Council, too, has been increased by \$34,000,000, or about 8 per cent. Semi-governmental borrowings are very important in this State, because our semi-governmental works are conducted in a somewhat different manner from those in other States. I examined how the semi-governmental money was to be spent, and the first body I studied was the Electricity Trust. I had to traverse the Loan Estimates and other documents to find out what was going on, because I recall that, in paragraph 20 of His Excellency's Speech in opening Parliament on July 18, he said:

In this financial year there will be an increase in the rate of construction of major developmental projects in the Electricity Trust of South Australia. It is expected that almost \$30,000,000 will be spent on additional power plant and on additional transmission and distribution works—this will be an increase of about one-third on the amount expended last financial year.

I was impressed by that statement. Then I examined documents available to members and found that last year the trust did not achieve its goal of the sale of units of power. In fact, there had been a drop: instead of the curve of sales rising steadily, it had a sad droop in it; it started to sag, particularly in the industrial field. In other words, the industrial load expected by the trust at the beginning of the year did not eventuate. I wonder why? An increase in the industrial load has been expected year after year, but it started to drop away. I do not have the trust's final figures (neither has any other honourable member), but I would not be in the least surprised if for the first time that I can recall the trust shows a deficit this year.

Bearing that in mind, I went further and found that there is some juggling going on

under "roads and bridges" in the Highways Fund, which is sacrosanct to some people. I noticed that there will be a temporary diversion (I like the word "temporary") of about \$2,500,000 of developmental funds from the trust to the Highways Department. The word "temporary" is interesting because we are told that, in the subsequent four years, the fund should be able to repay these advances to the Treasury. I take it that "temporary" means a period of four years. In explaining the Loan Estimates the Treasurer said:

Of the trust's total programme of \$29,650,000, only \$3,000,000 is to be provided from State loan funds—

(instead of \$6,000,000 last year)—

a further \$6,000,000 is to be raised by borrowings from financial institutions and the public—

(instead of \$10,000,000 last year)—

and the balance of \$20,650,000 is to be met from the trust's internal funds.

One should not forget that the trust already faces a problem in revenue as a result of an Act of Parliament introduced by the Government, because it will be expected to pay over \$500,000 into the Revenue Account of the State this year. That is a direct impost on the trust. We all recall how this measure was introduced into the House. The Treasurer talked about his 3 per cent impost on the trust and said that this money would be diverted to revenue. However, he did not announce the increase in tariffs. It was left to the trust's officers to tell the humble householder, the people who run factories, and people who use electricity for other purposes about the increased tariffs. So, we find that the tariffs have been increased but the industrial load has fallen. We may conclude from the documents accompanying the Treasurer's explanation that the Electricity Trust will perhaps be a guinea pig in this regard. There has been a big reduction in the amount provided for another very important semi-government instrumentality, the Municipal Tramways Trust. The Treasurer said:

It was earlier intended to advance \$3,000,000 over three years to the trust to finance the replacement of its older diesel bus fleet with modern diesel vehicles for one-man operation.

Anyone who goes past the trust's depot will see very many buses awaiting sale. The Treasurer continued:

Sums of \$1,000,000 were advanced in each of the last two years but a recent review of the trust's capital programme and cash flows indicates that \$400,000 will probably suffice for 1972-73. Further advances will need to be made in 1973-74, by which time the trust's

programme and cash situation will have been reviewed again.

I stress that the Treasurer does not say that the trust's programme and cash situation will be improved: he simply says that they will be reviewed again. We have heard much here—and rightly so—about the great need for a better public transport system in the metropolitan area. Consequently it is strange that the Government, instead of pushing on with modernizing bus transport, is now reducing the provision that had previously been planned for bus modernization this year from \$1,000,000 to \$400,000. Being a very naive person, I would have thought that the Government would grasp the nettle and inject into M.T.T. finances further capital funds so that the trust could provide a higher standard of bus service. Because many of my constituents work in the Islington railway workshops, I am particularly interested in the provision for railway rolling stock and locomotives. It is disappointing to see that the amount provided for the coming year is the same as the amount provided last year. Because of the increases in wages and the cost of materials, it is clear that that amount will provide a smaller quantity of railway facilities.

Last year a record sum was provided for the school building programme and, because of the dry weather, the Government was able to push ahead with that programme. If the same rate of progress can be achieved in the coming year, the overall position may be alleviated. However, this year the net provision from State funds is slightly less than the corresponding sum for last year. Last year the Commonwealth Government's contribution for the purposes set out in the schedule was \$4,010,000, whereas this year it is \$5,830,000. Last year the State spent a net sum of \$18,305,000, whereas this year it will spend \$17,470,000.

The aspect that should concern us greatly is the unit cost of schools. I know that the Public Works Committee is examining this aspect very closely. Despite the new, economical designs that are now being prepared, we should consider whether the greater outlay of capital funds is really resulting in a greater number of schools, bearing in mind the increases in wages and the cost of materials. I sincerely hope that the expenditure of these extra funds will result in our getting more schools of a better design. The Public Works Committee has a great responsibility to examine the design, location and purposes of schools to ensure that we get good value for the money

spent. Being a former member of that committee, I know that the committee members carefully consider these matters. When I was a member of the committee I used a rough rule of thumb—the ratio of gross area to net area. By “gross area” I mean the whole area, and by “net area” I mean the usable area; the difference between the two areas is accounted for by corridors, foyers, conveniences, etc. I am sure that the member for Mallee would agree that this is a very good yardstick to use.

Mr. Nankivell: Yes.

Mr. CUMBE: If our State is to develop it is inevitable that such development will be reflected in increased expenditure in the Engineering and Water Supply Department. After taking into account the increases in wages and the cost of materials, I believe that the sums provided for that department mean that there will be only a slight increase, if any, in the activity in that department this year. I wish to quote some figures that I have prepared for the years 1970-71 and 1972-73. These figures will strikingly show the comparisons I have made. For metropolitan waterworks, \$10,400,000 was provided in 1970-71, whereas this year the sum provided is \$10,140,000. For country waterworks, \$7,931,000 was provided in 1970-71, and \$8,359,000 is provided this year. For metropolitan sewerage, \$7,018,000 was provided in 1970-71, and the sum for this year is \$6,697,000, whereas for country sewerage the sum provided in 1970-71 was \$2,526,000, and this has dropped to \$2,167,000 this year. Under this department, which is one of the more important Government departments, some of these figures show a reduction where I would have expected an increase because of the development necessary in the State. I am pleased to see that provision is made for work on the main from Murray Bridge to Hahndorf. I am also pleased to see an allocation of funds for work on the link between Poldia and Kimba.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: We hope for some Commonwealth money for that.

Mr. CUMBE: I join with the Minister in hoping that we will get a Commonwealth subsidy for that main, as we did in the case of the Keith main. It is interesting to note the little paragraph tacked on to the end of these documents. In 1970-71, this comment was made:

Other Works—Included in the appropriation for waterworks and sewers is a provision of \$1,000,000 towards the development costs of that portion of the old Islington sewage farm area which is to be sold for industrial

use. The development involves the provision of heavy duty roads, stormwater drainage, water supply, and sewerage facilities.

That statement was made two years ago. I pass that old sewage farm once every three weeks and, although I have seen some work taking place, it has not been a great deal. This year, the statement is as follows:

An appropriation of \$800,000 is required for work on the provision of roads, stormwater drainage, water supply and sewerage facilities in that portion of the old Islington sewage farm area which is being developed for industrial use.

The sooner we get on with that job the better. The reference to which I have referred that was made two years ago is interesting when we consider how little work can be seen occurring. Under this line, the pleasing feature is the reference to Dartmouth dam, with expenditure on that project being provided this year.

Under this Bill, we are asked to approve a record expenditure in this State. I have great pleasure in supporting that expenditure because I believe it will assist people in their various activities. Certainly I hope it will give a stimulus to employment. There is also a record Commonwealth contribution to this State. After the Budget, we may have further amounts made available by way of revenue rather than Loan. The Government has made these Loan Estimates very attractive because this is the year before an election. I do not blame the Government for this; in its place, I would do the same thing. When the Government goes to the people next year, it will say that it has provided for record expenditure of nearly \$160,000,000, and it will point to the paltry sum provided three years previously. In pointing this out, the Government will denigrate all that the Commonwealth Government has done in making this magnificent total possible. Not a word will be heard about that Government's contribution to school and hospital buildings. As I have said, I believe that moneys could have been allocated in some areas in preference to others. However, I will be able to deal with those matters when we consider the Bill in Committee, under the new procedure of Standing Orders. At this stage, I content myself with supporting the second reading.

Mr. BECKER (Hanson): As I believe that the present Government and its Ministers are incompetent and inexperienced to be supervising the expenditure of the moneys provided under this Bill, I should like to oppose it,

but I cannot do that, for apparently it is not done. By this Bill, we will commit the State to another record expenditure and a record amount of interest and repayments that will be charged to the Revenue Account, yet we find that we are expected to debate this matter, dealing with figures that have not been audited. This is a ludicrous situation. No banker or businessman would ever consider commenting on a document of this magnitude unless it had been audited. We will not receive the Auditor-General's Report until early September. We will not receive the Revenue Budget until then, yet we are asked to look at what are called Loan Estimates and to authorize the Government and the Ministers of the various departments to raise large sums, and we are not sure of the interest rates. We understand that the term of the loans will be 53 years.

This most complicated document is put before Parliament in the hope that members will not pay too much attention to it. It is the duty of any member, especially an Opposition member, to find any loopholes in order to protect the interests of the taxpayers of this State. All members can do is try to read between the lines. Opposition members find it difficult to contact anyone in the Treasury or the various Government departments to ascertain information because, it is said, that information is confidential. It is about time these officers were made available to members of Parliament so that members could obtain information. If some matters are confidential, surely it is up to the integrity of the member concerned to keep the information confidential. All money raised from the taxpayers and spent by the State Government should be spent with the full knowledge of the people of this State.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It is spent with the full knowledge of the public.

Mr. BECKER: Yes, but certain information that members would like to obtain they cannot obtain; when we ask questions we are merely told what the Government wants to tell us.

Mr. Mathwin: Often we are only abused.

Mr. BECKER: Yes. One must take that risk. Parliament is being asked to place huge sums in the hands of certain people who I consider are incapable of spending those funds.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You claim you would be experienced?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BECKER: We find that—

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Surely Cabinet is best qualified to decide how to spend the money.

Mr. Millhouse: That's a typically Socialist outlook.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much cross-interjection between the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Minister, and I ask that the honourable member let his colleague make his contribution to this debate and be heard in silence.

Mr. BECKER: The sum intended to be spent under the Loan Estimates represents an increase of just over 6.7 per cent, and is the greatest sum of Loan money authorized in any one year. South Australia is also receiving from the Commonwealth Government a capital grant, free of interest and repayments, totalling \$34,074,000, and Loan Council has authorized the borrowing in cash of \$100,554,000. The present Commonwealth bond rate is 6 per cent, and these funds are to be borrowed on a 53-year term. If one does some quick arithmetic, one finds that this State's interest bill will be \$6,033,240 a year, and its repayments over 53 years will total \$1,897,245 a year. In other words, the State is being committed under these borrowings to the sum of \$7,930,485 a year, which will come from the Revenue Account. That is fair enough when one examines this document and studies the Treasurer's comments.

The Treasurer said that the Government will still be faced with the prospect of a considerable revenue deficit this financial year, even after taking into account a special grant, recommended by the Grants Commission, of \$13,500,000. One must also bear in mind the additional \$7,500,000 that South Australia will receive this financial year to offset last year's deficit. Therefore, although the State has received an additional \$21,000,000 from the Commonwealth Government, members are still being told that the Government will be faced with a revenue deficit. It therefore means that, no matter how much money the Commonwealth Government gives this State, this Government will spend that money and a little extra if it can. It is interesting to note that in the 1971-72 Estimates the Treasurer budgeted for a deficit of \$1,540,000 whereas, in fact, the State ended up with a deficit of \$4,429,005.

Mr. Mathwin: Do you think he made a mistake?

Mr. BECKER: The reason was given in His Excellency's Speech, and it is also referred

to in the explanation of the Loan Estimates, in which it is stated that, because of the effect of a long period of dry weather favourable to construction in the autumn and early winter, the Public Buildings Department's actual payments in respect of schools, hospitals and other Government buildings were more than \$8,000,000 above the original appropriation. One can assume, therefore, that because of the dry weather the rate of construction was speeded up. If one checks the statistics for the financial year ended June 30, 1971, one will see that we had rain on 147 days, whereas in the year ended June 30, 1972, we had rain on only 119 days. Therefore, it rained on 28 fewer days last financial year than it did in the year ended June 30, 1971, and those 28 days cost this State about \$3,000,000. In other words, the Government was able to spend at least that amount more on capital works because it did not rain on 28 days.

In the first quarter of 1971 it rained on 15 days, whereas in the same period in 1972 we had rain on 17 days. In the last three months of the 1971 financial year (April, May and June) it rained on 49 days, whereas during the same period in the financial year ended June 30, 1972, it rained on only 19 days. Therefore, a tremendous amount of construction work took place in April, May and June, 1972, because we had less rain. This is a little contradictory because the Treasurer, in his second reading explanation, stated:

In February, 1972, at a Premiers' Conference and meeting of the Australian Loan Council, the Commonwealth Government indicated that it was prepared to support some addition to previously approved levels of grants and advances to enable the States to expand the rate of activity in works and services and to play some part in reducing unemployment and in reducing the back-lag of urgently required works. Under these arrangements, South Australia secured additional new funds on Loan Account of \$4,390,000, and the Government immediately authorized a stepping up of the rate of progress in capital programmes.

That was in February, 1972. Bearing in mind that we had 30 fewer days rain in the last quarter, the Government was able to spend \$4,500,000, but nothing occurred regarding unemployment in the State. We have been told that it is expected that we will receive, in payments and recoveries, \$24,600,000. In 1972 it was expected that we would receive \$23,500,000 in payments and recoveries, yet we received only \$22,440,895, or \$1,059,105 less, but scant attention has been given to this. It is stated that the repayment by the Natural Gas Pipelines Authority has been deferred.

Section 14 of the Natural Gas Pipelines Authority Act provides:

(4) The due repayment of all principal sums so borrowed by the Authority and the payment of all interest secured by any debenture issued by the Authority is hereby guaranteed by the Government of South Australia.

(5) The Treasurer is hereby authorized—

(a) out of moneys received by the State from the Commonwealth for the purpose, and out of other moneys to be appropriated by Parliament for the purposes, to make advances by way of loan to the Authority, for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, subject to such terms and conditions as he thinks fit;

and

(b) to pay out of the General Revenue of the State any sum required for fulfilling any guarantee referred to in subsection (4) of this section, and this section, without further appropriation is sufficient authority for any such payment and any sum paid under this paragraph shall, when moneys are properly available for the purpose, be repaid by the Authority to the Treasurer and, when so repaid, shall form part of the General Revenue of the State.

The Natural Gas Pipelines Authority will not be able to meet its repayments, and this additional money will be charged to Revenue Account. In 1970-71 the authority received an additional \$2,250,000 in the Loan Estimates and in 1971-72 it received \$1,750,000. It has not been mentioned this year, but the total amount of loans to this organization is \$41,600,000. It will be interesting to see what the Auditor-General's Report states about the authority. As the authority's financial year ended on October 31, the figures virtually will be out of date when we receive them in the Auditor-General's Report in a few weeks time. I hope that the Auditor-General makes an appropriate comment in his report.

If he does not, it will be Parliament's duty to find out what has gone wrong with the authority and why it cannot repay its loans. Perhaps the deferment is for only a short time, but this should have been stated in the Treasurer's second reading explanation. It is difficult for us to accept a document which has not been audited and in respect of which we cannot check up on the complete amounts allocated and spent. One appendix to the explanation shows that most of the allocations have not been utilized fully. This is either because of lower tendering or because something has gone wrong and departments were recommended not to spend so much, with the Public Buildings Department going along

merrily and exceeding its allocation by over \$8,000,000.

The State Bank will receive another \$1,000,000, by way of loan. That will go into the capital to help the bank to meet its commitments to its customers. The State Bank has been suffering for some time. It has never been directly promoted or pushed as a bank to give service to the South Australian public, because it is saddled with huge loans to co-operatives and other organizations that have become static. In future, something must be done to ensure that the loans are either repaid or written off.

We cannot expect the bank to expand and we cannot expect the State to be involved in banking if the State Bank cannot obtain repayment of its loans. We are injecting another \$1,000,000 from Loan Account into the bank's finances, yet in the State Budget we take a percentage of the bank's profits. It is interesting to note that, on the one hand, we take a percentage of its profits and, on the other hand, we are asked to authorize Loan allocations to the bank.

As the member for Torrens has said, provision is made under "Roads and Bridges" for the State to seal the Eyre Highway. The Commonwealth Government assistance to do this provides for a grant of \$2,500,000 over the four years to June, 1976. The Highways Fund will contribute a similar amount, and then we get the most unusual situation of \$2,500,000 of development funds from the Electricity Trust being made available. This brings to mind an interesting situation. When the Electricity Trust files a prospectus for its next borrowing from the public, will it tell the people of South Australia to invest in the future growth, development and expansion of the trust and also to share in the contribution to the sealing of the Eyre Highway?

It will be interesting to know the reaction of the investing public. Because the Electricity Trust borrows from the public on the open market, it generally pays a higher interest rate than the Commonwealth bond rate. As I have said, about \$100,000,000 will be borrowed at about 6 per cent on a 53-year term. The Electricity Trust borrows money at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent more than the Commonwealth loan rate, and on a shorter term.

Mr. Coumbe: Who'll pay for this?

Mr. BECKER: Of course, the payments for all of this must come out of the Highways Fund. Over four years, the interest will be considerable, and this seems to me to be an

expensive way of financing the Eyre Highway project. If the Eyre Highway is to be sealed within four years, one would have thought the money could be raised without involving the Electricity Trust or any other organization. The sum really should come from the Highways Fund, because the State has received money from the Commonwealth Government for road purposes. However, the Government is determined that it will embarrass the Commonwealth Government as much as it can in relation to sealing the Eyre Highway. This project is important for the development of the State, including the tourist industry, and one would have thought that the Electricity Trust would not be used as a lever to obtain these funds.

I only hope that when the trust circulates its next prospectus in regard to borrowing money from the public it will refer to this fact. However, I know that it will not do so. To use an organization in this way in order to borrow money is a pretty poor show. If the Government is genuine and really believes that moneys should be borrowed separately to build the Eyre Highway, why do we not consider establishing a separate fund (perhaps it could be called the Eyre Highway fund), rather than doing it in the way I have outlined? This proposal will not impress my constituents or, indeed, most of the taxpayers who, even though they were warned that electricity charges would be increased by 3 per cent (and I especially bear in mind the time when this statement was made, that is, at the end of the period of daylight saving) have found that their electricity accounts have been increased by as much as 20 per cent. It will be difficult to justify using the Electricity Trust as a means of financing the sealing of the Eyre Highway.

A favourite line of mine on the Estimates relates to the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, on which \$1,300,000 is to be spent this year. The sum of \$886,000 was spent from Loan Account on this project in 1971-72, taking the total expenditure to \$9,274,000 and, including the \$1,300,000 proposed this year, total expenditure on the project will be \$10,574,000. This scheme is still a disaster: it started off at a cost of about \$3,000,000, yet we know now that the cost is up to over \$10,500,000. There are many amazing aspects concerning this scheme: the Sturt River was cement lined; the river was straightened out in some areas and magnificent gum trees and other trees and shrubs were bulldozed to make way for this cement lining, although few trees have been replanted in those areas since the

sections concerned were completed; a small fence has been erected to deter people from depositing rubbish in the river and on grassed areas nearby. However, as a result of some great engineering feat, in certain areas drains run uphill into the Sturt River! Consequently, considerable flooding occurred in my area about 12 months ago.

Because the river does not flow all year round, much rubbish, sand and residue is collected in certain areas, but nothing is being done to clear it away, and it finishes up in the Patawalonga Lake. Although we have heard reports through the various media of certain industries being responsible for polluting the sea, I point out that nothing has ever been said or action taken regarding the pollution that flows along the Sturt River and out into the gulf. Specimens of dead fish recently found in the Patawalonga Lake were collected and examined, and it was found that the fish died from—

Mr. Burdon: Drowning!

Mr. BECKER: No, they died from poison that had been used in gardens. At a certain time of the year when garden sprays have been used, contaminated water running from people's properties into the drain and eventually into the river has been responsible for the death of fish in the Patawalonga Lake. The activities of man himself are responsible for the greatest amount of pollution that occurs in the sea and in our rivers. Many suggestions have been made regarding the loss of marine growth just off the beach at Glenelg North and near the Glenelg treatment works, but as yet no checks have been made on the amount of pollution that flows down the Sturt River. We know that certain light industries along the river deposit rubbish into the stream.

Work currently being undertaken at the Patawalonga Basin, at a cost of \$870,000, will create certain hardship. There are two bridges across the basin leading to what is called the Glenelg North peninsula, and one of these bridges is a single-track wooden structure, which was condemned about five or six years ago. However, at present that bridge virtually represents the lifeline of people living on the peninsula. The main bridge, a cement two-lane traffic bridge, is now being severed at both ends, the contractors having commenced work last Tuesday on demolishing the approaches to the bridge, which is to be lengthened, as the basin is to be extended to an overall width of 300ft.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]

Mr. BECKER: One was surprised to find last Tuesday, at the beginning of the petrol shortage, that the workers severed the area east of the centre of King Street bridge, thus completely isolating the people on the peninsula north of Glenelg who cross the bridge to catch public transport, and more particularly children attending school east of Tapley Hill Road and in the Glenelg area. One could not understand why the Government would permit the contractors to do this, knowing that, because of the petrol shortage, people would be forced to walk an extra mile or 1½ miles. However, we are becoming accustomed to this type of treatment and to this kind of approach to the people, not only in my district, but throughout South Australia; in other words, if a Government works programme is to go ahead, if it is inconvenient for the people, then that is just too bad. It is the typical old story: head down, tail up, and away we go. One would expect more consideration for the 1,000 people living in that area.

Of course, the widening of the Patawalonga Basin and the continual cementing of the upper reaches of the Sturt River will mean a greater flow of water, preventing any flooding in the low-lying areas, particularly around Marion, but people in my locality are incensed that they have to put up with the rubbish and the pollution which comes down the Sturt and eventually is washed out to sea, and then comes back on to the beach.

It is interesting to note that \$300,000 will be provided for public parks. The scheme implemented by Governments in the past, under which local government may apply to this account to purchase local parks and playing fields, is worth while. People who own property are not happy about having to pay the extra land tax to subsidize the Revenue Account, but I am surprised to see that it is necessary still to raise \$300,000 by way of Loan. The situation could be overcome if all the small blocks in the area left from previous subdivisions were sold and larger areas purchased, each being about the size of a football field. This would be a great advantage to the children and, I am sure, to the parents, and it would not be necessary to have a seesaw and a swing on a small block of land tucked in between a number of houses.

Of the \$400,000 proposed for this year for the Lands Department, half is for special machinery for the mapping branch and half for the purchase of motor vehicles, plant and equipment. We see this sort of thing in various places throughout this document—

loans being raised for the purchase of motor vehicles, plant and equipment, but here again the details are insufficient. We have no idea what vehicles are owned by the various Government departments, nor the age and condition of them, nor do we know what type of equipment they have and whether or not it is necessary to replace it.

The Railways Department allocation of \$7,900,000 is quite interesting; if any Government department requires these amounts of capital money then it must be the South Australian Railways, but \$210,000 is to provide housing for employees. This was highlighted recently by the member for Florey when he referred to his visit to certain country centres where he found that the standard of housing accommodation for South Australian Railways employees was extremely low. It would be interesting to know how much is required by the Railways Department to bring its housing accommodation to a fair and reasonable standard. I believe the Minister should ensure that this programme is implemented quickly. Under the heading "Waterworks and Sewers", \$31,925,000 is provided, part of which is for a major new trunk water main to be laid from Darlington in the south of Adelaide to Port Adelaide in the north in order to balance the supply of water with demand for it and to supply the proposed West Lakes scheme.

From the Loan Estimates and the Budget we see how far the State Government is willing to assist the West Lakes scheme, but in the south-western suburbs an extremely poor water pressure is experienced. I hope that not only will the West Lakes scheme benefit from the new main but also that certain areas in the south-western suburbs will be assisted. If this main is purely for the West Lakes scheme, it is about time that existing property holders in the south-western suburbs, who pay enormous amounts in water rates, were given a far better service. Also, the sum of \$1,336,000 is to be spent for the reconstruction of existing sewers. The major projects involved are in the south-western suburbs, where the scheme is designed to provide relief from flooding and to provide an outlet for the Blackwood-Belair area, and in the north-eastern suburbs where a scheme is designed to eliminate flooding of private property and overflows into the Torrens River.

In my district we are accustomed to seeing general pollution flowing in the Torrens River to the outlet; this rubbish is taken out to sea and then is dumped on the beaches of Glenelg and West Beach. The Government Printing Department is to receive another \$2,500,000

for work on the new printing office and mapping branch at Netley. The expenditure on this project to the end of June last was \$1,107,000, and it is a pity that we cannot be provided with more detailed and audited information, when asking questions of the Minister. Page 847 of *Hansard* of August 17, 1971, contains the following report, when we were considering last years Loan Estimates:

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister of Works say how far the \$400,000 provided for the Government Printing Office at Netley will go, and can he say when construction is expected to commence?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The matter will be submitted to Cabinet next Thursday, and I guess that the \$400,000 will provide \$400,000 worth of construction this year.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: And that is exactly what it did.

Mr. BECKER: Whatever it did, the total cost was \$1,107,000. The Minister had to bring in an independent firm to look at the feasibility of the whole project, but that fact was not mentioned. The people of South Australia will have to foot the bill quietly and peacefully, as they do every year whilst they tolerate the present Government.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: I invite you to talk about it, as you know so much about it.

Mr. BECKER: The borrowings of the Electricity Trust have been slightly reduced, and the trust will go to the public and lending institutions to borrow \$6,000,000, and probably part of this money will help to build Eyre Highway. On the front page of the prospectus no doubt will be seen a photograph of Eyre Highway showing the stobie poles, and this will induce the public to lend money to the trust.

An amount of \$400,000 is provided for the Municipal Tramways Trust in order to upgrade equipment. It is a pity that nothing has been allotted to the trams, because many of them need a coat of paint and certain refurbishing. I hope that that will be done during the next 12 months. An additional \$450,000 is provided for foreshore protection, which is a never-ending need. It is regrettable that the provision for that purpose is not greater. I wonder how many people realize how large the State debt is. To the end of June, 1971, the State debt for South Australia was \$1,256,000,000—that is, \$1,060 per capita, the second highest figure in the Commonwealth. Tasmania's State debt is the highest in Australia—\$1,690 per capita. In Western Australia the State debt is \$916 per capita; in Queensland it is \$702; in Victoria, \$669; and in New South

Wales, \$684. So, we find that the Government is certainly not frightened to borrow money at a rate that has never been seen before. I should like to oppose the Bill because the Ministers in the present Government are not competent to supervise the spending of public money on such a scale. No industry would permit such a situation.

Mr. McANANEY (Heysen): In supporting the second reading of this Bill I must give due credit to the Commonwealth Government for again providing funds.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: The State Government pays back the money with interest.

Mr. McANANEY: In making that remark the Minister is not keeping up with the times, because in recent years a considerable sum has been written off; the Labor Government has used such funds to write off the \$8,000,000 deficit that it incurred in 1930-33. That shows that the Government did not have any respect for the value of money.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: How do you explain that every other State is in a bigger mess than this State is in?

Mr. McANANEY: I have seen such a mess here that I have not looked over the border. South Australia had a bigger increase in Commonwealth grants than any other State had.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: That is not correct.

Mr. McANANEY: It is. The Minister is interjecting when he should not be interjecting, and I advise him to keep quiet.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Heysen has the call, and interjections are out of order. I will not be continually calling members to order. If the honourable member will address the Chair, we will be able to proceed more quickly.

Mr. McANANEY: Earlier tonight I asked a Minister, "If the Labor Party flukes a win at the coming Commonwealth election, whom will you blame then?" He replied, "I will find someone to whom I can draw attention." I commend the Auditor-General for providing a wise, complete report on the Government's activities by early September each year. In his report for the year ended June 30, 1971, the Auditor-General said:

Last year I commented on the high cost of some public works and emphasized the necessity for economy in design and execution to provide the maximum facilities at the minimum of costs.

We all know the many millions of dollars spent by the Government. A saving of only

1 per cent or 2 per cent in budgeting would help to eliminate the Budget deficit. We would then get much more value for our money, with more funds being available for school buildings, and so on. This is essential if the public is to get the greatest benefit from the funds available. The Auditor-General's Report continued:

I again advocated a critical review of specifications and estimates of departmental works to ensure that essential requirements are provided for at the lowest possible outlay. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works does examine this aspect but many projects do not come within its scrutiny.

Mr. Payne: As a member of the Public Works Committee, are you criticizing it?

Mr. McANANEY: The only occasion on which I have criticized a decision of the Public Works Committee was when the Labor members on the committee voted to retain the Semaphore railway line. That has involved one of the greatest wastes of money and is one of the biggest disgraces I can imagine. This all happened because a union secretary attended the public meeting and said, "If you are not good boys, there will be some trouble." He was most rude. He upset the Labor committee members, whose attitude changed immediately. As there was an alternative service to the railway service available, keeping this line open has cost \$40,000. Apart from that occasion, the committee has worked on non-Party lines, and I think we do a good job.

Mr. Payne: How can you criticize projects approved by the committee?

Mr. McANANEY: I must avoid the honourable member's interjections.

Mr. Payne: You avoid them when you can't answer them.

Mr. McANANEY: The Auditor-General's Report continued:

These include all works estimated to cost less than \$300,000, projects excluded by various Acts, and works, such as Institute of Technology and university buildings, where the State provides a part only of the moneys required.

After money is provided by the Commonwealth Government, the State Government hands it over to independent bodies, and there is really no check on the expenditure that they may indulge in. Admittedly, these bodies have private auditors but, as public money is involved, I believe some investigation should be made. The report continued:

Further, the committee has no responsibility beyond its report to Parliament in terms of section 24 of its Act which must be made

before the works prescribed by the Act can be authorized.

I believe that this committee does a splendid job in assessing the information put before it, but I think it is essential that its activities should be followed up. However, although it would be far better if the same committee could make the follow-up investigations, as the Public Works Committee goes from one project to another it would not have time for such additional investigations. Therefore, although certain reactionary groups, who talk about political secrecy, have opposed the setting up of a public accounts committee, we must have another committee to follow up investigations made into projects by the Public Works Committee. Such a committee can see that the tenders called conform to the estimates, and that buildings are built subject to what has been agreed.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Are you in favour of a Public Works Committee as well as a public accounts committee?

Mr. McANANEY: As I think it would be impossible for one committee to do all the work to which I am referring, I believe that we should have two committees.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Don't you think the Public Works Committee has to deal with too many trivial inquiries?

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Of course it does.

Mr. McANANEY: It is often possible for the committee to effect greater savings on the smaller schemes than it can on the larger ones, in relation to which there is more detail. The committee finds it more difficult to assess whether money is being wasted on the larger projects than it does on the smaller ones. However, it has been able to effect considerable savings. The new Government Printing Office (a project on which the committee spent much time) was referred to earlier this evening. In this respect, the committee went to other States; it was told in Melbourne that a single-storey building was better, yet in Sydney it was told that a three-storey building was better. The Public Buildings Department wanted a suspension roof. However, the committee was concerned about this aspect because it had not obtained sufficient evidence to show that this sort of roof would be successful. Finally, the committee approached a university expert, who assesses the merits or deficiencies of projects not only for private industry but also for the Government. He proved to us that this suggestion was feasible, as a result of which the Public Works Com-

mittee agreed to it. What eventually took place at Netley, no-one knows: we have not got the true answer yet. If another committee was following up that matter, it could ascertain whether there had been a lack of knowledge or control in relation to that project and whether any money had been wasted.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Which committee would follow it up?

Mr. McANANEY: I thought I had already explained that. I experience difficulties with honourable members opposite; I would not have thought I would experience so much difficulty with the honourable member. Previous speakers have said that the Government has had considerable money in its Revenue Account. I have raised this matter during the year, because at one stage it had \$40,000,000 in the Loan Account—when South Australia was experiencing considerable unemployment.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Why did we have that unemployment?

Mr. McANANEY: I was waiting for that interjection. We had it because of a series of running strikes which caused industry to be disrupted and which caused the Labor Party, at both the State and Commonwealth levels, to say, "Next month we are going to have 200,000 unemployed because of the Commonwealth Government. This has undermined the confidence of the people of Australia and the country's economy." Before the last election the Premier said, "Vote for us because if in three months you have a Liberal Government you will have 300,000 unemployed within a few months." That is the sort of statement that undermines people's confidence, and the Labor Party should be more responsible towards the community. The Treasurer talks about Keynes' theory about what one does with money and says that this should be effected at the Commonwealth level. He should follow the wise example of Sir Thomas Playford, who did not have a university degree and who learnt the hard way that, although one can keep a reserve of money when times are good, one must spend it when times are bad. When South Australia was experiencing increasing unemployment, the Government had \$40,000,000 in its Loan Account. The Government has virtually admitted that, had it not been for the fine weather, it would have more money lying idle.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: There's only one thing wrong with this State: you are not running it.

Mr. McANANEY: I do not think I am a genius, but the Government would not have been in the trouble that it is in today if it had acted differently. The Government has in the Loan Account money that should have been spent in creating full employment in the State. Sir Thomas Playford always had \$1,000,000 up his sleeve for these occasions. Even now, near the end of a financial year and after much good weather, the Government has \$10,000,000 but has issued about \$5,000,000 of that. This was over-spending of the Budget, despite the hand-feeding from the Commonwealth Government in the last 18 months. The Government has \$4,000,000 in reserve at a time when there is so much unemployment.

Other amounts are also stowed away. In the previous year, the Government put \$1,000,000 into the Highways Fund, and now it is putting another \$800,000 into it. That department has not spent the money that it has been given, and it is receiving more money. This is happening at a time of so much unemployment, yet the Government speaks about the Liberal Government in Canberra creating unemployment. It is this State Government that has the resources to put people in work. Members opposite have gone silent now: they ought to hang their heads in shame, with this sort of thing happening.

Mr. Payne: Have you any Commonwealth ambitions at all?

Mr. Burdon: You would make a good Prime Minister.

Mr. McANANEY: My only ambition is to get out of this madhouse and return to sanity. Since I have had to contend with a Labor Government, I cannot see much happening. This money is put aside to meet a possible deficit in the coming year, but what has happened to the funds that have been made available to this Government in the last 18 months? The Treasurer still speaks of how Mr. Gorton snarled at him and said, "You can go back to the Grants Commission." For five years the State had agreed not to go there but, when the Treasurer was not pleased about what he got under the taxation reimbursement formula, Mr. Gorton, gentleman that he is, told him, "If you will not agree, we will allow you to go to the Grants Commission."

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: He didn't say it quite like that.

Mr. McANANEY: I received one report of what happened and the Minister received another. Anyway, the opportunity was given for the Grants Commission to assess the situa-

tion, and the Government went there. What happened in 1970-71, the first year that this Government was in office? When we add it all up, we find that the Commonwealth Government granted a 27½ per cent increase in its allocations, whereas the gross national product had increased by only 10 per cent. You extracted money from the Commonwealth Government, when an editorial in the *Australian* was speaking of Mr. Gorton's magnificent gesture.

Mr. Jennings: The Grants Commission has nothing to do with the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. McANANEY: You got a 27½ per cent increase but you still had difficulty in balancing your Budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the honourable member please address his remarks through the Chair?

Mr. McANANEY: As you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have such a high opinion of your integrity in the Chair that I have never once disputed one of your rulings. Even taking into account the amount of pay-roll tax handed over, this Government received 17.3 per cent more from the Commonwealth Government this year, and that far exceeds the percentage increase in relation to the gross national product. Unless we achieve more production in Australia and receive an increased gross national product, this Government cannot carry on, and it blames the Commonwealth Government. However, the Commonwealth Government is, in fact, the taxpayers of Australia, who are already fed up with paying too much. There must be more efficiency here, and we must realize that we cannot continue under the present set-up.

Our ability to write off so much in regard to debt each year is worth an additional \$8,400,000. In 1971-72 it was worth \$4,900,000; in 1974-75 it will be worth \$15,800,000, and this is a saving which would otherwise have represented normal expenditure if these interest-free grants had not been received. It is interesting to note that, out of advances to public authorities, \$900,000 was used in connection with the construction of the festival theatre, so the Commonwealth Government is providing most of the money for that project. Capital grants are made to non-Government hospital and institution buildings, and to university and advanced education buildings. Yet the Minister of Education says that the Commonwealth Government does not give us a razoo. The grant for hospital buildings and services amounts to over \$8,200,000;

and for school buildings, over \$10,200,000 (just half of the sum actually spent).

Mr. Payne: It came from the taxpayers in the first place, though, didn't it?

Mr. McANANEY: We are talking about capital grants at present. Although some of the money comes through the Commonwealth Budget, a considerable sum is made available through bank credit, depending on current economic conditions. The banks and the Commonwealth Government are providing interest-free money. Although I have criticized past Commonwealth Governments, I point out that this matter should be assessed on an equitable basis and that the Commonwealth should assess how much is received from the Commonwealth taxpayer, how much has been borrowed by way of loans, how much credit we have used, and how much this has cost us, so that it can be seen how much interest the State should be charged.

I say that this system should have been introduced sooner, but we must give the Commonwealth credit in this regard. The sum of \$1,600,000 advanced for the festival theatre has been written off, which means that the theatre is almost being provided by the Commonwealth Government. When it is opened, will the Premier say, "This festival theatre was paid for by the Commonwealth Government"? A sum of approximately \$2,000,000 has been written off in the account of the Municipal Tramways Trust. In the past, large sums have been written off in this account and the trust now is practically paying only its running expenses. This could happen to the railways, if the railway system was put on a business basis, told to pay its running expenses, and had to be competitive with public transport, and if uneconomic lines were replaced by other means of transport.

In the matter of land improvement and settlement, relating specifically to settlement of discharged soldiers, the sum of \$3,888,000 has been written off, together with a sum of \$880,000 for other urban drainage. For parks and reserves more than \$940,000 has been written off. This Government claims credit for creating reserves, but the years 1968 to 1970 saw record amounts allocated to national reserves, and now the Commonwealth Government is paying for national parks. The amount written off for railway accommodation and railway depreciated assets is more than \$8,100,000. However, getting back to the masterpiece, general deficiencies, from 1926 to 1934 when the Labor Government was pre-

viously in office the sum of \$8,400,000 was overspent.

In times such as this, in periods of unemployment, the Government should be spending every available penny on creating employment. When we reach the stage of full employment and confidence is restored, then the money is in the banks, the loans can be provided, the people have confidence to spend, and Australia will prosper. If the States are wisely run, then the Loan funds will go up so that they can be spent when the need arises. I have emphasized this point, and I will continue to do so.

Only last week I went and inspected the abattoir at Gepps Cross and I was very impressed with the improvements made in the few years since my last visit. I thought it was working very well. On my last visit I saw many people standing around doing nothing. A week later I visited the Murray Bridge abattoir and the people there were all working. However, on this visit to Gepps Cross I can honestly say that every man I saw was working. The abattoir desperately needs money for extensions, and, where there is export trade, extensions are required to the beef and lamb chains so that it is not necessary to work so much overtime, putting undue pressure on the workmen who have to work during weekends. If the chains could be extended and overtime reduced the operations of the abattoir would become more economic. However, it is necessary that money should be spent in duplicating certain cattle facilities. It could be a most efficient abattoir, but when it is completed we may have to consider whether other abattoirs should be built elsewhere.

I was impressed with the improvements at the abattoir: seven years ago I thought the best thing to do would be to put a bulldozer through it, but at present it is a reasonably good abattoir with many years of operational life left in it. Before 1965 the abattoir board had been provided with Loan money, but the Labor Government made it borrow from private sources at an additional interest rate.

Mr. Harrison: What happened before that when the Liberal Government was in? What did your Government do?

Mr. McANANEY: I understand that over \$2,000,000 has been lent to the abattoir board, so that there must have been considerable loans made by previous Liberal Governments. There can be no argument for the Labor Government not assisting the abattoir, because I understand the Government is using Housing

Trust money for building functions. I thought that the trust was set up to build houses for those who needed them, yet this year \$4,800,000 is provided for the trust to build shops and industrial premises. The abattoir wants only about \$1,000,000, which would assist our export trade and provide a more efficient abattoir with better conditions for those who work there. However, only \$50,000 is provided by the Labor Government.

The Government advanced money to the abattoir in the previous year, but only under pressure. The Government lent money to the board to enable it to make up \$300,000 as a retrospective payment for six months. I cannot understand why Labor members complain about the Commonwealth Government: the abattoir board has to pay \$800,000 to this Government to repay the \$300,000 lent to it, in order to make up this additional charge caused by an increased wage rate. I strongly urge the Government to do something about the abattoir.

We have heard much about the secrecy of this Government. Since I have been a member of Parliament about eight reports have been prepared on the abattoir; two or three have been statutory reports that we see in this House. Ministers have set up independent inquiries, and we had one when we were in Government. The present Minister of Agriculture has asked for a report on the abattoir, but he said that he would receive a verbal report and not a written one from a man who had been appointed. He claimed that the man appointed was a consultant and not an expert, so we will not see any report.

If Government money is being spent on a report about the activities of and improvements needed at the abattoir, this House should see that report and act on it. When in Government we set up a committee to inquire into water rating, because people said they wanted to pay according to the water they used: perhaps they would be shocked if they had to pay for what they used. A senior Queen's Counsel was chairman of this committee, and Parliament should know what was in the report. The only information we have received from the Minister is that a committee is inquiring into the report. Perhaps if we ask again next year the Minister will say that a committee is inquiring into the committee that is inquiring into the report. I do not think that we should have to put up with this sort of thing.

The Housing Trust has done a magnificent job over the years; its interest rates are lower than the interest rates offered by private

enterprise. However, it is only with great difficulty that needy people can get a trust house. I should like to see a greater proportion of Housing Trust funds being used to provide housing for aged people and other in necessitous circumstances. At times people with large families and limited finance have been unable to get Housing Trust houses while childless couples in the middle-income range have been provided with flats. This matter should be investigated.

I was upset when the member for Torrens stole my thunder by dealing with the finances of the Railways Department. The sum of \$7,900,000 will be allocated for rolling stock and other improvements during the coming year. Of course, the State Budget provides for interest and depreciation in connection with the railways.

Mr. Harrison: Be fair! The Railways Department employs men at Islington to manufacture rolling stock.

Mr. McANANEY: The money must be spent in such a way that the main lines become economic propositions, and faster services should be provided so that people will use them. The Liberal Government was facing up to this problem in 1968-70, when some uneconomic lines were closed. Since the Labor Government has been in office the present Minister of Roads and Transport has probably tried to convince the trade unions that some lines should be closed, but I do not know whether he will get his way. Perhaps we should adopt the scheme used in Western Australia; a decentralized industry such as the Strathalbyn flour mill might be placed at a slight disadvantage if the Strathalbyn line were closed, and a small subsidy might then be necessary.

A modern bus service to Victor Harbour should be provided, with student and pensioner concessions similar to those provided on the railways. The Minister should show a bit of energy and do something about it, but he has not done a thing in the last two years. I hope Dr. Scrafton will give him sound advice, but I doubt whether the Minister is wise enough to take it. He should certainly do something about the serious situation in the Railways Department. Suburban railway passenger services run at a loss of \$4,300,000, and the Minister admits that this works out at about 30c for every passenger carried. Surely these lines must be modernized, and made faster and more competitive so that people will use them. I see that provision is made for expenditure on the Christies Beach line. Will this be

another slow puff-puff to Adelaide that no-one will use? This service has to be made competitive so that people will use it.

Mr. Harrison: What about the country rail services? Why won't the farmers use the railways to cart their wheat?

Mr. McANANEY: The honourable member does not realize that wheat can be carried more cheaply by means other than the railways. As a taxpayer, he is paying for this rail service to be provided. For the sake of Socialism, we must try to make this service pay, reducing the loss to the taxpayer.

Members interjecting:

Mr. McANANEY: I plead with the Minister of Roads and Transport to remove this liability from the shoulders of the people of South Australia. If we had to close every Government-owned enterprise that did not pay, we would have to close Parliament, because there would be nothing to do.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Are you complaining about the socialization of the *Troubridge*, too? We will take it away, if you want us to do so.

Mr. McANANEY: The Minister is proving my point. The Government should retain services when there is no adequate alternative. A ferry service was to be provided originally, but the Government would not have a bar of that.

Members interjecting:

Mr. McANANEY: Newspaper reporters are not too popular with me at present, because they have described me as a reactionary. However, I am far more progressive and cosmopolitan than the conservatives on the other side. The Government considers itself to be progressive with regard to social legislation, but when it comes to financial management it is back in the Middle Ages. When we discuss the various items in detail, I will have more to say. I hope that the Government spends its Loan money for the benefit of the people of South Australia, spending it where it will get the best results. When we have a public accounts committee, as is sought by the member for Mallee—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot refer to Orders of the Day.

Mr. McANANEY: The member for Mallee has made three or four valiant attempts to get a public accounts committee.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot refer to Orders of the Day.

Mr. McANANEY: I understand you at last, Sir, and I always obey everything you say. I support the first line.

Mr. HALL (Gouger): I am happy to follow my cosmopolitan comrade in the contemplation of the Loan Estimates, which are indeed aptly titled. When one looks at the shortfall and over-expenditure in some lines of the Estimates, one finds that they are indeed only estimates of expenditure and that the Government, when it introduced last year's Loan Estimates, was very much in doubt regarding the programme in front of it. When one examines the Loan Estimates, one understands that the sum a Government can spend on its capital works programme is not really within its province at all: the Government has very little flexibility in the programme presented to Parliament. When one knows that specific programmes must be supported in perpetuity (and I refer to programmes of education, health and services to the community in all forms of transport, and in other areas) one realizes that the choice of excluding certain programmes and including others does not present itself to a Government. That type of flexibility is not available. This year's projected expenditure has increased greatly because of the generosity of the Commonwealth Government, whose support has increased. It needs to be said again that the present Commonwealth Government is the most generous to the States of any Commonwealth Government since Federation; no-one can argue about or deny that point. The road that this Government must follow financially is one of the easiest that a Government of any calibre or colour has had to follow in many years. Financially, the way is easy for the South Australian Government.

What, then, are we to contemplate when we examine a programme such as this, in which there is so little flexibility regarding the sums that can be allocated to certain areas? What we look at is value for money, and under this facet comes the quality of Government administration: how this money is spent; how much efficiency is demanded of departments by the respective Ministers; and what effect their policy has on the expenditure that we must now approve? Members are reminded, as they contemplate this expenditure, of the statement made about a year ago by the lone Minister on the front bench, when he said that his employees would receive motivation,

by way of an ultimatum, to join a certain union.

All members know that the Government is dedicated to the principle that everything must be done by Government employment and that it will initiate as little contract employment as possible. I have no doubt that the actual work accomplished in this programme will be reduced by a significant percentage because of the Government's attitude to contract work. This in itself is a major factor in relation to what can be presented to the public in a satisfactory service programme. Nevertheless, we on this side of the House cannot expect to change the situation. This Government has been notorious for proceeding on its own ideological way, regardless of the public good. As I have said, these figures imply that the Government has been treated extremely generously by its financial master, the Commonwealth Government. The Government has allocated more of its Loan Fund reserve, which totalled about \$14,000,000 at the beginning of last year, to expenditure from the Loan programme, and it will run the reserve down to \$10,300,000 if the programme proceeds according to the Estimates.

I am reminded of how much we were criticized rather cynically by the Labor Party when we were in office for having \$13,000,000 in reserve. That reserve was held to cover a far greater deficit than this Government has at present. I remember how critically the Opposition approached the issue then and levelled this criticism at the Treasurer of the day. Now the Government has published figures (and they have been available through Government records) showing that it has had more than \$14,000,000 in reserve whereas it criticized us for having \$13,000,000.

These are only passing comments. The Loan programme is set out cleverly by the Treasury officials. It contains references that bring back memories of earlier debates in this House, and one cannot help but smile to see that at last the Government is providing money for the Dartmouth dam. There is no sign of the two dams that the Government promised to obtain for South Australia. The Labor Party sits cynically in office, having turned out a previous Government on a promise that the present Government had no intention of fulfilling. This Government has delayed work for two years, and this has cost the taxpayers of South Australia millions of dollars that could have been spent on other work. It has done all this for political purposes.

This is matched by the Government's attitude to water filtration in South Australia. When we were in office we promised the South Australian community that we would filter and clean the Adelaide water supply, and that proposal was treated with criticism and jeers by members opposite. Within two years those same members have adopted our programme. They did not adopt it with one announcement: there have been at least four announcements by this Government about the filtration of Adelaide's water. I am pleased that the Government likes our policy so much. We put it forward many years ago. The programme that the present Government has adopted is the one we promised in 1970. At least, although it will be late, we know that it is a good programme, because it is ours.

There is too little explanation in the Government's programme about what it is doing regarding expenditure of funds on transport research. An expenditure of \$500,000 is explained in seven lines. Last year \$500,000 was provided and only about \$32,000 was spent. There is no explanation in this document of the shortfall. Why is there this deficiency in the accounts that the Treasurer has placed before the House?

We see the same thing in relation to foreshore protection, where there is a shortfall from \$250,000 to \$104,000. Were not the beaches damaged only last year to such an extent that the full expenditure that this House provided for repair should have been expended? What went wrong? Why did not the Government fulfil its programme of repairing beaches last year? Every winter that this responsibility is not accepted, additional damage is occurring, involving great expense. It is the old story of a stitch in time. The fact that the Government has spent less than half of what it promised to spend last year on repairing foreshore damage is responsible for much of the additional damage that occurred this year. A meagre \$50,000 was provided last year for the Industries Assistance Corporation, but nothing was spent. Is that corporation working, or not? Another \$50,000 is now provided, but will any of it be used? Does this mean that the industrial development programme is stagnating? It looks as though the functions of that corporation have been neglected, and one can only have hopes for the future. What makes me rather cross concerning these Estimates is the brief reference to the important fishing industry, namely:

Department of Fisheries—boats and equipment—\$50,000. The Government proposes to

purchase a patrol vessel so that the department may better carry out its responsibilities of patrolling and developing the State's resources of seafood.

Is this going to be a high-class dinghy? What will it do for an industry worth \$10,000,000 annually? This is an abject denunciation of this most important primary industry, which has received much attention in relation to regulation but which is neglected almost entirely in the Loan Estimates. A discussion with any fisherman in the State will indicate that South Australia is not developing its fisheries as it should be. All around the South Australian coast, outside the 12-mile limit, foreign ships are taking thousands of tons of fish from waters that really should be part of the South Australian fisheries. What does this Government do? It allocates \$50,000 for equipment. How much would a modern research vessel cost?

Mr. Carnie: \$350,000.

Mr. HALL: I think that would be a minimum. The fishing industry is highly regulated and operates basically on an owner-licence system. Compared with international fisheries, ours is rather an in-shore industry, using small boats. Yet, within sight of the shore, there are large international fishing fleets, and we do nothing about this.

Mr. Harrison: They've only bobbed up in the last two years, though, haven't they?

Mr. HALL: Obviously, the honourable member either has not investigated the fishing industry or has deliberately shut his eyes to the truth, because those fishing fleets, which have existed for many years, have been taking large catches to other countries, some of which have exported the fish back to Australia. How can we develop our off-shore fisheries using this sort of approach, involving a licensing system that requires basically a one-boat and one-owner type of operation and no Government research or promotion?

Mr. Keneally: Tell us what you can do.

Mr. HALL: Obviously the honourable member needs advice from someone. There are choices involved but, if the Government is going to prohibit large-scale enterprise from going into fishing and developing new fisheries and new areas, it has an obligation itself to do that development. It can happen only in two ways or in a combination of the two: either private industry will receive a licensing right from the Government to explore these areas and have the right to reap some financial reward from that exploration, or the Government itself will have to carry out the explora-

tion and make available the result to those who get licences. This is where Government policy fails in a major degree in the fishing industry.

I have received approaches from people with considerable sums of money who have said they are prevented by State Government policy from exploring significant areas of unused and untapped resources off the West Coast of South Australia. At this stage I do not carry any special brief for anyone, in an unscientific fashion, to exploit our fishing industry, but we cannot protect inside fisheries and at the same time prevent the exploitation of offshore industry. The Government will have to make up its mind to go for a deliberate exploratory effort. It will have to make up its mind, first of all, whether it wants to explore and develop resources outside the present usage. If it decides to do that, then it will have to do one of two things: to give an incentive to those who have resources and finance to put in the effort, or the Government itself will have to make the effort. With the meagre sum of \$50,000 provided here, there is obviously no intention of supporting one of South Australia's major industries, and no desire to develop any of the new fishing areas which obviously must be explored. I express my disappointment at this neglect on the part of the Government at a time when development in secondary industry in South Australia is obviously lagging behind the percentage rise it has enjoyed in previous years, at a time when other primary industries are suffering some sort of decline, and at a time when the opportunity is there and the Government is not using it. Certainly, in the primary field I find this the gravest deficiency in the Loan Estimates we have before us.

I shall devote some time to a number of other items when the lines are being debated, but I shall leave the Estimates at this stage, knowing that the efficiency of Government, which is so important in obtaining a maximum result from these Estimates, is something we must probe during the long weeks of this Parliamentary session. Answers from Ministers at this time will not reveal whether or not we will receive the value we should, but I assure the lone Minister sitting on the front bench that all of us are aware of his ideological block that prevents the efficient promotion of the State's resources.

Mr. EVANS (Fisher): I rise to support the second reading and to make comments on some aspects of the Loan funds allocated to my area and the effects of that allocation.

The Government is to spend considerable sums on parks and reserves, and at the moment some concern is felt in my area regarding a property known as Craighburn. Some people believe that the Government should acquire all or part of this area as a reserve, but not enough money is allocated in the Loan Estimates to cover the purchase of a quarter of this property. I estimate the 2,000 acres to be worth about \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000, and people who make this demand know that the council cannot buy the property. If it is to be made a national park or reserve, it will have to be a Government responsibility. Also, the Government has decided in the last 12 months not to buy 120 acres adjoining the eastern boundary of the Belair National Park.

Mr. Payne: Tell us about Everard Park.

Mr. EVANS: We are all concerned that we should provide and maintain enough open spaces for the use of the community today and in the future, but every day that we do not take action about property such as that on the eastern boundary of the National Park and it is not made available to the public, it becomes more expensive for future purchase. We also take the risk that the property may be subdivided, and then it will be lost to the people of South Australia. However, we budget \$300,000 of public money on an eating house at Windy Point. It could be argued that this is situated on the hills face zone and placing a restaurant on that zone could not be justified because of the approach we take about other sections of the zone concerning housing development and the type of house a person may build.

It has been said that people eating at this restaurant will be able to view the city: if they can do that, the people on the plains can see the building. I think it will take away some of the aesthetic value of the Hills area. If we place a screen of trees around it so that it cannot be seen from the city, there would be no benefit in building it at Windy Point. There may be some need for a small kiosk supplying the travelling public with ice cream, cool drinks, and cigarettes. If the Government accepts that there should be a restaurant at Windy Point which would be a tourist attraction, public money should not be spent on such a project. It should allow private enterprise to establish the restaurant and thereby save money that could be used for other essential purposes. If private enterprise is not willing to invest the money because the restaurant would not be a viable proposition, why should the Government take on another liability, which

would have to be accepted by the people of this State?

The Minister of Works smiles, but the Minister knows as well as I know that people living within four miles of that area have effluent pools up to 6in. deep in front of their houses: children coming home from school play in them, as do pre-school children, so that there is a health hazard and a risk of gastro-enteritis in the community at all times. This happens not only in one area of my district but also in other parts of the developing metropolitan area. A similar problem exists in parts of the Mawson District and the Tea Tree Gully District. People at Belair, Eden Hills, Glenalta, Monalta, Hawthorndene, Coromandel Valley and parts of Happy Valley in my district have not only unhealthy pools in some streets but also green slime running down gutters of other streets. I do not see how we can support spending Government money on building an eating house at Windy Point when people are living under such conditions. I realize that the sum involved is not great when compared with the total amount of Loan funds but I do not believe the House should approve this unjustified expenditure.

I accept that Ayers House is in an ideal position for use as the headquarters of the National Trust. Money should be spent to develop the building for that purpose, but it is a different story when we consider the proposal to build two restaurants into that complex. This proposal is being made at a time when hotel proprietors and restaurant owners are saying that we are already over-capitalized in this field and that they do not have the clientele to make their establishments paying propositions. It may be typical of a Socialist Government that it tries to compete with private enterprise, even though it knows it will make a loss. The Minister of Works would be ashamed to walk down the streets in my district that are running with effluent. When such a situation exists, how can he justify this expenditure on an eating house? And that is all that it is—an eating house. People travel to Windy Point by motor car or bus and, when they reach there, they are still within 15 minutes travelling time of eating houses, hotels and shops.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Does the member for Mitcham agree with you?

Mr. EVANS: I suppose that in the past the member for Mitcham has advocated that a kiosk should be built at Windy Point. However, I am not saying that a kiosk should not be built: what I am saying is that, if a kiosk is to

be built, the private sector should carry out the project. I hope the member for Mitcham will not support the spending of the people's money on such a project as proposed by the Government.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: You are not sure what attitude the honourable member will take?

Mr. EVANS. No.

Mr. Mathwin: It will be interesting to see who the manager is.

Mr. EVANS: In his second reading explanation the Treasurer said:

An appropriation of \$800,000 is required for work on the provision of roads, stormwater drainage, water supply and sewerage facilities in that portion of the old Islington sewage farm area which is being developed for industrial use.

The sum of \$800,000 is to be spent in connection with industry that does not exist at present, and there is no proof that such expenditure will be required within the next 12 months. This kind of provision is being made at a time when children's lives are being jeopardized by sewage effluent in the streets. By spending this \$800,000 we will supply sewerage facilities for an industry that is not there yet. I do not think we can justify such expenditure. As I have said in the past, I believe the old Islington sewage farm was the ideal place for a national park, as the Government owned the 1,200 acre site, and it was on the right side of the city to encourage people living in that area to travel to it rather than to go to national parks on the other side of Adelaide. By providing that national park, we would have regenerated native plant life, and it would have been an asset to the community for all time. There are plenty of other areas near the Islington site where an industry could have been developed. There was no need for the Hall Government of 1968-70, of which I was a member, to start this project, and there is no need for the Government to continue to develop it for industrial purposes.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Do your colleagues agree with you?

Mr. EVANS: This is my own opinion, which I have given before and which I will continue to give. I know that 300 acres has been made available for recreation purposes, but that is chicken feed when we consider how many people live on the northern side of the metropolitan area. This was one area that could have been developed as a national park. Now we have only the Hills area as the main playground for people living on the plain. Most

of the Hills area of 600 square miles comes within the water catchment area.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Have you looked at our open-space programme at all?

Mr. EVANS: The Minister is responsible for the open-space areas, and I have looked at them. Many people are concerned that the Hills recreation areas, such as Belair National Park, are already overtaxed, being unable to accommodate the people who wish to make use of them. I know that the Government will not allow a charge to be made to enter national parks. I believe that the Government should change that line of thinking and, if it does not, another Government will implement such a charge. I can see no justification for providing these areas free of charge to people who wish to use them.

I would not charge pedestrians. In other words, if people arrived by bus or train at the Belair National Park or other national parks I would not charge them. However, I would charge people who used their motor cars to enjoy these areas 50c a car. There is every justification for this. South Australia is one of the few States (perhaps it is the only State) that does not make a charge. Such a charge would be a just one. We intend to spend \$800,000 on developing an area for an industry where there is no demand for it as yet. Yet in my district (without referring to the districts of other members) the schools are already overcrowded. Recently the Minister of Education received a deputation from Coromandel Valley. These people were told that the Government and the Minister realized that the school was overcrowded; the Minister said that other schools were even more overcrowded. Yet these people were told that their school could not be completed for several years. At the same time, the Aldgate and Bridgewater Primary Schools are to be closed and replaced by one. It will be nine-tenths of a mile from each post office, or exactly halfway between the two towns. Members should examine the Bridgewater school and see whether they think \$800,000 should be spent on the old sewage farm in preference to that school. They could also go to the Coromandel school or to a school in another honourable member's district, and examine the position there. We must get our priorities right. What is the good of providing eating places for tourists from other States or countries?

Mr. Wright: Do you think it might induce them to come here?

Mr. EVANS: If I had to say whether an eating house at Windy Point would be likely

to influence a tourist from, say, Italy or America to come here, my answer would be "No". If a man living in Perth, Melbourne or Sydney was told that there was a restaurant at Windy Point, he would merely say, "That sounds like a boisterous sort of place, and I think I will keep away from it." Windy Point would mean nothing to him. Perhaps if he was passing through Adelaide and was asked by a friend to go there he would agree to do so, but he would be just as happy to go to a coffee shop at Glenelg.

Mr. Wright: That's why hundreds of thousands of people go there every year.

Mr. EVANS: The honourable member has made the point: people go to Windy Point (when there is no eating house there) to have a look at the city, and they will continue to do so in the future. The Minister of Works knows that I was concerned about the plight of a man in the Hills catchment area, and that I have referred to his case in this Chamber. In his second reading explanation, when referring to the acquisition of land, the Treasurer said:

The sum of \$254,000 is provided for the purchase of land in catchment areas at Chain of Ponds, Hope Valley, and Mount Bold, in order to protect metropolitan water supplies from possible pollution.

Nothing was said about the proposed Clarendon dam. I do not know whether the Government intends to continue acquiring land, or whether owners of the land are willing to sell it. No money has been allocated for this purpose, yet a man is being deprived of the opportunity of making a living as a result of the Government's action. We say the Minister does not have the discretionary power to acquire his property: it is inside the catchment area but is outside the buffer zone. I hope later to move a motion to ascertain whether Parliament believes a Minister should have a discretion in this area and, indeed, in other areas, over a wide field of Government action, in which he can interfere with the rights of individuals and the value of their properties. I know of one property owner within the Clarendon reservoir area who has 200 acres that he is willing to make available to the Government. On behalf of my constituents, I wish to know whether the Minister is now preparing to acquire land in this area. It appears from the explanation that this has not been considered.

I have been interested in the Housing Trust since before I entered politics. Over the years it has carried out its activities in a responsible way, but I consider that government direction

by both Liberal Governments and Labor Governments has not been firm enough in relation to the policy that the trust adopts on low-rental and low-cost housing. The Commonwealth Government has accepted its responsibility by making more money available to all States, particularly South Australia. People have been given the opportunity to rent good houses at extremely low rentals over the years and we have never concerned ourselves about how affluent these people have become. We just leave them in those houses. At present some people renting Housing Trust houses at extremely low rentals are earning well above the average income.

I know that honourable members will say that I have made this point in the House previously, but it seems that the only way to get action by government is to repeat the argument. Young people in poor straits require a house to rent but after 20 years their income may be above the average and they still have a low-rental house. It would amaze honourable members and the public to know the low rentals that some people are paying. Some of these people support my own political Party, but that does not justify me, my colleagues, or Australian Labor Party members in saying that the practice should continue. The low-rental houses should be available for the poor and needy and for deserted wives and divorcees. I know that problems are involved and that a scheme would not work perfectly, but anyone here who says that we should allow people who are earning more than \$8,000 a year to rent a house for \$12 a week or less has not considered the situation seriously, and I put the Deputy Premier in that category.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: I considered it before I came here and advocated the same thing. It will not work in my district, where we want technical people. They will not buy a house: they must have a rental house.

Mr. EVANS: The Minister is speaking of an industrial town away from the city.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: That's right, and we can't have different laws for different parts of the State.

Mr. EVANS: That industrial town is trying to encourage technical people for long-term or short-term periods. By encouraging low-rental housing, we can encourage people to stay, but that situation is entirely different from the situation of people living permanently in low-rental houses, with three bedrooms, in the metropolitan area when their families have left home. Other people with five or six

children cannot obtain a house and they are living in hovels.

Mr. Langley: What did your Government do in 25 years?

Mr. EVANS: I have not condoned what my Government or previous Governments did before I became a member of Parliament. The member for Unley was a member when I first came here, and he knows that I have spoken out against the practice at every opportunity.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: If you go to the Housing Trust and try to work it out, you will find it will not work.

Mr. EVANS: If that is so, there is something wrong with the department and the Minister. I believe it will work. I believe that we apply means tests in respect of people in other areas before we give them aid, for example, in respect of dental services and, in the case of the Commonwealth Government, in respect of pensions. We apply means tests in respect of private schools, too, so for the Minister to say that it will not work is not true. Although I will raise other points when we reach the individual lines, I stress one point, while the Minister of Works is here: perhaps the three most important community matters to be considered are, first, health; secondly, education; and, thirdly, amenities that will, in fact, ensure good health.

In relation to the third point, I am thinking of water and sewerage facilities, and I know that the members for Mawson and Tea Tree Gully will support me in this respect. In the subdivisions created today all the water and sewerage facilities are provided by the subdivider and paid for by the person who buys a block of land in the subdivision, so the problem that has arisen in the past will not occur in the future. All we must do now is make up the leeway in respect of those subdivisions especially where sewerage facilities do not exist, and where we have the problem of stagnant effluent and green slime running down gutters where children play and people often walk.

I am asking that we give this project a higher priority than it has received in the past. If any member has not seen an example of the sort of thing to which I am referring, I invite him to walk in areas of Blackwood on a summer evening when it is virtually necessary to wear a gas mask. I support the first line.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): In supporting the second reading, I consider one thing abundantly obvious from the Loan Estimates is the outstanding gener-

osity of the Commonwealth Government in respect of South Australia. It is the constant endeavour of the Treasurer and other Labor Party spokesmen to denigrate the Commonwealth Government on every possible occasion, and we have seen instances of this in the last day or two. The Treasurer and the Minister of Education (the economist on the front bench) are often talking about restructuring the tax system of Australia, but they know that, if the major taxation powers were returned to the States, South Australia would be infinitely worse off. In fact, under the present system whereby the Commonwealth Government has the duty of raising the bulk of taxation in this country, South Australia and the other smaller States receive more per capita than they would otherwise receive. Therefore, the present taxation system works to the benefit of the smaller States, including South Australia, and the States have indeed been treated generously.

This is borne out in the Treasurer's statement where we have a fairly concise account of the present financial position of this State. Due acknowledgement is given to the fact that there were outstanding deficits in the revenue accounts of \$5,624,000, these deficits having accumulated, by the way, during the life of the Labor Administration in this State. We had some carryover from the previous Labor Administration, and that has been increased during its present tenure of office. However, it is acknowledged that the Commonwealth has recommended a supplementary grant of \$7,500,000, which not only wipes out the accumulated deficit but indeed gives, according to this document, a "small surplus" of \$2,000,000 to help the Government with its current financial problems.

It is readily apparent that there is a tremendous upsurge in Government spending under the present Government, by far the largest measure of this increase being by way of Commonwealth Government grants returned to this State. It seems almost incredible that this rate of expansion in Governmental expenditure could be sustained; I do not believe that an increase of 10 per cent year in and year out could in fact be sustained. Government spokesmen from South Australia and also financial spokesmen for the Labor Party in the Commonwealth sphere are constantly urging the Government to reduce taxation in order to increase expenditure in the private sector, but it is a fairly simple economic fact that one cannot increase

expenditure simultaneously in both the Governmental and private sectors without a substantial increase in productivity. If this increased expenditure is to mean anything, and if we are to keep the balance between Government and private spending, this can be sustained only in terms of increased productivity.

Members on this side have a proper appreciation of the importance of those who have something to grow, something to make, or something to sell, because fundamentally the wealth of this nation is entirely dependent upon those engaged in these activities and those who support them through their employment. However, to get down to the grass roots of any economic situation such as exists in this country, it is what we grow, what we produce, and what we sell that contributes to our wealth. We have heard in this House a great deal about the economic cake and about various sections of the community getting a fair slice of it. However, we must ensure that we are baking the cake, and not destroying the means of production with so many demands being continually put upon those who are producing something by the increased costs which have to be taken into account, while at the same time maintaining production profitably, and a place on the world markets.

The first few pages of the Treasurer's explanation deal with the allocations from the Commonwealth Government to the State Government for the past year and for the coming year. It is apparent that the Commonwealth has been generous indeed to South Australia, and it is a pity that the Treasurer paid scant attention to this at the meeting—of course, for political purposes. If the tragedy of a Commonwealth Labor Government were ever to befall this country it would be interesting indeed to hear what sort of statements would emanate from the Treasurer in that situation. I do not think the public is quite as gullible as many Government members think.

The Loan Estimates state that the increase of 10 per cent is the most liberal increase supported by the Commonwealth for many years. However, I have not heard the Treasurer make that statement publicly. In Sydney recently I heard Sir Robert Askin pay due regard to the Prime Minister, saying that he was indeed the Prime Minister, in Sir Robert's experience, who showed the greatest grasp of the needs of the States and a ready willingness to do all he could to assist with their deficits. We do not hear such statements from our Treasurer, for obvious reasons.

Mr. Venning: It wouldn't hurt them to be honest, though.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: It would not hurt them to be honest, but we do not come to expect too much in this regard from members of the Government in this State. The various items covered in the Loan Estimates deserve some brief comment. There is reference to railway expenditure. We have attracted to South Australia a man of considerable competence in Dr. Scrafton. He has impressed those who have had contact with him by his practical approach to the transport problems in this State. An amount of \$1,970,000 is provided for new freight vehicles, \$676,000 for improvements to existing freight vehicles, \$700,000 for new passenger vehicles, and \$74,000 to complete payments on six diesel-electric locomotives. One major problem is the increasing deficit of the Railways Department, but this is not dealt with in the Loan Estimates. However, in the long term, public transport must exercise the minds of those responsible for the efficient management and operation of the South Australian Railways. It seems to many that the answer to the problem will be to electrify the railway system throughout the metropolitan area.

Experience from overseas countries seems to indicate that in the long term (although the initial cost may be heavy) this will provide a fast, safe type of transport that the public will require. While we know that money is being paid for the outstanding balance on six diesel-electric locomotives in addition to other expenses, what should be exercising the minds of members of the Government (and no doubt it will exercise the mind of Dr. Scrafton in future) will be a long-term transport railway system in metropolitan Adelaide. Another comment of some interest was that work was to continue on the navigation channel between the Inner and Outer Harbours at Port Adelaide. Honourable members showed considerable interest when travelling in the *Troubridge* along the channels, and when they toured the reclamation projects in the Port Adelaide area.

The planning of these projects started well before the life of the present Government, and they will provide many improvements in this area. Many people would be surprised at what has been done if they toured this part of Port Adelaide, especially in regard to the reclamation that is being done in that area. It seemed to me that the Outer Harbour terminal had not progressed much in the six or eight months since we had visited the area

previously as a Parliamentary party, and I hope that this structure will not become a white elephant in future. Many oversea liners bypass Adelaide now, and we hope that the expenditure on this rather lavish terminal will not be a case of pouring public money down the drain. It will be a massive structure, and its completion will be awaited with interest. It may be possible to attract more shipping to Outer Harbour as the result of increased facilities, and that will help this State. The sum of \$2,300,000 is provided for work on Stage I of the new Modbury Hospital, although expenditure on the scheme to the end of June, 1972, was about \$10,000,000.

This is the free hospital that the Government intended to build before the member for Tea Tree Gully won the seat of Barossa (as it was then), and I believe that this is one of the electoral promises that led to the Labor Party capturing that seat. However, \$10,000,000 has been spent, although no patient has yet been admitted to the hospital. It is pleasing to note that the project is programmed for completion this financial year, and it will be an added pleasure to the member for Tea Tree Gully to know that the hospital will be completed at about the time she is due to receive her Parliamentary pension. I hope that the hospital will soon be used, particularly after the enormous expenditure that has been made on this project.

When one looks at the sum to be spent on school buildings one realizes the extent of the Commonwealth Government's involvement in education in this State, and due acknowledgement of that is given in the Treasurer's second reading explanation. The Minister of Education has often said that education is the responsibility of the States. In other words, he wants to retain the role of decision-making while putting pressure on the Commonwealth Government for that Government to make massive sums available. Last year \$2,216,000 was spent on prefabricated classrooms and transportable units, while this year \$1,930,000 is to be spent for that purpose. During the period of office of the Liberal Government there was a great outcry that prefabricated classrooms were unsatisfactory, but it is apparent that temporary buildings are needed occasionally—for example, after a fire has gutted some classrooms. Nevertheless, in view of the Minister's statements that this type of accommodation is unsatisfactory, it is strange that large sums are being provided for this purpose. The Commonwealth Government has made available \$1,830,000 for general school build-

ings and \$4,000,000 for specific projects. Further, about \$500,000 is allocated for the provision of school buses. Because the Government is closing small country schools, it is necessary to transport children to larger centres. The concept of school buses being sound, the provision of about \$500,000 is well warranted.

The sum of \$29,500,000 is to be advanced for housing. It is my Party's policy that people should be encouraged to own their own homes; a system where people can take a pride in their own property is superior to multi-storey buildings and flats. Over the years the Housing Trust has done an excellent job in providing houses at low rentals for young people. However, the increases in rates and taxes are making it difficult for young people to keep up a home and to save money for a deposit on a house. I believe all couples benefit from owning their own house at the start of their married life if it is possible.

The position in South Australia is apparently not nearly as bad as that in Sydney. From inquiries I have made, I believe that the cost of housing in the Sydney metropolis is nearly twice as great as the cost here. For many years in South Australia the policy of the Playford Governments was to keep the cost of housing as low as possible to accommodate people who wished to own their own houses. Members of this Party who have come into Parliament since that time firmly adhere to that policy. People who can be accommodated in this way then have the right environment for raising a family. If we can provide this type of accommodation for people we will tend to eliminate some of the social problems that come when multi-storey accommodation of the type the Treasurer advocated at one stage is used. That is not the type of accommodation that is suitable for young people with young families.

I am pleased to see this money advanced for housing. The Housing Trust does a good job. There is a constant demand for housing in country towns. Numerous requests have been made to me by people in my district for low-rental housing, usually for pensioners or others who seek to live by themselves and who find it difficult to get adequate housing. I commend the work of the trust in these areas. I hope it can provide more houses in country towns, such as at Lobethal, and in the Barossa Valley and at other places where the Housing Trust undertakes limited housing programmes.

I find the loan to the Electricity Trust interesting. One can readily see that the trust

is fairly well self-supporting. Of the trust's total programme of \$29,650,000 only \$3,000,000 is to come from Governmental sources in the form of this loan. It was with much alarm that Opposition members heard of the charge the Government had placed on the Electricity Trust simply because it was an efficient organization which had been able to keep electricity tariffs at the same level for a record time. The Government has now siphoned off some of this money, making electricity dearer for consumers. The trust, which has been a highly successful operation, is a monument to the foresight of former Liberal and Country League Governments in this State. It is pleasing to see it is almost self-sufficient. It appears to me that the areas in which the Government becomes heavily involved seem to become less profitable and efficient in some respects.

The provision of \$500,000 for transport research arouses some interest. We remember that last year the Government put aside \$500,000 for transport research. Even under close questioning, it was difficult to glean from the Minister of Roads and Transport any clue as to what this money was for. It was my view then (and is still my view) that the Minister did not know what the money was for. Under close questioning, he suggested that it was for research into a linear motor, but he could not go into detail. It appears that the linear motor has fallen through, because the Government has spent only \$33,000 on transport research. It seems a highly questionable procedure to spend Loan money in this way. One would have thought that Loan moneys would be used to produce more tangible assets for the people of this State. However, the explanation of how this \$500,000 is to be spent appears to be fairly nebulous, referring as it does to operational studies into methods of improving existing services, a review of the transport implication of a number of current projects, investigations into possible new policy initiatives in the field of public transport, and so on.

Mr. Gunn: Shades of Breuning!

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I agree with the honourable member. These are nice, high sounding phrases which roll off the tongue but which to the layman and honourable members on this side of the House mean very little. We will be watching with much interest to see how the \$500,000 of Loan money, on which we must pay interest, will be spent on transport research. We see once more the Government's involvement in expenditure on

advanced education buildings. As a member of the Council of the University of Adelaide, I am aware of the sums of public money that have been spent on this and other tertiary institutions. I see that \$7,500,000 is to be spent in this area. I stress that due recognition should be given to the Commonwealth Government for its outstanding generosity to the States, as acknowledged in the Treasurer's second reading explanation. We have heard *ad nauseam* the Government denigrating and attacking the Commonwealth Government. These statements seem to have a happy knack of finding their way into the press, until the public is sick of reading them. Now, the Government must put up with Opposition members pointing out the facts—that the Commonwealth Government has done this State proud in the assistance it has given us. I only hope that the Treasurer will have the good grace to acknowledge this.

Mr. VENNING (Rocky River): I support the second reading. This morning, on a radio news programme, the Treasurer announced that South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited is to build a 2,250,000-bushel storage at Port Lincoln.

Mr. Ferguson: Built by the producers' own finance.

Mr. VENNING: That is so. I was concerned to see in the second reading explanation that the Government is willing to spend only \$1,500,000 on harbour facilities at Port Lincoln.

Mr. Gunn: Deplorable!

Mr. VENNING: Yes, especially when this State is losing much shipping of wheat because of the lack of a major terminal in this State. The Treasurer said he was happy to announce that the construction of the new storage at Port Lincoln would result in work for 100 men.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Anyone would think it was his doing.

Mr. VENNING: Yes. Although the Government is going to spend \$1,500,000 on the terminal this financial year, the bulk handling company is going to spend almost \$1,000,000 more than this amount of the farmers' money in developing the Port Lincoln terminal. I am concerned that the Government cannot make more finance available to push this project along. Already, in the early stages, the project has been retarded 12 months. One wonders how much further it will drop back before it is completed. Originally, the project was expected to be completed in the 1973-74 financial year; now, it is not expected to be completed until the 1974-75 financial year. As I said during

the Address in Reply debate, I went to see what was happening there. Although 100 men will be employed by the co-operative, I was surprised that few men were employed on the harbour project. I am also surprised that the Government has not mentioned making money available for Port Pirie. I know that some money has been put aside for investigation and test drilling of the present channel, but there is no mention of the Government's intending to spend a large amount this year to develop Port Pirie. Evidently, the Government does not give the priority to developing harbour facilities of the State that one would hope it would get.

Earlier this evening the member for Heysen spoke of the export abattoirs and said that recently, with some colleagues, he visited the works. He found considerable improvement since his previous visit about seven years ago. However, I consider that there is still a problem at the abattoir. We know that the board faces much unexpected expense. The retrospective wage payment of \$300,000 has been mentioned, and over a period the cost to the board will be about \$800,000. This Government has made available about \$200,000 to build the additional meat halls, but about \$600,000 or \$700,000 is required to bring the abattoir up to the standard necessary to meet the increased production of beef throughout the State.

I see many problems ahead for the board. Costs will have to be increased regularly to the extent that the costs charged by the board will be amongst the highest in the Commonwealth. The member for Alexandra and other honourable members have given figures of the abattoir charges. It concerns not only me, as member for a rural district, but also the producers that these abattoirs facilities should have such a high cost. I am sorry that the Government has not seen the need to make available sufficient money to bring the abattoir up to standard as quickly as possible to meet the urgent requirements of the State.

The Gladstone High School and other high schools in South Australia are benefiting from the Commonwealth Government's generosity and, as my colleagues on this side have said, they are benefiting from what that Government has done to assist the State in its many projects. One sees the benefit siphoning through to schools in the rural areas as well as in other parts of the States. It is pleasing that about \$670,000 will be spent on the Gladstone High School. This project has been proceeding for a long time and I am pleased that, if every-

thing goes according to plan, the school will be completed by the commencement of the 1973 school year.

I am vitally concerned about the provision of funds in connection with hospitals in my district, and reference is made in the Loan Estimates to the Laura Hospital extensions, to a \$50,000 allocation in respect of the Clare Hospital, to \$40,000 in respect of the Crystal Brook Hospital and to an unspecified sum in respect of the Port Broughton Hospital. I know that the people of Port Broughton will be pleased to note this provision, for they have battled for many years to upgrade the existing hospital, which is really an old home that was converted for the purpose. Anyone who realizes the significance of the development of this northern seaside resort realizes how important it is that these facilities should be upgraded. Port Broughton will become the Victor Harbour of the north.

Mr. Langley: That's a beauty.

Mr. VENNING: It is correct. If the member for Unley took the trouble to go to Port Broughton—

Mr. Langley: I've been there many times.

Mr. VENNING: —he would be amazed at the development that has taken place there. I consider it to be the deep sea port in my district, and I always have pleasure visiting it, for I have some pretty good constituents there. I am disappointed at the sum provided under "Country Waterworks" in respect of the supply of water from Barunga and Wokurna to Port Broughton, a project that has been delayed. Although planning has been undertaken (pipes are stacked throughout the area), I consider that considerably more money could have been provided for this project in order to meet the increased demand for water in the area.

Hardly a programme has been formulated for the building of houses in my district this year. In 1971-72, 17 houses were completed in my district, four houses were under construction, and four houses were commenced. Although this is an important developing area, I believe that it has been sadly neglected this financial year, and I am concerned that more money has not been provided in this respect. I am concerned at the way in which the Treasurer and other members of the Government denigrate the Commonwealth Government, for they are most unfair. I believe in giving credit where credit is due, and I think this Government must admit that it has received more money from the Commonwealth Government

than any other Government in this State has ever received. It is for this reason that the additional money is finding its way to the various provisions of expenditure in this State. It is through the Commonwealth Government that the State Government is able to do what is proposed in the Loan Estimates.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

First schedule.

State Bank, \$2,900,000—passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.5 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 9, at 2 p.m.