

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, August 24, 1972

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

- Constitution Act Amendment (Oath),
- Supply (No. 2),
- Textile Products Description Act Amendment.

QUESTIONS

PETROL SHORTAGE

Dr. EASTICK: In the temporary absence of the Premier, I ask the Deputy Premier whether he will ask the Premier to urge for, and if necessary give Government assistance to, the retention of the Oil Industry Industrial Committee after its role during the present petrol shortage has been completed and fuel supplies are back to normal. All members are aware that the petrol shortage in South Australia is still serious, notwithstanding that a tanker is today discharging 1,400,000gall. of refined fuel at Birkenhead. During the emergency that arose in relation to this matter, this committee, under its Chairman (Mr. R. L. Dahlenburg), has played a valuable role in liaising between the Government and petrol retailers in respect of making supplies available to the public. As a result of the committee's guidance and recommendations, all members of the public are now able to obtain some supplies, even though they may not necessarily obtain as much as they wish. It has been said that the seriousness of South Australia's situation would not have been so extreme if we had had adequate reserves at the start of the crisis. It would seem to be a worthwhile idea to set up a reserve stock of, say, 5,000,000gall. (this is an arbitrary figure at present), or whatever the industry might consider to be a reasonable supply, and to retain a group such as the Oil Industry Industrial Committee, so that the future situation would be more assured than it was at the commencement of the crisis in which we are still involved. For the reasons I have given, I ask the Deputy Premier to ask the Premier to endeavour to keep this committee in operation after the oil shortage is over, and if necessary to give it some authority to act as a watchdog on behalf of the Government and the community.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Although I will ask the Premier to consider this matter, I point out that the Government does not expect that a situation will recur that will lead to a crisis in the oil industry such as that which recently occurred.

Dr. Eastick: It is important that we are prepared.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes, but I do not wish to give the people of this State the impression that the Government believes that that sort of thing is likely to occur again. As I understand the present position, the causes of the industrial dispute have generally been rectified, and on that basis it would not seem necessary to continue the operations of this committee. However, it is possible that there could be some merit in the Leader's suggestions. The Leader will be aware (as will every other member) that the powers that the Government obtained in the Act passed recently will not apply after August 31. I believe that the Government's action (with the support of the Opposition) did much to hold the situation as well as we were able to hold it. I will ask the Premier to examine the points raised by the Leader and, no doubt, after he has considered them he will tell the Leader what is the outcome of his deliberations.

PROSECUTION

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Attorney-General consider whether the discretion allowed a magistrate under the provisions of the Justices Act has been exceeded, or the procedure whereby the police followed the directions of a magistrate was inapplicable or not relevant, in the case that I will now outline? Some time ago the son of one of my constituents jumped ship in Sydney and returned to South Australia. He was a British merchant seaman, but he had previously lived in South Australia with his parents for five years and was still under the age of 21 years. He came to see me, because he realized that he had put himself in trouble and could be proceeded against under the provisions of the Immigration Act and the Navigation Act. Because of the intervention of my Commonwealth colleague (Dr. Gun) with the Minister, we were able to assure this man that he would not be deported from this country, but he had to report to the office of the Immigration Department in South Australia each week, and this he did. However, it was possible that proceedings could be taken under the Navigation Act. Recently, I arrived home late one night to receive a message from the father that the son had

been hauled off in a paddy waggon late that evening and had spent the night in gaol. The case came on the next morning, and I understand he was fined \$72 for desertion, the maximum penalty for this offence being \$80. The point I urge on the Attorney is that this man was not a fugitive from the law; he was living with his parents and reporting to the State immigration authorities weekly. Moreover, he was charged under a section of an Act that prescribes a maximum penalty of \$80, yet in addition to the fine of \$72 his penalty included a night in gaol, plus the embarrassment of having been apprehended and taken away in the way he was taken away. I took up the matter further with the Commonwealth authorities, and I received the following letter from the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping and Transport (Mr. Nixon):

The actual prosecution and procedures for bringing offenders before the courts are, however, as with a great many other offences, left to the judicial procedures of the various States. Because of my concern at the way in which this matter was handled, both by the court and by the police, I bring it to the notice of the Attorney-General.

The Hon. L. J. KING: As I understand the facts that the honourable member has given in explaining his question, I do not really think what he has said concerns the courts. I understand that the only part the State courts played in the matter was in dealing with the defendant when he was produced in court on the day after his arrest, and imposing a penalty on him. As I understand it, the honourable member does not call that into question. However, what I think the honourable member's question raises is the wisdom or otherwise of the police decision to proceed by arrest rather than by summons. This is a decision that the police have to make in each individual case.

Some fairly general policies are pursued, since proceedings for certain types of offence are invariably taken by arrest and others by summons. However, naturally there is a considerable grey area in which individual decisions have to be made. In view of the facts put by the honourable member, I will take up the matter with the Chief Secretary and obtain a reply about the reasons that motivated the police to proceed in this case by arrest rather than by summons.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Minister of Education say whether he is satisfied with the

education being offered to Aboriginal children in this State and, if he is not satisfied, will he say what changes are immediately proposed? No doubt the Minister has seen the report on page 3 of this morning's *Advertiser* of an address by the Deputy Director-General of Education (Mr. Dodd), who is reported as saying that for many Aboriginal children education was futile, meaningless and completely lacking in incentive. From my own experience in this field, I acknowledge the extreme difficulty in shaping a curriculum that does have meaning for Aboriginal children. When I was Minister of Aboriginal Affairs something was done, particularly at places such as Amata, to shape or orient that curriculum in part at least towards the culture of the Aborigines in that part of the State. I can see that many of the textbooks that are appropriately used by children of European or Caucasian origin are quite inappropriate for Aboriginal children, either because of the race or because of the location they depict. For example, textbooks that have pictures of the sea and stories woven around it mean nothing to children who have never seen the sea. The remarks of the Deputy Director-General are fairly strong. I had hoped that, in the last three or four years, anyway, more would have been done than has apparently been done in this field.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the honourable member will appreciate that no matter what kind of programme is mounted in this area difficulties will still be experienced, simply because no-one that I know of has a complete answer to the question of what is an appropriate education for Aborigines in, for example, the situations at Indulkana, Point Pearce or Point McLeay, or in all the varieties of situation that can be experienced. I think it is important that there be public recognition of this so that we can get much more work done to determine what is the appropriate solution. In all the building programmes of the Education Department we have given absolute top priority to the construction of pre-schools in various locations and to the design of these pre-schools so that we could obtain family involvement in them.

A seminar was arranged some months ago at Port Augusta, and this involved bringing Aboriginal leaders from various points to the meeting where the whole design of the proposed pre-schools was discussed with them. An attempt was made to get community involvement in the planning of the projects that we had in mind. These pre-schools have

now been designed and I shall be pleased to give copies of that design to the honourable member, because I know of his interest in this matter. The projects will be proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

There has been a considerable expansion of our effort in the whole area of Aboriginal education. However, in reply to the honourable member's question whether I am satisfied, the reply is an emphatic "No". I cannot foresee the day when anyone is likely to be satisfied, because we need desperately to establish some effective post-secondary education for Aborigines and we hope that the Commonwealth Government will support a proposal for the establishment of a course of post-secondary education attached to Western Teachers College which, hopefully, may lead to several Aborigines taking on teacher training, although initially we do not have that purpose in mind. There are many areas in which activity is necessary and in which movement is taking place. If the honourable member is interested, I shall be pleased to get a detailed report on that matter for him.

WHYALLA DISPUTE

Mr. BROWN: Will the Minister of Labour and Industry obtain a report about the alleged unsafe practices adopted by the Whyalla Shipbuilding and Engineering Company in the holds of the *Clutha Capricorn* during night shift operations, which have apparently led to the most recent major industrial dispute in Whyalla? It has not been made clear so far in this dispute that unsafe practices exist and it seems that the Minister's department should be approached to ascertain exactly just what safety issues are involved.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I inquired yesterday through the district officer stationed at Whyalla, and the information I received from the district inspector is that the strike has been in progress for some time, but no approach has been made to the department. Any knowledge possessed by the district inspector has been obtained only through inquiries that he has made himself. He has not been invited to inspect the work involving the dispute, and the honourable member will realize that this work comes under a Commonwealth award. I understand that during discussions between the unions and the company at Whyalla reference was made to inadequate lighting in the area involving the dispute. However, I will have the matter of safety checked to see whether our inspector could be invited to look at the scaffolding in dispute.

NORTHERN TERRITORY EDUCATION

Mr. CUMBE: Will the Minister of Education explain the present position of teachers from the South Australian Education Department who are teaching in the Northern Territory under the scheme whereby South Australia provides the teachers and the Commonwealth Government reimburses the State for the cost? When I was Minister of Education, I discussed this matter with the Commonwealth Government and I know that the present Minister has had further discussions. I understand that a five-year arrangement has been made and that the Commonwealth Government was to set up a Commonwealth Teaching Service, to serve not only the Australian Capital Territory but also the Northern Territory. Therefore, I ask the Minister whether he can give the House the latest information regarding the progress made on the withdrawal of teachers provided by South Australia, which in turn can benefit South Australia, because obviously many of our teachers will return to this State and the need for South Australia to provide these additional teachers will be reduced.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Probably the honourable member does not recall that one of my first actions as Minister of Education was to notify the Commonwealth Government that South Australia would withdraw from the Northern Territory arrangement over a five-year period. The agreement entered into between South Australia and the Commonwealth Government requires a minimum of three years notice to be given before the arrangement is terminated. That agreement could have contemplated the possibility of three years notice being given and then South Australian teachers being withdrawn in one fell swoop. However, we decided that it was much more appropriate to phase the withdrawal and, consequently, some involvement of Commonwealth-employed teachers in the Northern Territory has occurred in 1971 and, to a greater extent, this year before the passing of the legislation that established the Commonwealth Teaching Service. The withdrawal is proceeding. At present Northern Territory education is still under the direction of a South Australian (at present, Dr. Hedley Beare) and that arrangement will continue until most of the teachers in the area are Commonwealth employees. In the main, South Australian teachers will have an effective option open to them about whether to join the Commonwealth Teaching Service if they receive an offer of employment or, alternatively, to

return to South Australia. As we are almost two-fifths of the way through the five-year period, progressively from now on fewer and fewer teachers will be sent to the Territory from South Australia and most of the new teachers appointed in the Territory will be appointed under the Commonwealth Teaching Service, so the drain on our teacher supply that the Northern Territory arrangement has involved for some years virtually has ended. The only other thing I should like to say is that we are taking every action possible to ensure that the interests of South Australian teachers still employed by our Education Department in the Northern Territory will be protected and that, of course, none will lose as a consequence of South Australia's withdrawal from the Northern Territory educational field.

MODBURY ROUNDABOUT

Mrs. BYRNE: As the Minister of Roads and Transport knows, a roundabout has been installed at the intersection of Wright Road and Kelly Road, Modbury. Can the Minister tell me the basis on which this project has been financed?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will inquire for the honourable member.

DOCTOR PROTECTION

Dr. TONKIN: Does the Government intend to legislate to protect doctors who disclose details of a patient's medical condition in instances where it is considered to be in the public interest? If it does, how is it intended to provide the protection? There are two ways in which such protection could be given. One way is in specific instances as has already been done when dealing with the battered baby syndrome legislation, and the other would be by means of a blanket provision, which would depend on the interpretation of "in the public interest". Concern has been expressed to me that the interpretation could be changed and considerably widened as time passed.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Government has not considered any general provision that would give a medical practitioner legal protection where he deemed a disclosure of a patient's condition to be in the public interest, and I should have thought that type of legislation would be impracticable. Although it is not a matter the Government has considered, there are specific areas that have been considered: for instance, the battered baby syndrome. The question of fitness to drive a motor vehicle is another instance which the

Minister of Roads and Transport has considered. Although I cannot answer the question definitively at present, I can say that I hope the Government's approach would be to look at each instance as it is put forward, in an *ad hoc* manner and consider what protection should be given in that area.

WINDY POINT RESTAURANT

Mr. JENNINGS: Has the member for Mitcham seen the recent criticism by his colleague the member for Fisher of the building of a restaurant at Windy Point? Has the honourable member anything to say about this matter, as he has for many years vehemently advocated proceeding with this project? Is this now a sign of confrontation between the Liberal and Country League and the Liberal Movement, or is it an indication of the double deputy losing his grasp on his two portfolios?

The SPEAKER: A question must relate to business connected with the House.

Mr. Venning: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Rocky River is entirely out of order. He had better not give a repetition of that or I will deal with him in another way. Does the honourable member for Mitcham desire to reply to the question?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am only too happy to reply to the question. In fact I have been waiting for a question from a Government member for over a week now. The member for Stuart, in my temporary absence last week, said that he had a question to ask me. The next day I pointed out to him by way of personal explanation that I was here and ready, willing and anxious to receive his question.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It never came and I have sat here patiently every day this week waiting for the member for Stuart to ask me the question which he apparently wished to ask me.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham will assist the House considerably if he will make his reply relevant to the question he was asked. I ask other honourable members to cease interjecting.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Sir, by way of explanation, I was simply answering your question to me whether I was willing to answer the question asked by the member for Ross Smith. I now come to the question asked me by the honourable member, my very dear old friend.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Jennings: I don't mind the "dear" and the "old" but I object to "friend".

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Now, now; I am sure the honourable member does not mean that interjection. He and I have been colleagues in this place for 17 years or more now.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: And he would know—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must answer the question.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am doing my best, Sir, but there are so many interjections from the other side that it is difficult not to be side-tracked. The short answer to the honourable member's question is "Yes": I have seen the comments of the member for Fisher. However, I should like to enlarge on that answer just a little, if I may, but not to emulate the Minister of Education, of course. The only thing I regret is that I have lost Windy Point: it is no longer in my district, and the member for Fisher is now the member for that area. I may say that this is one of the few matters on which the member for Fisher and I disagree.

Members interjecting:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I personally believe that Windy Point should be developed. I think it is one of the prime sites near Adelaide, but it has never had the development which it deserves or which we had hoped it would have. When the Hall Government was in office between 1968 and 1970, the member for Alexandra had plans prepared for development of that site. We had hoped (and this involves part of the opposition, anyway, which the member for Fisher has expressed) that the site could be developed by private enterprise, and I still wish it could be.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: No-one has tendered for it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: That is the problem: we did not get any tender, or any satisfactory tender, and the matter had to be shelved. I cannot understand why this should happen when we have such a magnificent spot as Windy Point, but there it is. Now, of course, the present Government, being a Socialist Government, is far more willing to have the site developed by State enterprise, as I understand is now the suggestion, than we were although, because of the broadness of our outlook, we certainly would not rule out such development. However, we would prefer to have the site developed by private enterprise. The member for Fisher has already complained that within a short distance of Windy Point there are areas

in which effluent is a real problem, and I readily acknowledge that that is so. Indeed, it is a problem to which I have been referring in this place for about 15 years.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is nothing in the question relating to sewage. I ask the honourable member to confine his remarks to replying to the question.

Mr. Jennings: I'm quite satisfied with the reply, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: This is one of the complaints that the member for Fisher has made, and it relates to the question I have been asked. If I may make a brief reply to the member for Ross Smith, I point out that, in my view, that consideration is entirely irrelevant. Therefore, in this matter, as I say, the member for Fisher and I differ, but it is one of the few matters on which we differ.

SCIENTOLOGY

Mr. EVANS: Will the Attorney-General say whether it is Labor policy to recognize as a religion the practice of scientology under the name of the Church of the New Faith? I refer to two reports in today's *Australian*, the first stating that the Australian Labor Party would recognize scientology as a religion, under the name of the Church of the New Faith, if Labor won the Commonwealth election. The Australian Vice-President of the Church (Mr. T. B. Minchin) said in Adelaide that he had received this assurance from the Labor Leader in the Senate (Senator Murphy). In another article, written by the journalist Drewe, it is stated that a promise was made a month ago to the President of the Church (Mr. M. Graham) in Perth. The Australian President wrote to the Commonwealth Opposition Leader (Mr. Whitlam), on whose behalf Senator Murphy replied by telephone to Mr. Graham. Senator Murphy had given an assurance that the Church of the New Faith would be formally recognized as a religion and registered under the Commonwealth Marriage Act. I ask this question because we have in this State legislation that restricts the practice of scientology to a large degree, and I point out that some change in the legislation would be necessary if it were considered desirable to recognize scientology as a religion, regardless of the name given to it.

The Hon. L. J. KING: As I understand the press report referred to by the honourable member, the matter in question there was whether this sect should be recognized for the purpose of the Commonwealth Marriage

Act so that ministers of that sect should be recognized as persons who could be authorized to perform marriages. That, of course, is entirely a Commonwealth matter, and I cannot speak on it for the Commonwealth Opposition. If the honourable member wants to know what is the attitude of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Labor Party on that matter, he should address his question to the Leader of that Party. I have explained previously that it is the State Government's policy to repeal the present Scientology (Prohibition) Act, and a Bill for that purpose will be introduced this session. The Government's attitude is that there should be adequate laws to protect the public against any improper activities in relation to the provision of psychological services for fee or reward, and the Government intends to introduce legislation to regulate that matter. But if the scientologists regulate their activities so that they do not infringe either that law, which will be introduced, or any other existing law, the Government believes it is wrong that they should be prohibited from professing their beliefs and carrying on their activities within the law. Consequently, the Government will introduce further legislation on psychological practices and will also introduce a Bill to repeal the present Scientology (Prohibition) Act.

BURRA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. ALLEN: Can the Minister of Education say whether a final decision has been made regarding the site of the proposed new Burra High School and, if a decision has been made, will he say where the school is to be sited? If a new site has been chosen, will he say whether the alteration will delay the commencement of this project and also what is the present programme regarding commencement? The Minister will know that a site was purchased for this new high school about three years ago and that the Public Works Committee, which visited Burra recently, was not happy about that site. As a result, I believe that a request was made to have another look at this matter. However, the high school council is anxious to know whether a final decision has been made.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: As the honourable member was good enough to contact me and let me know that he would ask this question, I have a lengthy answer for him, although I am a little worried that the member for Alexandra will take exception, even though he did not take exception to the long

and prolix reply given just now by the member for Mitcham.

Mr. Millhouse: I'm just out of practice.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The member for Burra will understand the position concerning the member for Alexandra. A final decision—

Mr. Goldsworthy: Do you know—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Even though the member for Kavel is not interested in this reply, he should be courteous enough to enable the member for Frome to hear it.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Will this be—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Frome asked a question, and I think the member for Kavel should show courtesy to his colleague to enable him to hear the reply.

Mr. McANANEY: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Minister was not replying to the question: he was wandering all over the place.

The SPEAKER: The Minister should be able to reply to the question without being interrupted. I call on the Minister to reply.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I am grateful for your ruling in relation to this matter, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Mathwin: You always get a good ruling.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A final decision has not yet been made with regard to the site for the new Burra High School. However, following a recent visit to Burra by representatives of the Education Department and the Public Buildings Department to examine the possibilities of an alternative site, it has generally been agreed that, providing additional land is acquired in immediate proximity to the high and primary schools, a sufficient area would be available to redevelop both schools on the existing site. The consequent benefits would be immeasurably greater than those resulting from the building of a new high school on the site now held some distance from the town, especially in promoting a closely knit inter-community relationship and in offering opportunities for the sharing of facilities between the two schools.

During the day on which the inspection was made, the proposals were discussed at a combined meeting of representatives of the school and town bodies and councils, all of whom strongly endorsed the plan and offered their full support. In order to prepare a carefully documented case for submission to me, and subsequently to the Public Works

Committee, the Public Buildings Department has been requested to provide a site plan showing the total future land requirements, the area needed in the first stage of development, the relationship of buildings to recreational grounds, an estimate of the cost of site development, and a surveyor's report of the suitability of the proposed area for educational purposes.

Inevitably, as the change of site will involve the purchase of additional land and some redesigning of plans, there will be a delay in the building programme. This was made clear to the school officials at the meeting, and they accepted the position because of the long-term advantages that would occur. The urgency of the need to provide a new school is recognized, and, consequently, every endeavour will be made to ensure that the project proceeds as rapidly as possible. However, it is not possible to give a firm indication of a commencement date at this stage.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

Mr. BECKER: Has the Deputy Premier a reply to my recent question about the date on which the Government will table the Auditor-General's Report?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The report will be tabled on Tuesday, September 12, 1972, unless the Government Printer encounters some problems during printing.

WEEDS

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture to consider introducing amendments to the Weeds Act in order to give a council power to destroy weeds on land occupied by a Minister of the Crown, a Government department, or any instrumentality of the Crown? At present a council shall destroy all noxious weeds on land belonging to the Crown, and the Government pays the council for doing this work. The danger, however, is where noxious weeds have spread through reserves and private property in the Hills area from infestations on land that is often controlled by a department or a Minister. As councils should be given the chance to tackle the noxious weed problem in these areas, it is essential that they should have the responsibility of clearing the weeds and that the Government should pay them for doing this work.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will ask my colleague to examine the matter and provide a report for the honourable member.

RESEARCH STATION

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question about the Nuri-oopra research station?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that on July 28, 1972, a formal acceptance of the offer to sell was forwarded to the present owner of the land, informing him that arrangements were being made to survey the property in connection with the preparation of the transfer of title. On completion of the survey the relevant documents will be forwarded to the Crown Solicitor to effect settlement. It is expected that the transaction will be completed in two or three months.

JAMESTOWN ROAD

Mr. VENNING: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of August 15 about the upgrading of the Clare-Jamestown section of Highway No. 40?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I have a reply that I hope will be satisfactory to the honourable member. It is not possible to determine accurately the route of the road from the information given by the honourable member. However, it is assumed that the route in question is Riverton, Saddleworth, Auburn, Clare, Spalding, Jamestown. The Auburn-Clare section, which is being reconstructed by the Highways Department, will take two years to complete and the two-mile section immediately south of Saddleworth will be reconstructed by the District Council of Saddleworth during the next two or three years. A further 3½-mile section north from Riverton is programmed for reconstruction over the next three years. The remaining sections of this route are considered to be in a reasonable condition and will continue to receive routine maintenance, including maintenance resealing of some sections, as this work becomes necessary.

OATS

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture what progress has been made on setting up a statutory oat marketing authority and whether the Government has experienced problems in putting this authority into operation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain a report from my colleague.

DIAGONAL ROAD

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my question of August 17 about the possibility of speeding up roadworks being carried out at the junction of Brighton Road and Diagonal Road, Glenelg?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Difficulties associated with the work on Diagonal Road make the whole operation time-consuming. The work is being carried out in a relatively confined space, where it is not possible to use large-scale construction resources, and where delays have occurred because of the relocation of services, wet weather, and the need to maintain the flow of traffic. Consideration is being given during all phases of the work to reducing inconvenience and hardship to an absolute minimum, both to adjacent landowners and to the travelling public. Although works in the area are likely to proceed for several more months, the work in front of the service station should be completed this week.

MOANA CLIFFS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say when it is intended to appoint an executive engineer to the Coast Protection Board? I think that, on April 4 last, I asked a question about the condition of the cliffs between Seaford and Moana, pointing out that it had deteriorated considerably. In his reply, the Minister said:

About two months ago, I referred the matter to, I think, the Foreshore and Beaches Committee.

Desultory correspondence has proceeded between us since then. This week I had from him a letter, which states:

. . . I had asked the Chairman, Coast Protection Board, to conduct an investigation into this particular matter. The board has agreed to conduct this investigation and this will be done as soon as the executive engineer is appointed in the near future.

That is a very inexact answer. The condition of the cliffs is continuing to deteriorate. This matter, which is of great importance, has been raised in the House by me, and the Minister said that the member for Mawson had raised it with him privately even before I first raised it, yet nothing has so far been done and there is no promise of quick action. Therefore, I ask the Minister this question in the hope that we may know at least when the engineer is to be appointed and in the hope that it will not be too long after that when action is taken.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: What the honourable member says is true. The member for Mawson has often discussed the matter with me. He at least certainly recognizes that this area of the coast presents a most complicated problem the solution to which is also complicated. For that reason, as I have already told the member for Mitcham, it was thought appropriate to wait until an engineer had been

appointed to the Coast Protection Board, so that his advice could be sought on the matter. Applications having been called, I understand that a decision on the appointment of this officer has been made. Arrangements are being made to enable him to commence duties as soon as possible. As I am not certain of the exact date on which he will take up his duties, I will check this and let the honourable member know.

SOUTH PARA FLOODING

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the flooding of the South Para River?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The most up-to-date and relevant information on the flooding that occurred of the South Para and Gawler Rivers on August 29, 1971, is still that contained in a report entitled "A Hydrological Investigation of the Gawler River Flood of August 29, 1971", a copy of which was forwarded to the Leader on February 28, 1972. The peak flows that occurred on August 11, 1972, were of a minor nature compared to the August, 1971, flows. A maximum flow of 90 cusecs was recorded on the South Para River, a maximum of 500 cusecs on the North Para River, and a maximum of 700 cusecs on the Gawler River below the confluence of the North Para and South Para Rivers.

MAFIA

Mr. CARNIE: Will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary whether there is any indication of Mafia connections with South Australian criminals? A report in the *News* a few weeks ago states:

Investigations by Commonwealth and State police have revealed substantive links between United States Mafia personalities and a number of Australians. . . The Commonwealth and State police were now co-operating on a continuing surveillance of the Australians involved. All information collected would be collated by the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau and distributed to the relevant States where they were involved.

In view of the threat which this organization could pose to our way of life, I should like to know whether any South Australians are involved in this investigation, and whether the Police Department has received any information from the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau.

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

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr. COUMBE: In view of the number of councils and other bodies concerned about the

implementation of the River Torrens Acquisition Act of 1970 and the plans to be drawn up under the provisions of that Act, can the Minister of Works say what has been achieved so far in this regard?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I recently discussed with members of the committee the matter of surveying. As the honourable member probably realizes, unless it is intended to purchase certain areas no survey there can be carried out. This is not always satisfactory, because, as the honourable member will be aware, as certain development is taking place it is desirable that a survey should establish exactly what are the boundaries so that we might know what will take place, before the development proceeds too far. I have instructed the Parliamentary Counsel to draw up amendments to provide that the Minister may order a survey at any time, rather than have to wait until a purchase of land is contemplated. I shall be pleased to get the details that the honourable member has requested.

WEST LAKES LAND

Mr. EVANS: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question about the cost of Housing Trust land at West Lakes?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The \$9,000 an acre was on a broad-acre basis and did not include services. However, cost of reclamation did include compaction and leeching of salts. A certified valuation has been carried out placing market value on this land at \$12,000 an acre.

CRIME

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Attorney-General, representing the Chief Secretary, say whether there is any evidence to suggest that the recent increase in reported breaking and entering cases in Adelaide is related to an increased incidence of drug usage and drug dependence in this State? In countries overseas and, to some extent, in the Eastern States of Australia, an increase in the crime rate has largely been put down to the increase in drug dependence. In the early stages, crimes of breaking and entering have predominated. As drug dependence has increased, these crimes have been followed by crimes of armed robbery and violence. The evidence shows that, to some extent, South Australia is following this pattern. I believe it is important to find out whether or not drug dependence is playing any part in the increase in the local crime rate.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I asked the Police Department whether it could pinpoint the

causes of the increase in breaking and entering offences, particularly, that has occurred in the last year. This is something that has occurred all over Australia, following a fairly uniform pattern in all States. From the information it has, the department cannot identify any special cause. I suppose that, when I look at the factors that have changed in the last 12 months, the only real factor that I can identify as having changed is the high rate of unemployment that followed the 1971 Commonwealth Budget. I think that it is probably a reasonable inference that that unemployment has been a most substantial contributing cause of the increase in the number of these crimes, bearing in mind that it is the crime of breaking and entering that has shown the increase. I take it from the reply I have already had from the Police Department that it cannot take the matter any further and that it cannot identify any cause. I will ask the Chief Secretary to direct the department's attention to the specific question of drug abuse and, if further light can be thrown on the matter, I will furnish the information for the honourable member.

Mr. BECKER: Can the Attorney-General, representing the Chief Secretary, say whether the Government intends to take action as a result of the steep increase in the number of breaking and entering offences?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will refer the matter to my colleague. I can tell the honourable member that the increased incidence of breaking and entering offences is really a matter for the Police Department and police action. I am sure that the South Australian police are as conscious of the problem as are the police in every other State and that they are doing their best to detect offences and so reduce the incidence of this type of crime. South Australian police authorities are as conscious as any authorities elsewhere in Australia of the need to use the latest scientific techniques to detect offenders.

The Hon. D. N. Brookman: Are they being given support?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The police are being given all the support they need and they will continue to get all the support they need from the Government. However, the problem basically is one of police detection and presents a difficult problem to the police. I sympathize with them in their difficulties in solving the problem, and I am sure that they are doing all they can to solve it. I personally believe that a much more profitable approach to the situation would be by way of an attack by the Commonwealth Government on the current unemployment situation.

TRAM PASSES

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say whether the Government intends reintroducing periodical passes on the Glenelg tram service? I asked a similar question on four or five occasions in 1970 and in the Minister's final reply to me, on November 17, 1970, he quoted the Premier's policy speech, as follows:

We will endeavour to encourage the public to patronize public transport. We will require the reintroduction of periodical tickets, the provision of excursion fares, and reduced fares for travel at off-peak times.

The Minister went on to say that the implementation of that part of the Government's policy was under active consideration. The provision of a concession is important to many workers in the area and it is also important that public transport be fully used.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The fare structure of both the railways and the tramways is currently the subject of a most thorough investigation by the Director-General of Transport and his staff. This investigation will certainly not be confined, as the honourable member's question presupposes, to the Glenelg tram: it will cover the whole field of public transport systems. The principal problem with which we are faced at present relates to the interchangeability of fares. There is no doubt that a person who is forced, because of the type of transport that is available to him and the routes taken by that transport, to change from one bus to another (or, for example, from a train to a bus or from a tram to a bus) is at a distinct disadvantage compared to a person who, through no merit of his own but merely because of good luck, can travel from his starting point to his destination without having to change the type of transport he is using. This is one of the major problems currently facing the public transport sector and it is being thoroughly examined, as are periodical tickets and other ways and means of encouraging the community generally to use public transport rather than private transport. The use of private transport has been encouraged by previous Governments, and we are trying to reverse this trend. I believe that, given time, we shall be able to do this, even though the public transport sector has been showing a decline for many years. However, I am happy to be able to say that, although many people have not picked it up for themselves, the Metropolitan Tramways Trust's annual report was laid on the table of this House a few weeks ago, and not one member of the Opposition benches has

remarked on the fact that in the latter half of last year there was a substantial increase in the patronage of M.T.T. vehicles.

Mr. Mathwin: You would get an increase if you did this on the trams.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I appreciate the advice of the honourable member and, if he could help us any more in encouraging people to use the trams, I should be happy if he would give us any suggestions he might have. As I have already told the honourable member, we are currently looking at this matter and I hope that we shall be able to effect something that even the member for Glenelg would be proud to tell people a Labor Government had introduced.

RAILWAYS PUBLICITY

Mrs. STEELE: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to my recent question concerning publicity for the Railways Department?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Two journals are published monthly which disseminate railway information. These are *Network*, which covers Railways of Australia, and *Rail News*, which refers specifically to the South Australian Railways. *Network* is published in Sydney, the cost being borne by all railway systems on a revenue basis, South Australia's proportionate contribution being 5.78 per cent. In these circumstances, it would not be reasonable to expect a disproportionate coverage for this State. A perusal of the last three issues of *Network* reveals that in May South Australia received almost half front-page coverage, together with one or two other small references; in June there was no reference to South Australia. In the July issue the whole of the front page referred to the Indian-Pacific with which, of course, South Australia is closely associated; the second page contained an article on deluxe rail travel in South Australia, together with a large photograph of the new country and interstate booking lounge. There were other references to the Overland, together with a photograph of the club car on this train. The South Australian Railways publishes *Rail News* and this contains information on the operation of that department and is forwarded to Sydney monthly to be used as copy for the nationally circulated *Network*. Also, additional copy with photographs is supplied where appropriate.

WHEAT QUOTAS

Mr. VENNING: Can the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Agriculture, say

whether Mr. Leo Travers has resigned as Chairman of the Wheat Quota Appeals Committee? If Mr. Travers has resigned, who is his successor?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will check with my colleague.

REGULATIONS

Mr. GUNN: Will the Premier consider relaxing the regulations made under the Mines and Works Inspection Act which require district councils to provide the inspector with notice of intention 12 months in advance of opening any borrow pit to obtain rubble or other material for road-making? A council in my district has told me that this matter is causing concern, because it is having difficulty in carrying out its operations and has not received much information from the department. The council hopes that the Premier may be willing to relax the present stringent regulation.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a report from the Director of Mines on the matter. I am not aware of the difficulties referred to but, if the honourable member tells me which council is involved, we will examine the problem.

GARDEN PEAS

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Minister of Works obtain from the Minister of Agriculture a report on the extent of departmental investigation into an apparent iron deficiency in garden peas in the Lower South-East? I have been told there is a production problem, particularly regarding the quantity and quality of product, associated with an apparent iron deficiency in garden peas or peas grown under field conditions for processing. It has been suggested that one company involved in the overall production and processing field, the British Tobacco Company, has undertaken research at a cost of about \$500,000 over a period of time, but this information is not necessarily available to other producers. On this basis, I ask whether any investigation has been undertaken and, if it has been, what is the nature of it and whether it will be stepped up.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will inquire as the Leader asks.

OBSCENE LITERATURE

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Attorney-General say whether the Government intends to introduce legislation this session relating to obscene and indecent literature: for example, an amendment to the Police Offences Act? In

the last few months I, and I guess other members also, have continued to receive complaints about certain publications in and about South Australia. I remind the Attorney-General that there have been few, if any, successful prosecutions for offences of this kind since he took office and, indeed, before then. Therefore, if effective action is to be taken in such cases, the law will have to be changed. I am encouraged to ask this question as I understand that the Australian Labor Party recently has adopted a new policy on censorship.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The honourable member's knowledge of events in the A.L.P. is not nearly as good as it might be. The fact is that the A.L.P. has not adopted any new policy in relation to censorship. Nevertheless, I think the honourable member may have been confused by a newspaper report referring to certain matters that will be discussed at a forthcoming convention of the A.L.P. to deal with questions of A.L.P. policy. Having set the record straight as to the matter of fact to which the honourable member has referred, I agree that there are unsatisfactory aspects of the present law relating to obscene and indecent publications. The matter is at present being considered. I think it extremely unlikely that an amendment will be introduced in the present session of Parliament, as I think the matter needs much consideration. However, if it is possible to arrive at proposals for a more effective law on this subject, combining the twin objectives of according to adults the maximum freedom to make their own decisions on what to read and protecting other persons who do not want to see that sort of material (and, of course, minors, in which case the decision ought to be left to the parents or teachers in whose care they are), legislation will be introduced in due course.

TORRENS RIVER POLLUTION

Mr. CUMBE: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health for information about pollution in the Torrens River? The Minister may not be aware that I have canvassed this subject on several occasions. Several years ago the river became polluted, resulting in the Gilberton Swimming Club's activities being curtailed, and investigations were carried out by the Central Board of Health, I understand in conjunction with local boards. Will the Attorney obtain an up-to-date report on the present position, particularly concerning the section upstream from the

Adelaide weir? Several of my constituents have asked questions about this matter recently.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain the information desired.

DRUGS

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General say whether young people dealt with by the Juvenile Court are medically examined for signs of drug dependence and whether there is evidence to suggest that the incidence of drug dependence in these young people is increasing? An oversea pattern observed about 2½ years ago showed that there was a change from the position whereby it was the exception to find a young person before a Juvenile Court who was a drug dependant to the reverse position, whereby it was the exception to find a young person before the court who was not. The pattern had changed over a period of about three or four years. This is most disturbing and, once again, we should consider the matter carefully to find out whether a similar trend is occurring here.

The Hon. L. J. KING: A medical examination of a juvenile before the Juvenile Court would be conducted only if the judge had reason to think that such an examination would contribute information that he ought to have before dealing with the juvenile, so it would not be an invariable practice. I cannot say whether examinations made for the purpose of court proceedings indicate any increase in the incidence of drug abuse in juveniles, but I do know that the experience in juvenile institutions suggests that there has been an increase in the number of juveniles admitted to institutions who are suffering from the effects of drug abuse. That has occurred over the last three or four years. I cannot be more precise without obtaining a report, and I will refer the matters raised by the honourable member to get more precise information.

TARCOOLA ROAD

Mr. GUNN: In view of the Commonwealth Government's decision to provide funds to build a railway line from Tarcoola to Alice Springs, will the Minister of Roads and Transport consider having a survey made of the possibility of building a road from Tarcoola to Ceduna?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The honourable member has based his question on the building of a railway line from Tarcoola to Alice Springs. I regret that this matter still is unresolved, and only this morning I asked that action be taken to prod the Prime Minister

to reply to the letter forwarded to him by the Premier two months ago in an endeavour to safeguard the interests of South Australia.

Mr. Millhouse: That's nothing to some of the delays we have—

Mr. Gunn: The surveyors are out there working now.

The SPEAKER: Order! This is not a debate. The honourable Minister is replying to a question and the honourable member for Eyre must not keep interjecting.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, but it was not the interjections from the member for Eyre that concerned me: it was the member for Mitcham, who was, as usual, butting in on something that he knew nothing about.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Name him!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I should like to continue this reply and give the member for Eyre the information he seeks on behalf of his constituents, who are obviously interested. I hope he can control his colleagues, although the Speaker is having difficulty with them.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister must reply to the question.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Regrettably, the situation regarding the construction of the railway from Tarcoola to Alice Springs is in a state of flux, and, until the Prime Minister answers our correspondence, which for two months he has failed to do, the future of that project must remain indefinite. I should be happy to consider the honourable member's suggestion regarding the road from Tarcoola to Ceduna (I presume he would like me to do it, in accordance with his question) when the Commonwealth has finally agreed to build the railway.

NOARLUNGA BY-PASS

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say when the Noarlunga by-pass will be opened? According to the last estimate made by the Minister, the completion of the by-pass is now three months late. I should like him to reply to this question without blaming the Commonwealth.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I wonder whether the honourable member would care to attend the official opening on September 15? He will be given an invitation, and I hope he attends.

HALLETT COVE

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say when the

report that is to be made to assist the Land Board in valuing land at Hallett Cove will be made and how long it will be before some real action is taken to acquire the land? I imagine that it is apparent, even to the Minister, that the area, which has great historical value and which is most important as a tourist attraction to this State, is being damaged, and the longer it is left the more damage will be done to it.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I think I replied to a similar question to this on notice earlier this week.

The SPEAKER: If a reply has been given, the question is out of order.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: No, it is not similar, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Is it in substance the same?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: No. I was about to say that the reply I gave had some bearing on this matter. I pointed out that negotiations were taking place for the purchase of the site of scientific interest and a buffer zone. I cannot tell the honourable member when the negotiations will be completed, because it depends on many factors. I do not think the honourable member was correct in saying that damage was being done to the area: I can assure him that the site of geological interest and the necessary protective area around it are being closely watched because of the development that is going on nearby. Certainly, no damage is being done, and the matter will be closely watched in the future.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport consider allocating distinctive number plates for all Government motor vehicles, as do the Commonwealth Government and some other State Governments? I refer to the recommendation of the Auditor-General on page 38 of his report for year ended June 30, 1971, under the heading "Use of departmental cars".

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This matter has been considered many times and been rejected not only by this Government but also by former Governments. I think the present system is adequate to meet the present needs, remembering that all Government vehicles carry a distinctive identification, as they have "G" registration stickers on their windows. I do not know whether a distinctive number plate would do any more than the registration sticker does at present. Because of the computer system operating within the Motor Vehicles Department, the allocation of special

number plates is frowned on. The old system whereby people could retain a number plate for their own use has been discarded, and I am sure that some legitimate criticism would be forthcoming from those people who had had to forfeit number plates that in some cases dated back to the first car they owned, if Government cars were given priority. This Government has not seen the need for this, and neither did the former Government. The matter will still be considered, but at this stage I do not intend to do anything about it.

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. HOPGOOD: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation ask the Bureau of Meteorology to make meteorological measurements of the eastward drift of industrial emissions from the Lonsdale industrial area? In the authorized development plan for the metropolitan area much land in the Lonsdale area has been zoned for both specific industrial and general industrial use and as more of this land is being used for these purposes there is the possibility of greater pollution. A survey similar to the one I have mentioned would indicate the possible extent of any future problem.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I think the suggestion is a very good one, for all of us have noticed on some occasions, because of our peculiar weather pattern in Adelaide, a definite drift of smoke and other pollutants from the area mentioned. It could well be that a study could determine whether or not we should limit industrial development in that area. I shall be happy to refer this matter to the Director of Planning to consider whether he should discuss it with the council concerned and the Bureau of Meteorology.

DOWNEY HOUSE

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister of Works say on what basis the existing building known as Downey House will be made available to the Australian Mineral Foundation on the completion of the new building for incorporation in the Mineral Sciences Centre? The Minister has been kind enough, in reply to a question I asked during the Loan Estimates debate regarding the Glenside Hospital and the disposition of Downey House, to tell me that a contract for the erection of a new psychogeriatric unit was let in July, 1972, with a completion date of July, 1973.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I cannot reply to the question straight away, but I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

MAIN ROAD No. 44

Mr. CARNIE: Can the Minister of Roads and Transport say what plans the Highways Department has for the sealing of Main Road No. 44, otherwise known as Bratten Way? This road, which is between Tumby Bay and Cummins and which is ultimately intended to extend from Tumby Bay to Mount Hope, right across the peninsula, has more than once been upgraded ready for sealing but, as a result of the small sums allocated for this project, the road has been allowed to deteriorate, and it has been necessary, in effect, to go back to square 1 and start again. Last November I wrote to the Minister about this matter (admittedly, on another aspect), and in a reply, dated December 13, he stated:

It is proposed to undertake the sealing of the Tumby Bay to Cummins road during the next financial year, provided funds are available. The extent of the work to be undertaken, however, will depend upon the demand of funds for works having higher priority, and it is possible that only part of the road may be completed in 1972-73.

Funds amounting to \$15,900 are allocated for work on the road this year out of a total necessary expenditure, I believe, exceeding \$300,000, so unfortunately it is likely that the Minister's comment that only part of the road may be completed will be proved true. In fact, I believe that the sum allocated in respect of the road this year is so little that the local engineer considers it pointless to spend any money on it.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Highways Department engineer?

Mr. CARNIE: Yes. I believe that he has, therefore, allocated this sum to other works altogether. Therefore, I ask what plans the Highways Department has regarding this road and whether it is planned to finish the work in question at any time in the future.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I think the honourable member has himself replied to the question when he refers to the allocation of money this financial year. However, the question regarding subsequent financial years remains unanswered. I shall be pleased to discuss this matter with the Highways Commissioner and to see what is the position. I think I ought to stress one point: although I acknowledge that members, understandably, have a responsibility to strive to have the most that they can have spent on the roads in their districts, the Highways Department, as a department involved in works over the whole State, and I, as the Minister having to accept a responsibility that covers the whole State,

must try to the best of our ability to allocate the money on the basis of the greatest need. However, I should not expect the member for Flinders to be advocating that a road, say, in the District of Mallee or Millicent, or somewhere else, should have a higher priority than the road he mentioned. We must look at this matter on the basis of the overall needs of the State, and that is often why a project does not always have as high a priority as a member thinks it should have.

Mr. Carnie: But it seems such a waste that the road has been built up to a certain stage and has then deteriorated.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This is, of course, extremely unfortunate but, after all, many hundreds of miles of roads throughout the State have existed as metal roads for many years, and we would be quite unrealistic if we did not expect that those roads would continue to exist as metal roads, without a sealing coat, for many years to come. However, I will discuss the road in question with the Highways Commissioner and see what long-term planning the department has in mind.

PINE PLANTINGS

Mr. McANANEY: Having been given some statistics on the areas planted as forests over the last three years, I note that there has been a steady drop in the acreage planted. Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Forests to ascertain why this has happened, especially bearing in mind that softwoods are in short supply in South Australia? Is there a shortage of money for this purpose or a shortage of suitable land on which to grow pines?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will find out for the honourable member.

BRIDGEWORKS

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Roads and Transport a reply to the question I asked during the Loan Estimates debate about bridgeworks?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Funds which were provided for the construction of the bridges on the Kapunda to Truro road during 1971-72 but which were not spent for that purpose were in fact reallocated to other works and spent during that financial year. As may be seen on page 3 (3) of the Highways Department's schedule of proposed works, provision has been made for these two bridges to be completed and for considerable progress to be made on the bridge over the Light River on the Gawler to Morgan road in 1972-73.

At this stage, the contract has been let for the Kapunda-Truro road bridges and it is expected that the Gawler-Morgan road bridge contract will be let by the end of the year.

ROADHOUSE PROPRIETOR

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister of Roads and Transport ascertain what assistance his department can give to a roadhouse proprietor in my district whose present premises will be by-passed when the Eyre Highway is sealed? This person, whose business is at Ivy Tanks, has invested about \$75,000 in this roadhouse, which will be about seven miles away from the new road, and he requires about 10 acres of land, which would have to be on the Yalata Aboriginal Reserve. The gentleman concerned has approached me, wondering whether the Minister will be willing to consider granting compensation or any other form of assistance.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am sorry for this person, but let us face the facts of life: we did not provide him with the roadhouse; we did not provide him with the land; and we did not provide him with any guarantee that the road would remain there. I am afraid that he is in exactly the same position as that of many hundreds of other people from time to time, when certain roadworks are undertaken. There have been cases where, for instance, by-pass roads have been built around existing towns and where some of the local shopkeepers and hotelkeepers, etc., have complained that, as a result, they have been deprived of some of their business. Of course, this is perfectly true, and a similar situation applies in the metropolitan area. I received a letter only this morning from the member for Adelaide stating that, because of the construction of median strips, a certain service station proprietor's customers do not have such a good access in and out of the service station as they previously had.

But it is a question of who comes first in these problems; it is almost a case of the chicken and the egg. The hard cold facts of the case are that, although I am sorry for the person concerned, I must say that it is not the responsibility of the Highways Department to pay compensation when it is undertaking work of this kind. The only time when the department is properly required to pay compensation is when property is acquired. If the department were to pay compensation under the terms suggested by the honourable member, obviously we could be justifiably criticized for using public funds to sustain

the interests of a private individual, and I do not think that even the honourable member, with his attitude to private enterprise, would suggest that we should do that.

CAMDEN SCHOOL

Mr. BECKER: In the temporary absence of the Minister of Education, I ask the Attorney-General whether his colleague will have officers of the Education Department investigate the condition of the students' toilets at the Camden Primary School and, if necessary, have action taken immediately to upgrade those toilets or have them rebuilt.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will ask my colleague to look into the matter.

POLICE PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (PUBLIC SALARIES) BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Audit Act, 1921-1971; the Police Regulation Act, 1952-1972; the Public Service Act, 1967-1971; the Valuation of Land Act, 1971; and the Agent-General Act, 1901-1971; and for other purposes. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill increases the salaries of the Auditor-General, the Commissioner of Police, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Public Service Board, and the Valuer-General. The characteristic common to the salaries of these officers is that they are all fixed by Statute. The Bill also seeks to increase the allowance payable to the South Australian Agent-General in England. It has been customary to ensure that the salaries payable to these officers bear a certain relationship to the salaries payable to the permanent heads of Government departments and other senior Public Service officers, and these salaries were adjusted on June 26,

1972, following the settling by the Public Service Arbitrator of claim No. 3/72 for increased clerical-administrative salaries to operate from that date.

Accordingly, this Bill seeks to adjust these "statutory salaries" so as to preserve the appropriate relativities. To consider the Bill in some detail, clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 is again formal. Clause 4 increases the salary of the Auditor-General from \$20,200 to \$21,300, with effect from June 26, 1972. Clause 5 is formal. Clause 6 increases the salary of the Commissioner of Police from \$18,600 to \$19,700, with effect from the day already referred to. Clause 7 is formal.

Clause 8 increases the salary payable to the Chairman of the Public Service Board from \$20,200 to \$21,300, and that of the Commissioners of that board from \$17,100 to \$18,200, in each case with effect from June 26, 1972. Clause 9 is formal, and clause 10 increases the salary payable to the Valuer-General from \$12,350 to \$13,400, again with effect from June 26, 1972. Clause 11 is formal, and clause 12 increases the expense allowance payable to the Agent-General by £(St)550, to £(St)4,750. This will place the expense allowance afforded to the Agent-General in a satisfactory relationship with that payable to the Agents-General of the other Australian States. The salary of the Agent-General is not touched by this measure, having been adjusted in 1971.

Mr. BECKER secured the adjournment of the debate.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act, 1936-1971. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It makes several unconnected amendments to the Land Tax Act. The amendments are not designed to introduce any substantial innovation in the principles of the Act, but rather to clear up deficiencies and to make administrative improvements. First, the Bill seeks to make a contribution to nature conservation by exempting from land tax land that is used on a non-profit basis for the purposes of conserving native fauna or flora. In the past the Government has effectuated its policy that such land should be exempt from land tax by making a nominal grant to an association that maintains land for this purpose, so that the land will receive the benefit of an exemption under section 10(1)(e). For example,

such a grant has been made to the Field Naturalists Society of South Australia. This oblique method of providing the exemption is administratively unsatisfactory and, accordingly, the Bill provides a more direct exemption for land of this kind.

The Bill makes extensive amendments to section 12c of the principal Act. Under this section, land which is within an area of urban development, but which is in fact being used for the purpose of primary production, may receive the benefit of a declaration. Where the declaration is made, the land is assessed at a much lower rate of land tax. When the land is sold, as it almost inevitably will be, for developmental purposes, it is fair that the taxpayer, who has received a price far in excess of the value that the land has as primary-producing land, should make up some at least of the differential land tax. (Differential tax is the tax that would have been payable if the land had been normally assessed at its true value, less the tax that has actually been paid). These principles are already embodied in the existing section.

However, difficulty arises under the present provision where the taxpayer sells an interest in land that cannot be specifically appropriated to any particular portion of the land. The Bill seeks to overcome this problem by providing that where any such interest is transferred, a proportion of the differential tax shall be payable. This proportion is obtained by valuing the interest involved in the transfer and dividing that value by the value of an estate in fee simple in the land.

Finally, the Bill seeks to facilitate the remission of the metropolitan levy in cases of financial hardship. The present Act provides that the Commissioner may remit payment of this levy where he is satisfied, by evidence of a taxpayer's financial position, that it would cause hardship. It is administratively burdensome to consider the financial position of many individual taxpayers. The Bill, therefore, enables the Commissioner to determine classes of taxpayer who are likely to find the metropolitan levy financially burdensome. If the Commissioner is satisfied that a taxpayer is a member of any such class, the levy will be automatically remitted.

The provisions of the Bill are as follows. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 4 of the principal Act by adding definitions of the words "improvements" and "site improvements". These definitions are required for the purposes of subsequent amendments to section 12c. Clause 4 amends section

10 of the principal Act. An association that maintains land on a non-profit basis for the purpose of conservation is to be entitled to an exemption from land tax in respect of that land.

Clause 5 amends section 12c of the principal Act. Where the Commissioner is satisfied that declared rural land, or any part thereof, has ceased to be used for primary production, or an application is made by the taxpayer for the revocation of the declaration, such a revocation may be made. In these circumstances, and also where any part of the declared land is transferred by the taxpayer to another person (who is not a close relative of the transferor), a prescribed amount of differential tax, in respect of a period of up to five financial years, becomes payable.

Where the declaration is wholly revoked, the prescribed amount of differential tax is the whole of the tax; where it is only partially revoked, it is the proportion of the differential land tax that the value of that part of the declared land has in relation to the value of the whole of the declared area immediately before revocation. In the case of a transfer, the prescribed amount of tax is the whole of the differential tax where the whole of the land vests in another, and where a portion of the land is transferred, it is the proportion that the value of that part bears to the value of an estate in fee simple in the whole of the declared land. This tax is payable jointly and severally by both parties to the transaction. Improvements to the land (except site improvements) are not to be taken into account when assessing the values of interest in the land.

Information may be obtained by the Commissioner from any person to determine the values, and it is an offence to refuse to give the information requested. Exemptions from payment of land tax given to certain persons under the Act are extended to cover the differential land tax. Declarations of rural land may also be revoked where the land has ceased to be within a defined rural area, or where the taxpayer or taxpayers of the land at the time of the declaration have ceased to be the taxpayer or taxpayers of the land, and the land has vested in a person outside a defined family class. All the provisions relating to the recovery of land tax apply to the recovery of differential land tax.

Clause 6 amends section 58a of the principal Act. The Commissioner is empowered to define classes of taxpayer to whom the payment of the metropolitan levy is likely to cause hardship. As long as the taxpayer

remains a member of the class under which he receives the entitlement, he is entitled to the benefit of a remission. When the taxpayer ceases to be a member of this class he must notify the Commissioner. The remission is not to exceed \$2 in any financial year. Clause 7 makes drafting amendments to section 65 of the principal Act.

Mr. GUNN secured the adjournment of the debate.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL BILL

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (Minister of Environment and Conservation) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to constitute an Environmental Protection Council; to provide for its powers and functions; and for other purposes. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It establishes a council to be known as the "Environmental Protection Council" and is tangible evidence that the Government places great importance on the need to protect and enhance, in all areas, the present and future quality and safety of the lives of the people of this State. The problems associated with environmental protection, as now understood, are extremely wide. They include all man's activities and the control of some of these is already the responsibility of existing departments and agencies. In such a new field, there is no generally accepted way of setting up environmental protection machinery. In the Government's view, everyone affects the environment and everyone has a responsibility for its protection. In addition to the functions of the Department of Environment and Conservation, this responsibility is spread throughout the community, and it is clear that a multitude of departments, authorities, bodies and individuals are concerned and already involved. It is proper that such existing machinery should continue to play its existing role in this most important task of preserving and enhancing the environment.

The intention of the Government with this Bill is to create a body with wide powers to investigate, advise, and report on the overall condition of the environment throughout the State, the efficiency or effectiveness of measures being taken or proposed to be taken to protect the environment, the possible dangers to the environment of any proposed developments, to warn of potential environmental deterioration which it may foresee, and to recommend action to overcome or correct anything affecting the

environment adversely. In the opinion of the Government, which has asked for and received advice from many individuals and organizations, it is not advisable, or even possible, to restrict the council in its considerations to only some aspects of the environment.

To do so would perpetuate the reasons which have led the world to its present state. The Government, therefore, proposes that environment be defined in its widest sense so that the council will be empowered and able to inquire into and make recommendations on everything that can, does, or may affect the quality of life of the people of South Australia in particular and of the world as a whole. It is intended that the council, to best fulfil its functions, will also be able to consult with and obtain advice from knowledgeable persons of all kinds and to co-ordinate research into environmental matters. In addition, it is intended that the council be specifically charged with a responsibility to take into consideration in its deliberations, among other things, flora, fauna, the natural beauty of the countryside, and the value of buildings and objects of architectural or historic interest. This is to ensure that we do not survive in a State in which we have clean air, pure water and unpolluted soil but in which all natural beauty has been lost.

In addition, the Bill is designed to ensure that the council can function fully and properly, and it is proposed that the council be required to examine and report on matters referred to it by the responsible Minister, to initiate inquiries of its own right into matters which it considers to warrant examination, and to furnish annual reports on its activities which shall be laid before each House of Parliament. The membership of the proposed eight-man council should contain a wide and balanced range of expertise and experience. To this end, it is intended that four senior public servants who are already responsible for much of the environmental protection of the State should be members, with four other members, one with knowledge of industry, one with knowledge of conservation, and two generally qualified in any field of knowledge. In this way it is expected that the council will be competent to consider and report on all the multifarious aspects of the environment and its protection.

In spite of such a membership, it appears clear that cases will arise where more specialized advice is necessary than the council itself can supply. Provision is therefore made

for the council to delegate, with Ministerial agreement, some or all of its powers to individuals or groups which, in its opinion, are best able to supply such advice. To ensure that the Environmental Protection Council can fulfil its aims, the Bill provides that the council may have the powers of a Royal Commission as set out in the Royal Commissions Act of 1917. Such powers will assist the council in obtaining information on which it can base its recommendations and reports.

Environmental protection must take into account the need for development and the way development is to occur. Industry cannot be totally rejected because of its pollutant side effects, but a way must be found to reduce these effects to an absolute minimum consistent with economic operations. This is not to say that environmental protection will not involve the community in additional expense, because it will. A successful regime of environmental protection should, however, ensure that the results are adequate, the costs acceptable, and the benefits manifest. The Government believes that the proposals set out in this Bill will enable all three requirements to be met efficiently, economically, and expeditiously.

Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill are formal. Clause 3 sets out the definitions necessary for the purposes of the measure. Clause 4 at subclause (1) establishes the Environmental Protection Council, and at subclause (2) provides for it to be a body corporate. At subclause (3) the council is, subject to the provisions of that subclause, placed under the control of the Minister. Subclause (4) is of a formal evidentiary nature, and subclause (5) sets out the composition of the council, here it being provided that it will consist of four senior public servants and four persons who may not necessarily be public servants. It also provides that the Director of the Department of Environment and Conservation will be the Chairman of the council.

Subclause (6) is again a standard formal provision and subclause (7) provides, in effect, for a four-year term of appointment for the members who are not public servants. Subclause (8) provides for the appointment of deputies of the enumerated public servant members. Subclause (9) provides for reappointment of members. Clause 5 is the usual provision in measures of this nature, and provides for the reappointment of members on the expiration of the terms of office. Clause 6 is again a usual provision relating to casual

vacancies. Clause 7 provides for the procedure at meetings and for a quorum of five members.

Clause 8 provides for the Chairman to have a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes and for the appointment of a temporary chairman. Clause 9 validates acts of the council notwithstanding any defect in the appointment of a member, and is again a usual provision. Clause 10 provides for the remuneration of members. Clause 11 provides that the acceptance of office of a member of the council will not debar a person from accepting office on any other body and is in the usual form. However, this clause, in terms, debars members of either House of Parliament from accepting office on the council.

Clause 12 provides for the appointment of a secretary to the council. Clause 13 permits the council to make use of the services of the officers and employees of the descriptions set out in the clause. This use will, of course, be with the agreement of their employers or the responsible Minister. Clause 14 sets out in some detail the powers and functions of the council. While this clause is in its terms self-explanatory, it should be considered in conjunction with the definition of "environment". In addition to the powers otherwise conferred by this clause, subclause (3) ensures that the council shall, in the exercise of its powers, pay regard to the preservation of the natural beauty of the countryside and of the animals, plants, buildings, and geological features of the State.

Clause 15 is a clause of considerable importance since it enables the council, in appropriate cases, to be endowed with the powers of a Royal Commission. Where a proclamation of the kind referred to in subclause (1) of this clause is made, the provisions of the Royal Commissions Act, 1917, will apply and have effect. Clause 16 confers on the council a wide power to delegate its powers and functions, but the exercise of this power is subject to the approval of the Minister. Clause 17 provides for the production by the council of annual reports and their laying before each House of Parliament. Clause 18 is a formal financial provision.

Mr. NANKIVELL secured the adjournment of the debate.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (VALUATION OF LAND) BILL

Read a third time and passed.

STOCK FOODS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 17. Page 885.)

The Hon. D. N. BROOKMAN (Alexandra):
I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time and taken through Committee without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.5 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 29, at 2 p.m.