

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

Thursday, October 18, 1973

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

**QUESTIONS****PETRO-CHEMICAL PLANT**

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Premier say whether he or any of his Cabinet colleagues has been informed by the Commonwealth Minister for Minerals and Energy (Mr. Connor), the Prime Minister, or any other Commonwealth Minister, that the development by the Commonwealth Government of a major petro-chemical plant at Dampier could have an effect on the establishment of the Redcliffs project? The reported statement by the Commonwealth Minister that the Commonwealth Government plans a major plant at Dampier to use the raw materials from the natural gas fields of the North-West Shelf must cast some doubts on the establishment and the viability of the proposed Redcliffs petro-chemical industry. The Premier is quoted in today's *Advertiser* as saying that there is no room for a second world-class plant in Australia, and this contention is supported by the Executive Director of Imperial Chemical Industries Australia Limited, one of the companies interested in developing Redcliffs. Mr. Connor, however, is continuing on his merry course of thumbing his nose not only at Australia's mineral development generally but also at the economic well-being of States governed by his own Party. It is therefore with concern that I ask the Premier what communication Mr. Connor has had with the South Australian Government concerning his latest attempt to kill the Redcliffs project by threatening to establish a major competitor, and what course of action the Premier intends to take.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There has been no communication from the Commonwealth Government concerning the development of a petro-chemical complex in the North-West of Western Australia. In fact, I point out to the Leader that there has been a specific commitment by Mr. Connor and the Prime Minister to the development of a petro-chemical complex at Redcliffs.

Dr. Eastick: Binding?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, quite binding. I also point out to the Leader that the announcement by Mr. Connor that eventually there would be a complex in the North-West gave no specification as to time. It would be quite impossible to develop a complex there within the time that would be required to meet commitments to the Japanese market for ethylene dichloride, on which our complex depends. Consequently it may well be that there is absolutely no conflict whatever. On this score, I have it in the Commonwealth Minister's own handwriting that he is committed (and commits the Commonwealth Government) to the support of the development at Redcliffs.

**TAXI-CABS**

Mr. GROTH: Can the Minister of Transport say what percentage in the dollar is paid by Varney's Taxi Service Proprietary Limited to the drivers who operate in the Salisbury-Elizabeth area? Wide publicity has been given to this taxi service and the number of licences that have been issued. Constituents in Elizabeth and Salisbury are most incensed at the fact that, although 29 licences have been issued to the company, only 17 cabs are on the road. Many constituents have complained that efforts

should be made through the Metropolitan Taxi-Cab Board to withdraw the licences from the company and issue them to a company that will make use of all of them. The constituents believe that the main reason why the company has been operating so inefficiently is the low percentage payment in the dollar that is paid to drivers. I understand this payment is between 5c and 10c less than the sum paid by other taxi companies operating in the metropolitan area. Constituents are also upset about the name of this company. Members of the Varney family owned the company and operated cabs several years ago. At that time, this was a most efficient company that did everything it could to reduce to a minimum the delay in taxis being provided to the public. Some years ago, the company was sold to St. James Taxi Service Proprietary Limited, which now operates the company. When the St. James company bought the cabs, it also bought the name of the Varney company. My constituents and people in the Elizabeth area believe that the St. James company is hiding under the name of the Varney company.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This taxi operation has been the subject of fairly careful scrutiny by the Taxi-Cab Board. I am pleased to be able to tell the honourable member that good sense has prevailed to the extent that the company has now lifted the percentage payable to drivers from 40 per cent to 45 per cent. The net result of this action by the company is that in the past fortnight an additional 19 drivers from that area have applied for and received licences issued by the Taxi-Cab Board. Therefore it appears that the action of the company in providing realistic remuneration to the drivers of the cabs has resulted in the full complement of taxis being on the road, to the benefit of the constituents of the members for Salisbury and Elizabeth, and I believe that some taxis would also operate in the area of the member for Playford. I am sure that the action of the board in investigating this matter has been in the interests of those people who desire taxis.

**FLUORIDATION**

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Minister of Works give me further information about progress made in fluoridating water supplies in the metropolitan area and in country areas of South Australia? Some years ago it was decided to introduce fluoride into the water supply in the metropolitan area, and this work has been progressing. I ask what is the position in the country, what applications have been made to have specific towns treated in this way, and whether the Government has any active programme in this regard.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: There is no programme as such, and I am not aware of any applications having been made to the Government for supplies in country areas to be fluoridated. The most recent communication that I can recall was a petition signed by about 7 500 people from Mount Gambier, objecting to fluoridation of the water supply there. So far as I know, the whole metropolitan area and those towns supplied by main from the Murray River (that is, from Mannum as well as from Murray Bridge) are receiving a fluoridated supply.

Mr. Coumbe: And Myponga?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am not certain. I was under the impression that the whole of the metropolitan system had been fluoridated. I will check to find out whether that is the case. When the Murray Bridge area is connected to the new Murray Bridge to Onkaparinga main, fluoride will be placed in the water in the area

serviced by that main, as mentioned recently. That will include the Kammantoo copper mine, and the Onkaparinga system also will be subject to fluoridation at that stage. However, that is some time away yet, and adequate notice will be given to people when that is about to take place. There are no immediate plans to fluoridate any other supplies in the State, as far as I know. However, I will have the whole matter checked for the honourable member and bring down a report for him.

#### LIBRARY HOURS

Mr. OLSON: Has the Minister of Education a reply to the question I asked recently about library hours at the library in Stanley Street, North Adelaide?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The matter of providing adequate a library service for part-time students at all sections of the Torrens College of Advanced Education, including the School of Art, is of concern to the college, and library hours have been extended whenever the need has been demonstrated. The library at the School of Art is open each week day until 5 p.m. and, as the honourable member has pointed out, until 7 o'clock on two nights each week, namely, Monday and Wednesday. The present hours are a small extension of those that pertained in 1972, and the librarian states that until now the use made of these two evenings by the students has not been great. Monday and Wednesday were selected as the two days when the library would be open at night, since these were the days of maximum evening lecture activity. The college does not consider it necessary at present further to extend the opening of the library at Stanley Street but, should the need arise, the possibility of having it open for a longer period would be investigated. The matter of library hours will be re-examined during 1974.

#### HILLS RESERVE

Mr. EVANS: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation say what plans are in hand for the 700 hectares reserve that lies between Cherry Gardens, Dorset Vale, and Bradbury? For some time the Government has been acquiring land in this area comprising about 1 600 acres (700 ha), and it was stated originally that this area would be a recreation reserve. Have plans been formulated to include ovals, tennis courts and other recreation facilities, or will the land be left in its natural state, especially as much of it is natural scrub?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: A management plan of the area has not yet been prepared. It is our intention to proceed as quickly as we can to prepare management plans for all the areas such as this where it has been decided that management plans should be implemented. I cannot say which priority this reserve has been given. However, as some of the areas have been cleared, such areas would naturally be those that are suitable for the establishment of ovals and other recreation facilities. As the honourable member has pointed out, a significant part of the area is still in its natural state, and we will try to ensure that this area remains in that state as the park zoned for conservation. I will see whether I can get further information about any likely time table and when a management plan will be provided. We intend, once a management plan is prepared, that all our park plans in entirety shall be placed on public exhibition in order to give people the opportunity to say whether or not we have taken into account all the factors involved in the preparation of the management plans.

#### SURREY DOWNS SCHOOL

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Education a reply to a question I asked on September 19 concerning Surrey Downs Primary School?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: For a number of reasons the availability of the new four-teacher open-space unit for occupation was delayed. However, the building was finally occupied on October 2.

#### ABORIGINES

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General examine statements which were made by Mr. Charles Perkins, described as an Aboriginal rights leader, and which have been reported in the *News* of October 16? According to that press report, he has said that the adoption and fostering of Aboriginal children by white people should be stopped, and a statement by the Minister may help reassure foster and adopting parents of Aboriginal children in our community. Much concern and distress has been caused among foster parents and people who have adopted Aboriginal children by the statements attributed to Mr. Perkins recently on television. I refer to part of the report, as follows:

He had seen cases where Aboriginal children had been "damaged beyond repair psychologically".

Further, Mr. Perkins is reported as saying that Aboriginal children needing adoption should go to Aboriginal families. The report continues:

Mr. Perkins said Aboriginal affairs should be run by Aborigines and not by white people.

There are many people in the community who would not argue with that statement.

The Hon. L. J. KING: The policy that has been followed in the department since I have been the Minister is that, wherever children have a strong Aboriginal identity, they are available only to Aboriginal adopting parents. Of course, the position is not always as simple as it may appear from the statement attributed to Mr. Perkins, because many children, although they may be described as Aboriginal children, are in fact part-Aboriginal only. Often their background, appearance and general associations tend to be part of the general community, and there is no difficulty in having those children adopted by white parents. Where the children have a strong Aboriginal identity, the department's view, which I support, is that it is far better that they be adopted by Aboriginal parents. It is much easier for them to identify with a family of their own race, and so we avoid many of the problems that have been experienced in cases where Aboriginal children have been adopted by white parents. This situation applies also, but to a lesser extent, in a fostering situation. Much depends on whether the fostering is likely to be for a long term or a short term, but I agree generally with the observation of Mr. Perkins on the subject, as it accords with the practice that has existed in South Australia for some time.

#### INSECTICIDES

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my recent question about third generation insecticides?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague discussed this matter with the Director of Agriculture, who has now supplied a report. As it is lengthy and contains technical details, I seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

## THIRD GENERATION INSECTICIDES

The honourable member asked whether the Government would take every action possible to examine and encourage the use of third generation insecticides in South Australia, such materials being insect pheromones, insect hormones, and insect pathogens. The Agriculture Department does not have staff or equipment for carrying out original research in these fields, because this requires the specialized services of insect physiologists, insect biochemists, chemists, and insect pathologists. However, the department has given close attention to the application of developments, especially by overseas Agriculture Departments, overseas industries and, recently, by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and some Australian universities.

At this early stage in the development of third generation insecticides, this is considered satisfactory, but as these insecticides, especially the insect pheromones, reach a higher degree of specificity, more basic research into purely local problems may be needed. The application of insect pheromones to South Australian problems was first carried out in the fruit fly eradication programme, where lure traps have been used on a quarter-of-a-mile grid pattern throughout the Adelaide metropolitan area to catch adult flies, primarily for indicating the location of an infestation, but also probably serving as a useful mechanism for catching and destroying very sparse fruit fly populations. More recently the use of two types of lure pots, incorporating a male sex attractant of the oriental fruit moth and codlin moth respectively, have been developed and introduced into Australia by Imperial Chemical Industries, Australia. The use of these traps as pest indicators in orchards is being investigated by the Agriculture Department. The traps do not in themselves control the pests, but they provide information on pest activity which indicates when conventional insecticides need to be applied. By limiting applications to times when needed rather than spraying on a routine, a significant saving in insecticide use is expected.

The bacterial insecticide Thuricide has been imported into Australia, again by I.C.I., since 1965, but it has not proven to be very effective, primarily because of its all too rapid breakdown in the field. Like many of these materials when just developed, formulation for field use is required, and presents many technical difficulties. Similarly, the insect virus preparation Viron H has presented formulation difficulties, and is now being tested against heliothis species in Northern Australia but with variable results. Evaluation tests on heliothis in field peas and lucerne in South Australia will be undertaken in the near future. Insect hormone preparations are in an even earlier stage of development, and are not being tested in any South Australian field situation. The use of some of the juvenile hormone mimics are being investigated by the grain storage entomologist of the Victorian Agriculture Department but already overseas laboratory studies have shown that insects may develop resistance mechanisms to their own messenger substances, so these materials must not be considered to be the answer to all problems. The broad spectrum activity of insect hormones is countered by their limited persistence in the field, while the more specific pheromones require vastly larger sums to develop, because they must be tailor made for almost each pest.

## IRRIGATION PUMPS

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister of Works say whether it is expected that the Murray River will rise to such an extent that difficulties may be experienced with irrigation pumps in the lower reaches of the river? I noticed in an article in the *News* yesterday that concern had been expressed in Renmark and Barmera about the river level, and I have received inquiries from several constituents in the Purnong and Bowhill area about this matter. I shall be pleased to receive any information about the river height at these points.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The present forecast is no different from that made about three or four weeks ago in the House: it is not expected that the level of the river will be higher than it was in 1964. In fact, the position will be no worse. Yesterday, Mr. Ligertwood, the engineer in the Engineering and Water Supply Depart-

ment responsible for obtaining the information sought by the honourable member, told the press that, in effect, that would be the situation. However, he was due to receive information either today or tomorrow from the River Murray Commission, which collates the reports it receives from towns along the river. As the honourable member is aware, any movement of the river upstream can have an effect lower down. I will seek from Mr. Ligertwood those details, and on Tuesday I will give the honourable member the latest information as to whether there is any change.

## ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Mr. McANANEY: Has the Minister of Transport a reply to the question I asked recently about the possibility of including stock hurdles in the tare weight of trucks?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This question relates to road maintenance tax. In a small check of tare weights made recently by inspectors of the Highways Department, who are appointed as inspectors of motor vehicles under the Motor Vehicles Act, many cases were found where the actual unloaded weight registered on the weighbridge was far above that shown on the vehicle and registration certificate. In some instances it was found, for example, that the weight of stock crates, tanks and additional axles was not included in the registered tare weight. This fact was reported to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, who on advice from the Crown Solicitor ruled "that stock crates, tanks, etc. are part of the weight of a vehicle if they are permanently fixed to the vehicle or regularly and frequently used on it. There should be no difference between those which are permanently fixed and those which can be easily removed but permanently used".

Registration fees are based on horse-power plus weight (tare) in hundredweight, and road maintenance contribution charges on the tare weight plus 40 per cent of the load capacity. Whenever the tare weight is understated, therefore, this could amount to evasion of both registration and road maintenance contributions. In view of this, the Highways Department is now carrying out a much wider check of motor vehicles to ascertain the extent of such evasion and the range of vehicles on which it is taking place. As section 44 of the Motor Vehicles Act is being breached, prosecution will be made in all cases discovered.

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister obtain a satisfactory reply to my question? I asked about road maintenance tax and the inclusion of stock hurdles in the weight of trucks, and I find the reply somewhat evasive, bureaucratic, and possibly insulting. Previously, I have pointed out that most of these trucks are often used without the hurdles on them and that the truck drivers will be paying an excessive sum if this weight is taken into account compared to the sum that would be paid if the hurdles were not on the truck. I wanted to find out whether a person who used the stock hurdles for, say, 10 per cent of the time would have to include the hurdles in the weight. If he had to do that, the Government would be filching money from the drivers of these trucks.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must not comment.

Mr. McANANEY: I did not know I was commenting. I want to find out just what is the position of those people who have stock hurdles on their trucks for only a part of the time, because I would not like the Government to be over-charging people.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I think that perhaps the problem the honourable member has when he accuses me of giving a bureaucratic and evasive reply stems from the fact that his question was far from specific, and that I

tried to give him a reply to the question that it seemed that he was asking. On many occasions the honourable member, in common with many of his colleagues, may not get the reply that he wants, but he can get only the reply that is pertinent to the question he asks.

Mr. McAnaney: I didn't—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: If the honourable member does not find the reply to his liking, that is unfortunate, and I am afraid that I cannot even be sorry for him about that. The position in relation to this matter is that the honourable member fears that the Government may be getting something that it is not entitled to get.

Mr. McAnaney: That's right.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am pleased that the honourable member agrees with that.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is out of order.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: He is completely out of order, Mr. Speaker. I think that, if the honourable member looks carefully at the reply I have given him, he will see a clear indication there that it is a case not of the Government getting something that it should not be getting but of the road users evading paying something they are required to pay. In the last paragraph of the reply, I stated:

In view of this, the Highways Department is now carrying out a much wider check of motor vehicles to ascertain the extent of such evasion . . .

The evasion clearly has been established by the honourable member's question. Willy and his mates will have to pay what they are required to pay in terms of the Act.

Mr. McAnaney: Why don't you try answering the question, instead of that?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister explain his reply in more detail? Some confusion has been caused by the Minister's reply, and I ask him to spell out the details. We want to know what is the position of the carrier who has the stock hurdles on his vehicle for a much longer time than has a primary producer who may put his hurdles on the truck once a fortnight or once a month and who, on arriving home, takes them off. Also, what is the position of a farmer who carts grain to the silo and then puts on a bulk bin, or who carts bulk super from Wallaroo or Port Adelaide?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I concluded my reply to the question asked by the member for Heysen by saying that the Highways Department was carrying out a much wider check on vehicles in order to ascertain the extent of such evasion and the range of vehicles on which such evasion was taking place. I am indebted to the member for Rocky River, because it seems that, in addition to other instances of apparent evasion, the honourable member has now cited further details of evasion, and I will ask the collector of road charges to consider them in order to determine the extent of the evasion of the tax to which the honourable member has referred. It is not my function to provide legal interpretations of the Acts of this Parliament. If the member for Rocky River requires legal interpretation, then he is completely free to consult one of the many legal practitioners who could provide him with that information. He may even care to consult his former colleague, the member for Mitcham, who may be able to give him the legal interpretation of the requirements of the Motor Vehicles Act. The Highways Department is required to give effect to

the legislation as enacted by this Parliament; it is doing so, but the member for Heysen has referred to some instances where, apparently, for reasons beyond the control of the department, evasion has taken place. The member for Rocky River has now referred to further evasions. I can assure him we will give attention to those, too.

Mr. McAnaney: Why don't you give a straight answer?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: That is a straight answer.

The SPEAKER: Order! All honourable members know the requirements regarding Question Time and they will be strictly adhered to. This will apply to all honourable members.

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister say how the owner of a commercial vehicle who has no intention of evading his responsibilities to the Motor Vehicles Department assesses, when making his return to the department, just what is the tare weight of his vehicle, when he has a number of variables which, according to the reply already given by the Minister, would affect that tare? I believe the subject so far raised may have missed the point, which is that many trucks are sold as general purpose vehicles and used as such, so this question affects many people in the community. As general purpose trucks, they are subjected to the addition of various equipment to help facilitate the carriage of goods, some of that equipment being non-permanent. Tipping machinery, which is of a permanent nature, does not come within the ambit of this question, because I do not think anyone recognizes tipping equipment as being anything but permanent. Non-permanent equipment placed periodically on trucks includes stock hurdles and bulk bins. In the instances which I could cite to the Minister if I had further time, I could show that this non-permanent equipment is attached to the truck for only about one-tenth or one-twentieth of the time it is used.

Mr. Venning: And less.

Mr. HALL: No, let us say one-twentieth. How does the owner inform the department of the effective and lawful tare, when for nineteen-twentieths of his commercial activity he may travel the roads and be weighed by department inspectors at a certain minimal figure but for one-twentieth of the time he may add the equipment that comes within the definition given by the Minister and have a higher tare by perhaps 15cwt. (762 kg). With the best intentions in the world and without trying to evade the responsibilities, how does the owner supply a proper and sufficiently accurate tare to the department?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The first point, perhaps, that I should make is that we are talking, I think, of the road maintenance charge. I think that is the question to which the honourable member was referring.

Mr. Hall: It affects quite a few things.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: That is administered not by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles but the collector of road charges, an officer of the Highways Department. If the honourable member had either read the written reply given to the member for Heysen or waited until the galley proof was available, he would have been able to read carefully the reply I gave, which I repeat for the honourable member's benefit. In part, it states:

...the Crown Solicitor ruled "that stock crates, tanks, etc. are part of the weight of a vehicle if they are permanently fixed to the vehicle or regularly and frequently used on it. There should be no difference between those which are permanently fixed and those which can be easily removed but permanently used."

They are the criteria on which this reply is given and which the collector of roads charges will use in determining the road maintenance charge that is properly payable,

in accordance with the Statutes of this Parliament, by those engaged in the road transport industry. It is not for me to start giving interpretations of the Crown Solicitor's legal opinion. If the member for Goyder wishes to challenge, dispute or question that, I suggest that he do so either through his colleague or through some other more reputable lawyer.

Mr. McANANEY: Will the Minister consider amending the legislation so that the tare weight is the weight of the vehicle at the time of use, and road maintenance charges are levied accordingly? I cannot see any reason why a tare weight should not be issued for a vehicle with stock hurdles and appendages on it. Another tare weight should apply when the vehicle is used in its normal state. My suggestion is practicable and would overcome any injustices in connection with what could possibly happen under the present legislation. If a driver was questioned on the odd occasion when his vehicle had stock hurdles and appendages on it, it would be hard to prove that his vehicle usually did not have stock hurdles and appendages on it.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As I understand the honourable member's question, it would probably mean that a vehicle would have a number of tare weights, depending on the circumstances of the journey, to be used for the calculation of road maintenance tax. This, of course, would be completely impracticable, and the honourable member knows it as well as I do. What he and his colleagues—

Mr. McANANEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is commenting: he is telling me what I have asked.

The SPEAKER: Order! As I heard it, the question that the honourable member for Heysen asked the Minister was whether the Minister would consider an amendment to an existing Act. I hope the Minister is replying to that question. The honourable Minister.

Mr. McANANEY: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is commenting and saying what I thought. He would not be up to that standard.

The SPEAKER: If the honourable member is raising the question of standards, that will be open to comment. I cannot uphold the point of order. The honourable Minister.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I appreciate the honourable member's dilemma. He is apparently overlooking another part of my reply, which is in accordance with the terms of the Act, that in determining road maintenance charges only 40 per cent of the load capacity is taken into account. This means that there is adequate provision for the unknowns and intangibles to which the honourable member refers. However, having said all that, to help the honourable member I shall be only too delighted to have a look at his question.

#### FARM MACHINERY

Mr. ALLEN: Has the Minister of Works a reply from the Minister of Agriculture to my question regarding the possible shortage of farm machinery parts during the forthcoming harvest?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Minister of Agriculture states that a survey of farm machinery manufacturers and agents indicates some shortages of spare parts. The shortages vary between manufacturers both as to parts and degree. The firms involved are, of course, making every effort to meet orders for their products for the coming harvest. The excellent season, together with shortages of labour and steel, has undoubtedly contributed to the inability of suppliers to meet in full all demands for their products.

#### KANGAROO ISLAND LAND

Mr. CHAPMAN: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my question of September 19 regarding the possible Government acquisition of section 37, hundred of Ritchie, Kangaroo Island?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: No action is being taken to purchase section 37, hundred of Ritchie, from M. G. and D. I. Flavel. The owners were informed of this decision on September 19, 1973.

#### MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

Mr. GUNN: In view of the importance of road safety to the people of this State, I now ask the Minister of Transport to give me a reply to my recent question regarding safety panels and roll bars in vehicles.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am always willing to give the member for Eyre an answer so long as he is willing to listen. The matter of the provision of safety panels and roll bars in vehicles marketed or manufactured in Australia was discussed at the most recent meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council, which was held in July of this year. The Advisory Committee on Safety in Vehicle Design, which is a sub-committee of A.T.A.C., has the question of roll-over strength of motor vehicles listed for consideration by July, 1974. It is possible that the recommendations of the committee could be implemented by January, 1977.

#### GRASSHOPPERS

Mr. BLACKER: Has the Minister of Works received from the Minister of Agriculture a reply to the question I asked on September 25 about the threat of a grasshopper plague on Eyre Peninsula and in the North of the State?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As I informed the honourable member on September 25, the Minister of Agriculture has assured me that he is aware of the threat of grasshoppers and that the Agriculture Department is helping farmers and councils in their efforts to combat the menace. Supplies of insecticide are being made available to landowners at half cost price to enable them to spray grasshoppers and locusts on their properties on a scale not only for their own protection but also to provide protection for others. Although there is an acute world-wide shortage of many insecticides, including lindane, supplies for locust control have been obtained and supplied to Eyre Peninsula councils. On the basis of Agriculture Department surveys, council and landowner estimates, and previous control operation experience, especially during the past four years, supplies should be adequate to achieve control. Similarly, estimates of requirements for plague grasshopper control in the Northern agricultural areas were made during the winter, and supplies of insecticide either have been obtained or are on order with delivery imminent. Ultra-low volume misters which are required for grasshopper control have been dispatched to the areas where they will be first needed, namely, two units to Orroroo and one each to Hawker and Peterborough. A further three units are to be delivered, one each to Jamestown, Wilmington and Carrieton, as soon as they are received, which is expected to be soon. A further four units are on order and, while the Government intends to continue to obtain insecticide and spray equipment, seasonal conditions in the grasshopper areas have been so favourable that the need for control operations will be reduced to crop protection only. Grasshopper feeding will not create stock feed shortages under such favourable conditions.

**BOY SCOUTS**

Mr. VENNING: Will the Premier say whether an approach has been made to him by the Boy Scouts Association for financial assistance this year? Over the past two or three years, the Government has allocated \$2 500 a year to the Boy Scouts Association, and a similar provision is on the Estimates again this year. As the International Scout Jamboree is to be staged in South Australia at the end of this year, I should like to know whether the Government has been asked for additional assistance.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Although I received a request from the Boy Scouts Association for assistance towards the jamboree, I do not remember exactly what was finally decided, because it is not on my lines in the Estimates. However, I will inquire for the honourable member and let him know.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Premier further information regarding local government matters discussed at the recent Premiers' Conference, following the reply he gave me yesterday on this subject? Yesterday, the Premier indicated that the conference ended without coming to a decision (that is my understanding) and that no Premier, with perhaps a couple of exceptions, had accepted the proposals advanced by the Commonwealth Government. They were certainly not acceptable to South Australia, anyway. It is readily accepted that one of the main aims of local government in this State is to obtain a further source of revenue, apart from the rates and taxes normally levied. Therefore, I ask the Premier whether there are plans for a further Premiers' Conference on this subject. Indeed, in view of the importance of this matter, will the Premier himself try to initiate a further conference to solve this problem?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Premiers' Conference discussed the possibility of additional sources of revenue. The Prime Minister himself considered that it should be possible, on the passing of a referendum, for the devolution of some presently exclusive Commonwealth powers, for instance, to allow local government to levy a local receipts tax in addition to any receipts tax the States may levy.

Mr. Coumbe: That would be popular!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is an area of revenue that is available to local government in certain other countries. In fact, as has been pointed out by Professor Galbraith, it is not nearly as regressive as most people originally assumed it was from a superficial look at the matter. However, no resolution on that matter was achieved at the conference. The Prime Minister simply said that, the unanimous agreement that would be required under the Financial Agreement not having been achieved, he intended to put this matter to the Commonwealth Parliament for inclusion in the referendum next year. That is as far as the matter has gone. I received no indication from other Premiers that it was likely that we could get general agreement on additional sources of revenue, especially as the structure of local government as between the States is so markedly different.

**CASINO**

Mr. HALL: Has the member for Gouger received a telegram from the Wallaroo corporation indicating the corporation's support for a casino in South Australia and, if he has, what is he going to do about it?

The SPEAKER: Order! As the question is directed to the member for Gouger, the honourable member is not obliged to answer it, and it would appear that it is not a matter of State importance. The honourable member for Gouger.

Mr. RUSSACK: I have received no telegram.

**ROAD RECONSTRUCTION**

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Transport a reply to the question I asked on October 9 about the reconstruction and widening of a section of Wright Road, Modbury?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The section of Wright Road between Kelly Road and the city of Tea Tree Gully boundary comes under the jurisdiction of that council. The Highways Department has not been approached for assistance by way of a grant towards reconstructing and widening this section of Wright Road.

**LAND SUBDIVISION**

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Premier say whether the Government will consider instituting a supplementary rezoning plan to change the use of land currently zoned as rural A, which normally would not be released for subdivision before 1981? At a dinner last Thursday evening which was attended by the Minister of Labour and Industry, the guest speaker (Mr. A. M. Ramsay, of the Housing Trust) indicated that in the foreseeable future there would be a population of 250 000 people in the Noarlunga area. Inquiries would suggest that the areas of land currently available for subdivisional purposes would not sustain such a population and that, unless there is a release fairly urgently of this land (which as I say is at present classed as rural A) so that action can be commenced before 1981, either the development of the Noarlunga area will suffer or it will be necessary to direct this population to some other area. Although it may be conjecture, it may well have been decided that this population should be directed towards Monarto. However, I seek specific information from the Premier on whether rezoning has been considered.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Consideration is currently being given to the matter.

**GLENELG TRAMS**

Mr. MATHWIN: The Minister of Transport has indicated that he has a reply to a question I asked recently about the possibility of having letter boxes installed on Glenelg trams for the use and benefit of people who wish to use a postal service with a direct service to the Adelaide General Post Office. Will he give that reply?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As permanent postal facilities are available at the post offices situated near both terminals of the Glenelg tram service and at numerous pillar boxes and post offices adjacent to the tram line, there does not appear to be any need to provide letter boxes on trams. Moreover, for most of the route the trams are operated on an enclosed right of way more in the nature of an electric train service, and in many instances they pass non-stop through the loading platforms.

Mr. Mathwin: I don't think—

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: They do pass non-stop through many of the stopping places that are optional stopping places. If the honourable member rode on the tram occasionally, he would know that. In the circumstances I have referred to, there could be a safety hazard in the case of people attempting to mail letters on a non-stop tram, and the Municipal Tramways Trust would therefore not favour the introduction of such a scheme.

**QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General ask the Minister of Health to investigate reports that the private section of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital is to be closed next year and, if this is not so, reassure members of the public who are seeking to book into the hospital? I have had two reports now from independent sources that the private maternity section of the hospital is to be closed. I thought that perhaps the first report had been exaggerated but, when I had the second report, I thought that perhaps some story was circulating in the community. If there is such a story circulating and it is not true, I believe the matter should be settled.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will obtain a report from my colleague.

**STUDENT TEACHERS**

Mr. RUSSACK: Can the Minister of Education say what percentage of diplomate students from colleges of advanced education enter the teaching profession, and what percentage of diplomate students bonded with the Education Department enter the teaching profession and remain until the termination of the bond?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I cannot give an exact reply off the cuff. Between 1 050 and 1 100 ex-students from colleges of advanced education will be in the schools next year, but not all of them will have completed their diploma. I will obtain for the honourable member the precise percentage of those who leave college in any one year with a diploma, as I presume that information would answer his question. Some of the student teachers who leave college without having completed the diploma complete it subsequently. The second part of the honourable member's question concerns the number of student teachers who are employed under bond and who serve out the full term of their bond without breaching the bond. He would appreciate that, if a female teacher resigns because of pregnancy or to care for a child, even though she is under bond, that is not a breach of the bond, the remaining bond liability being waived. It was not clear from the honourable member's question whether he wished to know the number of breaches of the bond agreement and what percentage that represented, or whether he wanted to know how many bonded teachers who, for one reason or another (legitimate or illegitimate), did not serve out their full bond.

Mr. Russack: The latter.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will get that information.

**SMALL BUSINESSES**

Mr. VENNING: Some time ago, I asked the Premier whether he would consider examining the possibility of making available buying services for small country businesses so that they could sell goods at prices comparable with those charged by large businesses. In reply, the Premier said he would look into the situation. At present, small country businesses are spending as much to purchase goods as the large stores charge in selling them. Consequently, if these small country businesses are to survive, they must mark up their prices. Has the Premier examined the possibility of providing a buying service so that the small country businesses can purchase goods at a price that will enable them to compete with supermarkets in the larger towns?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As I do not have a report to hand, I will inquire about the matter. I regret that I have not given the information to the honourable member previously; I will try to get him a reply as soon as possible.

**SHAREHOLDINGS**

Mr. HALL: Can the Premier say when he will reply to the question I asked long ago (on August 14) about shareholdings of members of Parliament? On that occasion, my question was as follows:

Can the Premier say whether the Government intends to implement the policy adopted at the Commonwealth Conference of the Australian Labor Party at Surfers Paradise earlier this year regarding members of Parliament and Ministers of the Crown making public all shareholdings, directorships and shares held in trust on their behalf in public and private companies?

This is one of several questions to which Ministers have neglected to reply or in relation to which they have given no notice of a reply. I wonder whether in the space of well over two months the Premier has obtained a reply to my question.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am sorry, but I do not seem to have it on the list of questions asked by the honourable member. I will see what has happened to it.

**SALES TAX**

Mr. WARDLE: Has the Attorney-General a reply to my recent question about a sales tax on commodities used in the processed poultry industry?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Inquiries made by poultry husbandry officers indicate that sales tax on unscented liquid toilet soap and paper hand towels used in the poultry processing industry does not constitute a significant item of cost. Total annual usage of paper hand towels in the South Australian poultry processing industry is just in excess of 500 cartons and that of liquid soap slightly in excess of 1 000gall. (4 546 /). The cost of the paper towels would amount to about \$6 000, plus sales tax, and that of liquid industrial soap \$1 300, plus sales tax. The rate of sales tax applying currently to these items is the general rate of 15 per cent. This represents a total sales tax on these items of about \$1 100. Spread over about 11 000 000 birds processed in South Australia in 1972-73, this is a cost item of about .01c a bird.

**ST. BERNARD ROAD**

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Has the Minister of Transport a reply to the question I asked on October 4 about a crossing on St. Bernard Road?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Highways Department states that, following investigations, plans are being prepared for a push-button pedestrian crossing on St. Bernard Road near Arthur Street. Once the plans are agreed to with the Corporation of the City of Campbelltown, the department will collaborate with the council on the installation of the crossing. It is expected that the installation date will be mid-1974.

**PRIMARY PRODUCER LEVIES**

Mr. BLACKER: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture how much primary producers contribute through research levies and cattle and swine levies to the establishment of various experimental facilities at Northfield?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes.

**VESSEL SAFETY**

Mr. CHAPMAN: Has the Minister of Marine a reply to the question I asked recently about the safety of sea-going vessels?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member's suggestion has been noted with interest, but with the very limited working space on the deck of the average fishing vessel it would be difficult to find a place for the

proposed marker buoy, wire mooring and sinker. In any case, the buoy would not achieve anything beyond indicating a position at which the parent vessel may have sunk and its discovery would not warrant calling off any search, as the buoy could have been washed overboard by accident and the vessel could be still afloat miles away. Regarding the gas balloon, the same remarks would apply; that is to say, apart from the physical difficulties of carriage and storage it could never be assumed that the discovery of the balloon meant that the vessel had foundered and all search and rescue operations could be called off. In certain circumstances it might possibly lead rescuers more quickly to the scene of a capsized or foundering, with the chance of saving life if someone was clinging to some wreckage, but it would be difficult to make a judgment in the matter. One would have to weigh the disadvantages of buying and maintaining this rather expensive gear and legislating for its carriage on nearly 2 000 fishing vessels against the rather remote possibility that it might save lives in certain rather remote circumstances, apart from the fact that the efficient functioning of a self-inflating balloon in emergent circumstances is by no means certain.

#### NATURAL GAS

Mr. GUNN: In the absence of the Minister of Development and Mines, will the Premier say what plans his Government has to encourage motorists in this State to use natural gas in their motor vehicles, in view of possible petrol shortages as a result of the serious situation developing in the Middle East, as well as the energy crisis and the large quantity of gas which is available in the Cooper Basin and which would be available to motorists in the event of a shortage of petrol?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The use of liquid petroleum gas in South Australia is being considered at present. I point out to the honourable member that the Simpson-Pope company and the South Australian Gas Company use liquid petroleum gas in their motor cars now.

Mr. Gunn: Portagas?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. The Highways Department, too, is using liquid petroleum gas. We are considering using it to conserve Australian fuel and, more importantly, to use a non-polluting fuel.

#### COAST PROTECTION BOARD

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Environment and Conservation a reply to my question about the number of persons on the staff of the Coast Protection Board, whether they are permanent employees, and how many part-time officers the board employs?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: Four officers are employed at the Coast Protection Board, three of whom are permanent and one temporary. Applications have been called for two additional positions that are expected to be filled soon.

#### HILTON PROPERTY

Dr. EASTICK: Has the Minister of Transport a reply to the question I asked on September 26 regarding a property at Hilton?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The department has acquired a number of properties on the northern side of Burbridge Road (formerly Rowland Road), including two opposite Theatre 62. Both properties are affected by road-widening proposals as contained in the metropolitan road-widening scheme. One of the properties is leased on a weekly tenancy and the other on a three-year tenancy. Until

final design plans are prepared for road widening, it is not possible to determine what effect this will have on existing structures and, consequently, an indication of possible use of the property cannot be given at this stage.

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister say whether it is normal practice to acquire the whole of a property when the only claim against it is for metropolitan road-widening proposals, and, if it is normal, what other properties near those opposite Theatre 62 have been so acquired? In his earlier reply, the Minister indicated that a road-widening proposal was being considered in connection with the acquisition of the properties. He said that the department had acquired a number of properties on the northern side of Burbridge Road (formerly Rowland Road), including two opposite Theatre 62. Those properties, which are close to the two properties under consideration at present, where an area has been acquired, have had their front fences set back between 7ft. (2.13 m) and 10ft. (3.05 m). In other words, where land has been acquired for road-widening purposes on our main arterial roads, the only acquisition has been of an area sufficient to undertake the road widening. I wish to know what other properties in the immediate area have been acquired, in total.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The normal procedure, where conditions are suitable, is for the Highways Department merely to acquire the amount of real estate needed. Where it is possible to acquire a width of 7ft. (or whatever the width is) without affecting the general condition of the remainder of the property, this is done. Where there is, however, an adverse effect on the whole of the property and where the owner of the property is able to provide the Highways Department with information that justifies acquiring the whole property, this is done. In other words, what we attempt to do, in acquiring a property that we need for a certain project, is meet the desires of the owner to the extent that this is possible within the terms of the Highways Act.

#### TORRENS ROAD

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Minister of Transport a reply to the question I asked regarding Torrens Road and the Ovingham over-pass?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Subject to the availability of finance and the completion of all preconstruction activities connected with this project, including the repositioning of public utility services, the Ovingham over-pass project will be commenced in 1976 and completed some two years later.

#### T.A.B. CALCULATIONS

Mr. BECKER: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked on September 11, 1973, about Totalizator Agency Board calculations?

The Hon. L. I. KING: In regard to the daily double dividends on the Cheltenham race meeting held on Saturday, September 8, 1973, the gross off-course T.A.B. investment pool was \$25 898.50. A further \$2 019.50 was invested on-course, making a combined pool of \$27 918.00. In accordance with board rule 10A, the combined net investment pool of \$23 730.30 was proportioned for dividend calculation in the following manner: 70 per cent of the pool (\$16 611.21) for first and first; 30 per cent of the pool (\$7 119.09) for first and second.

Of the 91 successful investments on the first and first combination of (5) Bragan and (8) Tiscasco, there were 86 units invested off-course and five units invested on-course. The resultant dividend calculation for this combination was \$182.50. Winning off-course investments on the first and first combination were made at 53 different agencies. The break down was: 34 agencies had one unit invested, eight

agencies had two units invested, nine agencies had three units invested, one agency had four units invested, and one agency had five units invested.

The successful combination was supported through a complete cross-section of T.A.B. agencies, and it is a matter of conjecture as to why such support occurred for the two horses in question. Some off-course doubles investors follow jockeys and set numbers and this influences dividends. In this case, the two jockeys concerned (J. Mettam and K. Roche) are popular with off-course patrons and probably attracted some support.

Although the winners started at the odds available on-course of 20/1 and 200/1, the latest market odds listed in the Friday, September 7, edition of the *News* quoted these runners at 10/1 and 33/1 respectively. With the bulk of investments made through T.A.B. agencies, these market guides are used by off-course investors and also influence the pattern of betting. The all-up calculation at these pre-market odds, would have yielded \$181 for a 50c investment.

#### ELIZABETH MEDICAL SERVICES

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General a reply to the question I asked recently on Elizabeth medical services?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The Minister of Health states:

There are no plans to establish a third medical school in South Australia. The Committee on Medical Schools under the Chairmanship of Professor P. H. Karmel, reporting to the Australian Universities Commission, did not recommend a third medical school. This committee's recommendations with regard to South Australia provided:

- (a) The University of Adelaide should increase its second year enrolment to 150 in 1979.
- (b) The Flinders University of South Australia should progressively increase enrolments in second year to 80 by the mid 1980's.

The report shows that the doctor population ratio for South Australia as at June, 1971, is slightly better than the Australian average, which in turn is most favourable when compared to countries of similar social and economic structure. The Bright committee report confirms this favourable ratio with regard to South Australia, but the report continues: "There are areas, however, which show a mal-distribution of general practitioners." One of these areas is the Para subdivision, which includes Elizabeth.

It is apparent from these two recent and most informative reports that the problem with regard to South Australia is not the number of general practitioners available in the community, but the uneven distribution of them between areas of need. This is a matter of which the Government is aware and for which provision has been made over a number of years by the allocation of cadetships to selected needy medical students who are required in return to practice in designated areas of the State which are in need of general practitioner services.

#### POLICEMAN'S SHELTER

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my recent question (and the Minister's own question in a previous session) concerning a shelter for the policeman at the front of Parliament House?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have ascertained from inquiries made that the Police Department and, more importantly perhaps, the officers required to work "out front" of Parliament House do not desire the construction of a means of shelter. In fact, opposition has been raised in respect of a sentry box. It was felt that such a structure would contribute to the discomfort of officers. Because of these opinions and because suitable alterations (that is, to come through the bottom of the stairs) are estimated to cost \$5 500, it would seem that there is no justification for pursuing the matter.

#### COOPER BASIN

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Can the Premier say, in view of the marked reduction in oil and gas exploration in South Australia, what action the Government will take to stimulate further exploration by private enterprise in the Cooper Basin? A recent report indicates that the big companies have given four reasons for the marked reduction in oil and gas exploration in South Australia. I believe there has been a 60 per cent reduction this year. The four reasons given are as follows: (1) abolition of the petroleum research subsidy from June next year; (2) abolition earlier this year of taxation concessions on funds invested in mineral and petroleum research companies; (3) the embargo on oversea farm-ins; (4) the fear, shared by all industry, of nationalization.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member cannot comment.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Mr. Speaker, I am reading from the report.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The report further states that one company executive blamed the industry's present troubles on Socialist dogmatic and chauvinistic nationalism—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is commenting.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: It is clear from this report that the industry is upset and very much concerned about the reduction in oil and gas exploration in the Cooper Basin.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: From my knowledge of the industry, it relies little on the absurd pejorative statements of the kind the honourable member has just read to the House. In so far as the Government is concerned in exploration on the Cooper Basin, the Electricity Trust has offered to make pre-payments of contract amounts to the producers in order to give them finance for further exploration on the field. That matter is being negotiated with the producers at present.

#### DERNANCOURT INTERSECTION

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Transport a reply to my question of October 4 about improving the intersection of Lower North-East Road and Balmoral Road, Dernancourt?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The proposed interim measures for improvement of the intersection of Balmoral Road and Lower North-East Road were not proceeded with because of some doubt as to their effectiveness with respect to gradients and relative alignments. Improvements to this intersection will be commenced early in 1974, and the work will be a first and major step of the ultimate reconstruction of the main road.

#### CHAIN OF PONDS

Mr. BECKER: Has the Minister of Works a reply to my question of September 25 as to whether the Government has changed its policy on the acquisition of property at Chain of Ponds?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Government's policy on acquisition of land in Chain of Ponds has not changed since my reply to a question from the member for Kavel on November 2, 1972, wherein I said that "for the purchase of property in the Chain of Ponds township, the policy is that properties shall be purchased as soon as possible with a lease-back arrangement with the owner, if he so desires, permitting the present owner to remain on the property under an agreed lease until 1980". Only two residential properties remain to be purchased in the township and these,

because of the circumstances involved, are receiving particular attention.

The local garage was purchased in early 1972 on the request of the proprietor who wished to re-establish elsewhere. The store was leased on a monthly tenancy and, subsequently, the post office was incorporated with it. The Postal Department intends to close the post office on December 21, 1973, because of diminishing business, and I believe the shopkeeper intends to cease business early in the new year for the same reason. It will not be possible to further lease it.

#### MONARTO LAND

Mr. WARDLE: What were the results of the Premier's discussions with the Valuer-General on the procedure concerning the valuation of land at Monarto? In reply to a question asked on September 20, the Premier stated:

. . . I am having discussions with the Valuer-General about the procedure for valuations in relation to Monarto and, if a decision is made by the Government to alter the Act, an amendment will be introduced. At this stage I cannot say whether that will be done.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member asked me a question concerning the renting back, to landholders within the designated site, of land at Monarto, and I have that reply.

Mr. Wardle: Thank you.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The State Planning Authority is at present purchasing land being offered for sale within, and adjacent to, the designated site of Monarto. During negotiations between the Land Board and the vendor, arrangements for lease-back at agreed rates are usually made. This practice is cheaper than calling tenders for the lease and does not leave the property vacant, thus avoiding damage by vandalism. Where the vendor is not interested in a lease-back arrangement, tenders are called to arrange for a suitable tenant. The Land Board has set out certain guide lines to assist the authority in deciding on suitable lease arrangements in the Monarto area. Some factors to be taken into account are (1) the authority should receive a reasonable return on investment; and (2) the rental should be fair from the lessee's point of view, so that he will not adopt management procedures detrimental to the land in order to make a profit from the lease. That is, a fair rental should be set, in relation to intended use, soil type, and state of development of the land.

#### ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE

Mr. EVANS: Will the Premier negotiate with the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust to improve catering services available to children at the festival theatre? Recently, a citizen from my district attended a rock concert at the theatre with a friend, both of them being under 14 years of age. They found a licensed bar into which they would not venture to buy a drink; there was a cafe and a dining room in which the costs were too high for them to buy a drink; and the only other source available was either the Adelaide railway station or a shop on the main street of Adelaide. To use the words of the citizen who approached me: "Dad, all that money and nowhere for us kids to get a drink. It stinks."

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member will be aware that the complex has not been completed. When it is completed there will be provision for a kiosk at which drinks will be available, and this will replace the old kiosk that has been demolished. It will allow ready access for people attending any function in the total complex, and it will be possible to have available to anyone who wants it the kind of facility the honourable member

seeks. In addition, in the new drama theatre there will be a restaurant at which will be available a low-cost meal service that will be different from that available in the main restaurant that has already been established. In the first stage of proceedings it has not been possible to provide all the facilities that will be available when the complex is completed. We should like to be able to provide a full range of facilities, but the architecture of the complex does not allow for that. To my knowledge the trustees have provided as wide a range of services as they can under the present contract with their partners in the catering service.

#### STUART HIGHWAY

Mr. GUNN: Is the Minister of Transport aware that once again the Stuart Highway linking Coober Pedy and Pimba is impassable in places and it is impossible for people to get supplies, particularly of perishables, through. In view of this alarming situation, which has occurred during the last six or eight months, will the Minister approach his Commonwealth colleague to see whether the Commonwealth Government will make funds available in the same way as an enlightened Liberal Government did in relation to the Eyre Highway?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I was not aware that the Stuart Highway was blocked again.

Mr. Gunn: There has been 2in. (50 mm) of rain in the area.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: If there has been 2in. of rain (and I certainly accept the member for Eyre as an authority on that) I should think the pastoralists in the area would be laughing their heads off all the way to the bank, and good luck to them. I should think any slight inconvenience caused by the impassability of the road would be more than offset by the benefit to those people and, of course, to the State as a whole. The Commonwealth Aid Roads Act was determined about 4½ years ago, and the terms of that Act were subject to discussion by the then Minister of Roads and Transport (Hon. C. M. Hill) and the then Premier (Mr. Hall, now member for Goyder). Both of those gentlemen came back to South Australia complaining bitterly at the raw deal they had got from the Liberal Government. The first person who got to his feet and joined with them and said what a bad deal South Australia was getting was the present Premier, Hon. Don Dunstan.

Mr. Venning: Haven't heard of him!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Every person in Australia other than the honourable member has heard of the Premier and has applauded him. Nothing can be done with the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act, which was passed by the Commonwealth Parliament under, I think (I am not sure, as the Prime Minister changed so often), Mr. Holt, or it may have been Mr. Gorton.

Mr. Hall: Wrong again!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As was evident from his brush with the Deputy Premier yesterday, probably the honourable member does not remember all the facts. Nothing can be done until the new legislation is brought in, and that will commence on July 1, 1974. We have been in negotiation with the Commonwealth Government in relation to this. We are not expecting consultations of a meaningful nature, however, until February; that is the normal time when the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act is negotiated between the Commonwealth and the States. The only way that money can be allotted to solve the problem of the Stuart Highway is to look at the existing position in

connection with the Highways Department and the Highways Fund, and I shall be very happy to do that to help the honourable member in his dilemma.

#### **BANKSIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL**

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Education ascertain whether the Education Department intends soon to establish a track 4 class at the newly occupied Banksia Park High School? My question has been prompted by a letter I received from a constituent who has a child in the last year of a remedial class at one of the primary schools that contribute children to this high school. The Education Department has informed the parent that the child is listed to attend Ferryden Park school next year. This would require considerable travelling. No doubt, the Minister will appreciate that other children could be in this position and, if these educational facilities could be provided closer to home, this would be appreciated by all concerned.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Although I think it unlikely that track 4 classes could be supplied immediately on the opening of the new school, I will have the matter investigated for the honourable member and bring down a reply.

#### **LOXTON TURN-OFF**

Mr. NANKIVELL: My question relates to the sign-posting of the Loxton turn-off on the new approach to the Kingston bridge on the Kingston side. In a letter to me, the Loxton District Chamber of Commerce has expressed concern that the new sign at this junction has been placed too close to the junction. As there is a long, straight approach to the bridge from the western side, with cars travelling at probably more than 50 miles (80-47 km) an hour, a reasonable distance is needed for braking, and the sign post is not far enough back from the corner to give adequate warning, the tendency being for drivers to overshoot the new turn-off. Another point raised by this organization is that the sign post has nothing on it to indicate that, by taking the turn-off, a motorist can travel to Mildura via Loxton. I have been asked to raise both matters. Will the Minister of Transport consider having the sign post moved farther west from its present position, and having some indication placed on it that, by turning off at this point, a motorist can travel to Mildura via Loxton?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to have both matters examined.

#### **DRUGS**

Mr. COUMBE: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Chief Secretary a reply to my recent question about allegations of drug pushing in several city hotels?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that inquiries by members of the Drug Squad are continually being pursued in a number of locations. Hotels appear to be a popular location because of their convenience, alternative interests, and greater opportunity for large numbers of people to congregate. There is no evidence to suggest that the management of any hotel in South Australia is directly or indirectly involved in the illegal trafficking in or use of drugs. The honourable member may be assured that Drug Squad activity is being maintained in the investigation of all circumstances coming under review and in places in which it is suggested that trafficking in drugs is believed to be or suspected to be taking place.

#### **TRAIN CREWS**

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Minister of Transport a reply to my recent question about providing assistance to porters or guards who are responsible for keeping

order on football trains amongst some rowdy elements that may be expected on such trains?

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: My wife was on that train and she is not a rowdy element.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There is no reference to the Minister's wife being on the train. An investigation was conducted by the South Australian Railways into the allegation that a number of young people were making a nuisance of themselves on the 5.25 p.m. Marino train on Saturday, September 15, 1973. The guard in charge of the train did not encounter any extraordinary trouble with the passengers. Some of the young ones, through exuberance more than for any other reason, were moving about. They were asked not to walk through the train but to sit down and behave themselves, and they complied with this request. He did not hear the singing of any rude songs, nor did he receive any complaints from passengers regarding the behaviour of other passengers. The only semblance of trouble experienced by the youth porter assisting the guard was that he had to speak to young people standing in the trailing baggage compartment regarding opening the side doors, after he had told them to close the doors and keep them closed just before the train departed from Adelaide.

He did, however, receive a complaint from a man who he believed alighted at Warradale (and who had an English accent!) that some young people in the trailing car were singing obscene songs. After the train moved from the station, he immediately went to the rear car but did not hear any singing, nor was any person misbehaving. No complaints were made to him by any passengers riding in the trailing car regarding the behaviour of passengers and no incident happened on the train which would have necessitated his making a written report. Both the guard and youth porter are reliable men and, although it was necessary for them to speak to some young people about minor matters, there did not appear to be anything out of the ordinary with regard to the behaviour of the people concerned. The Railways Commissioner is of the opinion that additional staff on trains of this type is completely unnecessary.

#### **ADELAIDE MEDICAL SCHOOL**

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Attorney-General obtained from the Chief Secretary a reply to my recent question about the Adelaide Medical School?

The Hon. L. J. KING: My colleague states that the report of the Committee on Medical Schools to the Australian Universities Commission under the chairmanship of Prof. P. H. Karmel, released in July this year, states that the University of Adelaide was making a submission to the Australian Universities Commission for a new medical science block in the 1976-78 triennium to alleviate present over-crowding. The upgrading of facilities at the Adelaide Medical School is a matter for negotiation by the University of Adelaide with the A.U.C. for the provision of the necessary funds.

#### **JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL**

Mr. VENNING: Will the Minister of Education again consider the matter of supplying single-teacher units at the Jamestown High School? The Minister will know that the department has an area set aside at Jamestown to be used in connection with single-teacher units. In reply to a previous question I asked, the Minister said that there were problems in this regard. Will he look at the situation again and consider providing perhaps transportable units, of the

type used by the department, to meet the urgent need at this school?

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

#### WHEAT QUOTAS

Mr. HALL: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the Government will make some provision this year that, for this season only, wheat grown outside the quota system may be taken in by the Wheat Board and sold by it on behalf of growers? A constituent of mine has told me that this year he has grown a wheat crop, without the benefit of a quota, and in a normal quota year he would not expect to be able to sell this crop. This, however, being a year of great international demand for wheat, he has approached me, believing that it would be reasonable that he and any others in similar circumstances should be allowed to market their crop this year. I believe that, without further explanation, the Minister will see the point I am making. I ask my question in the hope that I may receive a swift reply, because of the seasonable implications in disposing of the crop. Whilst I do not expect the Minister to have the reply at his fingertips now, I shall be pleased if he will obtain it for me as soon as possible.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be pleased to take up this matter with my colleague. Undoubtedly, serious consideration could be given to the honourable member's request, particularly because of the magnificent achievement by the Minister for Overseas Trade (Dr. Cairns) and the Labor Government in Canberra in concluding with China the greatest wheat deal in Australia's history. The honourable member would be aware that this would not and could not have been achieved by the former Commonwealth Liberal and Country Party Government.

*Members interjecting:*

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Gunn: That's wrong.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is not wrong: the statement I made is absolutely correct.

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister ask his colleague to approach the Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry and the Commonwealth Treasurer to ascertain whether they will modify their policy, which is having the effect of discouraging farmers from producing wheat, even though the Minister for Overseas Trade has announced that he has arranged for the sale of a large quantity of wheat to China? The Minister will be aware that, in the last Commonwealth Budget, certain taxation concessions that had been available to primary producers were discontinued. This could have the effect of preventing farmers from replacing their machinery. Much of the equipment they are using now is many years old, and they have been financially unable to replace it because of the recent rural recession and poor seasons. Now that many of them might be able to afford new equipment, they will, as a result of the Commonwealth Government's taxation policy, find it difficult to produce the quantity of wheat required which would benefit the whole of Australia's economy, not just that of primary industry.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I am sorry, but I missed the part of the honourable member's question that is supplementary to one asked by the member for Goyder. I thought that the member for Eyre was referring to wheat quotas, and then he switched to taxation concessions, which he said had been removed by the Australian Government, in respect of machinery purchases.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: He gave a plug to Dr. Cairns,

Mr. Gunn: I didn't.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I thought that the member for Eyre was delighted with the deal. I am sorry to learn that, ever since this magnificent wheat deal with China has been concluded, the member for Rocky River has had red rust in his crop. My attention has been drawn to the fact that I replied to a question by the member for Frome on wheat quotas and I think that, in fairness to him and to other members, I should read it, as follows:

In accordance with the Government's programme as indicated in the policy speech, legislation is being drafted to provide for the transfer of wheat quotas on an annual basis and for the acceptance of non-quota wheat; that is, wheat which has been produced by traditional wheat-growers who are not quota-holders. When the legislation is presented to Parliament, I hope the measure will receive the support of the honourable member and his colleagues...

Legislation will shortly be introduced to deal with the matter raised by the member for Goyder. I will ask my colleague to make representations to his Commonwealth counterpart (Senator Wriedt) in connection with the matter raised by the member for Eyre. I take this opportunity to remind the honourable member that, if he does not already realize it, the idea of removing these concessions was to curb the activities of the wellknown so-called North Terrace farmers.

Mr. Gunn: That may be so.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The member for Eyre is as well aware as I am that there has been a need for a long time to do something in this area to prevent these people (professional people in the main) from investing in land to the detriment of the traditional farmers and primary producers.

#### BUTTER SPREAD

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Has the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Agriculture, a reply to my recent question about butter spread?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My colleague states that he has never referred to the butterfat and vegetable oil mixture being developed at the Northfield laboratories as "butterine". On the contrary, the Minister has been careful to impress on the media that the term "butterine" describes a Swedish product, and should not be applied to our product.

Mr. Dean Brown: That's exactly what I said.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This is what I am saying, what the Minister said, and not what the honourable member said. It is not the Minister's prerogative to decide on a name for the new butterfat and vegetable oil spread, but he expects that this matter will be discussed in due course by the Australian Agricultural Council.

#### BRIGHTON ROAD

Mr. MATHWIN: In the temporary absence of the Minister of Transport, I ask the Minister of Education whether he will make representations to the Highways Commissioner to consider again this year the situation of local shopkeepers on Brighton Road particularly during the busy trading period at Christmas. Last year the Commissioner was thoughtful enough to give special consideration to storekeepers on Brighton Road in the area where the Highways Department was reconstructing the road. There are many shopkeepers in a certain area on Brighton Road, on which the department is working, and it seems that, by the time the department reaches this area, it will be Christmas. Will the Minister make

representations to the Commissioner to offer again any help in this regard?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I made representations last year to the Minister of Transport and to the Minister of Works (because the Engineering and Water Supply Department was active in the area of Brighton Road), and I was pleased with the magnificent co-operation received from both these departments. I have no doubt that the normal courteous consideration will be given by the Minister of Transport to the honourable member's request, which I shall be pleased to support.

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

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

**PAWNBROKERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL  
(LICENCES)**

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Pawnbrokers Act, 1888-1965. Read a first time.

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

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

It is short and is intended to simplify the procedure for obtaining a pawnbroker's licence. At present, licences must be renewed annually and before each renewal the applicant is required to make application to a local court for a certificate that he is a fit and proper person to be issued with a licence. When the applicant has obtained the certificate he may then take out a licence for one year from the Treasury.

This system appears to the Government to be expensive, time consuming and really quite unnecessary. Accordingly, it is proposed that any new applicant for a licence will be required to obtain a certificate of fitness on the occasion of an application for his first licence, and thereafter he may renew his licence on a simple application to the Receiver of Revenue at the Treasury. It is also proposed that present holders of licences may renew their licences in the same way. At the same time, opportunity has been taken to increase the licence fee, which was fixed in 1888 at £10, to \$50.

Dr. Eastick: That would hardly keep up with inflation, would it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It would not, really. Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 repeals section 37 of the principal Act, which provided for the issue of an annual licence, and replaces it with a section that sets out in some detail the new procedure. As has been mentioned, in future the only certificates of the court that will be required will be on application for a new licence. However, if a current licence is permitted to expire before a renewal is taken out, the former licence holder may be required to obtain a certificate from the court. This is provided for in proposed new section 37 (6).

Clause 3 repeals sections 39, 40 and 41 of the principal Act. These sections are now redundant, in the light of the amendments effected by clause 2. Clause 4 makes a consequential amendment to section 42 of the principal Act. Clause 5 repeals and re-enacts the fifth schedule to the principal Act. This schedule sets out the form of the certificate to be provided by the court on a first application for a licence. I am pleased to say that, on the passing of this Bill, I will no longer have to sign pawnbrokers' licences.

Mr. EVANS secured the adjournment of the debate.

**MURRAY NEW TOWN (LAND ACQUISITION) ACT  
AMENDMENT BILL**

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

**NURSES' MEMORIAL CENTRE OF SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA, INCORPORATED (GUARANTEE) BILL**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

**MONARTO DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BILL**

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

**COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 4. Page 1074.)

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens): I support this Bill, which is the shortest amendment to the Companies Act for many years. When an amendment to that Act is introduced, it is usually a large volume, requiring much consideration, but I hope that this measure can be dealt with expeditiously. There are really only three matters to be considered. The first is the restoration of the position that existed before a recent amendment.

By this amendment, the Auditor-General of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory of the Commonwealth shall be deemed to be a registered company auditor for the purposes of this Act or any other Act. Whilst the provision is probably wide, I understand that a similar provision exists in other States and, therefore, it is desirable to restore it to have as much uniformity as possible.

It has been suggested that, as legislation is before the Commonwealth Parliament regarding expansion of and considerable alteration to the operation of the Australian Industries Development Corporation, this may have some effect in that regard. However, I understand that our amendment deals with handling only the matters of statutory bodies, and the corporation is proposed to be such a body. The second matter relates to auditors. A recent amendment to the Act deleted the provision for multiple auditors. As many members know, large organizations desire to have more than one auditor. I recall that some banks have at least two auditors and I have no objection to this. Most companies, especially the smaller ones, could afford only one auditor anyway, so I do not think there is a problem there.

The Attorney has not explained the third amendment or why he has proposed it, but I understand that it deals with industrial and provident societies, which are subject to a special Act of this Parliament, and that this provision extends investigatory powers under the Companies Act to those societies, particularly in relation to the prospectuses that may be issued by these societies, which in South Australia enjoy a special advantage. Many of them are co-operatives. They operate in citrus-growing areas, milk-producing areas, and in other establishments. I understand that this amendment merely extends the investigatory powers, especially regarding prospectuses, but I should like the Attorney to explain that matter. I support the Bill.

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): The view expressed by the member for Torrens regarding the amendment extending the investigatory powers of the Companies Act to industrial and provident societies is correct. Indeed, it is the basis of the Bill and arises out of several cases of co-operatives which have called for investigation in the last few years. Members have asked questions about co-operatives, involving cases that have cried out for a statutory investigation. However, although the circumstances were similar to those in which an investigation of a company would be directed, there was no power to

direct a similar investigation, simply because the organization was registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act and not the Companies Act. This Bill is designed to remedy that defect.

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

#### **POLICE OFFENCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 11. Page 1212.)

Dr. TONKIN (Bragg): I support the Bill which, on the surface, is a small measure and which amends section 33 of the Act to enable Ministers other than the Attorney-General to authorize prosecutions. It is intended that the Chief Secretary will delegate to the Premier responsibility for consenting to prosecutions under section 33. Commonly, the Attorney-General authorizes prosecutions, so the Bill will break with normal practice. As the Premier is a lawyer, I have no doubt that he will issue certificates with some personal authority as well as with the benefit of the advice he will receive from his officers.

The Attorney-General has not authorized many prosecutions under section 33 (4) since he assumed office. Indeed, he has been known for a certain degree of inactivity in censorship matters. Some people may say that this is just as well, although some have been seriously disturbed by his lack of activity in this respect. Others, however, say that there is no need to control the printing, publishing, sale or offering for sale of any matter of an indecent, immoral or obscene nature. They believe that, if people do not want to look at or read such material, they will not do so, and they use this to justify their argument. Although this may be satisfactory from their point of view, definite and specific conditions must apply to this attitude.

The right of individuals to enjoy their freedom applies to all individuals, and it depends very much on respect for the freedom of others. Some persons tend to forget this at times: they do not stop to consider to what extent their demands for freedom in any matter impinge on the freedom of others. Many people find the publication and exhibition of what they regard as indecent material highly offensive, and their views on this matter must be (and I hope are, in the main) respected by all other members of the community. Obviously, to respect the rights and freedoms of all groups, one must allow those people who want to read or see material that may offend others to have access to it, but in such a way as to respect the feelings and beliefs of those people who would otherwise be offended.

Young people must also be considered in this way; in other words, material which could in any way be offensive to anyone, or which it may be considered could tend to corrupt young people, should not be exhibited publicly. Clear warnings that the subject matter may offend some people should be displayed outside theatres where R films are being exhibited. Of course, this is done, even though the classification is in itself some warning. Just as people ask for, and should have the right of access to—

The SPEAKER: Order! I think the honourable member is getting away from the terms of the Bill. The Bill transfers from the Attorney-General to another designated Minister the power to authorize prosecutions under a certain section of the Police Offences Act. It does not allow a prolonged debate on the merits of censorship, and so on. As the Bill deals with this transfer of power only, I cannot allow the debate to con-

tinue on the merits of censorship and other matters in that category.

Dr. TONKIN: Thank you, Sir. I intended to link up my remarks with the fact that the power that is being transferred from the Attorney-General to the Premier has not been used to any great extent since the Attorney assumed office. It is difficult to administer this legislation, and I am discussing the difficulties which the Attorney-General has had and which the Premier will have in deciding whether or not to authorize prosecutions under section 33. I therefore submit that I am entirely in order in discussing the matter to which I am referring and which, I assure you, Sir, I do not intend to canvass at length.

However, it is important that we take into account the responsibilities in this respect which the Attorney-General now has and which the Premier (and, indeed, any other Minister to whom this authority will be delegated) will have in future. Those responsible must take into account (and it will be the Premier's job to do so) that some people will ask for, and should have the right of, access to certain material, and that other people must have the right not to be offended by the display of such material. The rights of all members of the community must be protected. One of the difficulties encountered by the Attorney-General has been in relation to certain publications. I am sure that the member for Mitcham and the Attorney-General would know to which publications I refer: *Empire Times* was one in particular. In these publications indecent material is printed deliberately in an attempt to shock the community and to draw attention to the publishers. Prosecution in these circumstances is exactly what the perpetrators desire.

The SPEAKER: Order! Once again I point out to the honourable member that I realize what is involved in the Bill, which provides for an alteration of Ministerial responsibility. This is not a debate on censorship and the merits of censorship, but a debate only on the delegation of power from one Minister to another. The honourable member must confine his remarks to that subject.

Dr. TONKIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; that is what I am trying to do. I end my example by saying that it has been extremely difficult for the Attorney-General, in exercising the powers which we are discussing and which are to be transferred, to make up his mind whether to issue an order for prosecution in these circumstances, because by doing so he may play into the hands of such people. Whatever the solution of these problems and whoever has the responsibility (whether it be the Attorney-General or another Minister), the freedom and rights of all members of the community must be maintained and kept firmly in mind. I trust that the Premier, in taking over these powers, will not in any way shrink from his responsibility and that he will uphold the principles I have outlined.

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg): I, too, support the Bill. By its provisions, the Attorney-General will be able to delegate his power to any other Minister, and more power will now be given to the Minister in respect of indecent matter and indecent literature. Many people object to much of this type of literature, but what to them is offensive may not be objected to by others because they may be labelled as squares. The previous responsibility of deciding these matters is now to be shared by the Attorney-General and other Ministers. We know of the problems faced by the Attorney-General not long ago concerning *Oh! Calcutta!*

The SPEAKER: Order! I reiterate that this Bill deals with a transference of power from one Minister to another, and the discussion on it should be on the

basis of whether this power should be transferred from one Minister to another. This is not an open debate on censorship or on matters in that category: it is consideration of a Bill transferring power, not an open debate on censorship or the merits of censorship.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I suggest, with great respect, that you are keeping the debate too narrow. This Bill opens up section 33 of the Act, and that section deals with these matters. I understand (and I have been here a fair time) that, if a Bill is introduced to amend a section of an Act, all matters within that section may be debated, because this is the subject matter of the debate. I know that this Bill refers to only one aspect of that section, but it is the section itself we are considering: the Bill amends section 33 of the Act. If there is an amendment to section 33 of the Act being debated, surely it is competent for a member to canvass any matter relevant to that section. That has always been the practice of the House. I do not know whether you consider that that makes the debate unduly wide, and that you are introducing a new precedent. That is my point of order.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has raised a point of order, but that does not turn itself into a debate on the merits of the point of order. I cannot uphold the point of order, because we have before us a Bill amending a section of the Police Offences Act as it refers to section 33 of that Act. Remarks that are permissible in the debate concern the alteration contained in the amending Bill and referred to in the second reading explanation, and that is a transfer of authority or authorization from one Minister to another. I rule that this does not give the House the right to open a complete debate on the Bill.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I move:

That the Speaker's ruling be disagreed to.

The SPEAKER: Bring it up in writing.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: This is an important matter of principle.

The SPEAKER: Bring it up in writing.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Very well.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has moved to disagree to the Speaker's ruling that only the matter of the transfer of Ministerial responsibility may be debated on a Bill to amend section 33 of the Police Offences Act, which deals widely with matters of censorship. Is the motion seconded?

Mr. Millhouse: Yes, Sir.

The SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded?

Mr. Millhouse: Yes, Sir.

The SPEAKER: The motion lapses for want of a seconder. The honourable member for Glenelg.

Mr. MATHWIN: When I said that the Attorney-General and the Government had a problem with *Oh! Calcutta!*, I was pointing out the difficult position in which the Attorney-General was placed as a lone person, and the benefit provided by this Bill, which allows power to be transferred from the Attorney-General to another Minister, thus making the burden much easier. This was the definition I was putting to the House. The Bill will make the job of the Attorney much less difficult and I believe he will be faced in the future with many other occasions such as the one which caused him great difficulty, the North Adelaide fiasco—not the football team—

The SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled previously that we are discussing a Bill for the transfer of power or authority from one Minister to another. It does not lend itself to a debate on generalities and it does not give

a licence to open up section 33 and the merits of that section. The debate must proceed simply on the basis of the transfer of power or authority from one Minister to another.

Mr. Millhouse: You should have supported me, John.

Mr. MATHWIN: I thought that was the way I was putting the case.

The SPEAKER: It is not the way I am interpreting it.

Mr. MATHWIN: The advantage of this Bill lies in the transfer of power from the Attorney to the Premier, making it less difficult to deal with problems than it has been in the past. The burden is reduced and the problem with which the Attorney was faced last year in respect of *Oh! Calcutta!* will not occur again. Under the provisions of this section he will share the problem with another Minister. I am supporting the Bill because I think that this is a step in the right direction and that the Bill will protect the public better than it has been protected previously.

The SPEAKER: Order! I rule the remarks out of order.

Mr. Millhouse: You should have supported me, John.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member persists, despite the ruling I have given that this is a transfer of power from one Minister to another and does not deal with the merits. The subject matter of the debate in this House is that contained in the amendment and in the second reading explanation, which refers to the transfer of power or authority from one Ministerial portfolio to another. Because the transfer, in accordance with section 33, is the subject of this amendment, open discussion on the merits is not permitted. The honourable member for Glenelg.

Mr. MATHWIN: I apologize for the word "share" and I shall alter that to "transfer" and refer to the transfer of power to the other Minister or Ministers. If the debate must be cut down as much as possible, and if you wish me to say that I agree to the Bill in its present form, then I shall say, "Yes, Sir, I agree to the Bill" and support it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (Mitcham): After all that has happened I want to say a few words on the Bill. Members of the Liberal and Country League have made fools of themselves.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am sure you will agree with that, whatever else you may think.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the member for Mitcham thinks he is going to take over the debate on this topic, I shall demand that he confine his remarks to the Bill under discussion; that is all I will permit. The honourable member for Mitcham.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I certainly cannot argue with that.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable member wants to disregard the ruling from the Chair by saying he cannot get away from the ruling, I again call on him to debate the subject of the Bill under discussion.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Well, I am sorry about that, but I want to say this, and I shall confine myself very closely, in view of your ruling (because I was not backed up previously), to the ruling, but I want to find out in far more detail than we have had in the second reading explanation why there has been this change in Ministerial responsibility. What has happened (and I noticed this in the *Government Gazette* last week, I think) is that the Attorney-General is to have responsibility for the administration of the Prices Act and the Premier is to have responsibility for matters

of censorship. I want to know why this change has occurred, and in spite of what the member for Bragg and the member for Glenelg tried to say in this debate they did not get to that point which I acknowledge, in the light of your ruling, is the only point at issue in this debate. If they are not going to ask the obvious question, I certainly am. I have got my own ideas about it, and perhaps I should say something about this so that the Attorney will have something to answer, as I hope he will have the courtesy to do. It has been obvious, in the 3½ years since he came into this House, that matters of censorship have worried him. Coming from a certain background, he has certain personal convictions, and I believe that they are at odds with the convictions of most members of his Party and of most members of Cabinet.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have no doubt—

The SPEAKER: Order! I rule again that the transfer of power is the only subject matter under discussion, and we are not going to deviate from that, even for the benefit of the member for Mitcham.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: But I was talking absolutely on the point of the transfer of power from the Attorney-General to the Premier. If debate in this place is to be stifled from now on, that is the best way to go along that path. I am saying that I believe the Attorney-General is glad to be quit of this because he has not been happy in handling censorship matters, nor has he been successful in handling them. But (and I issue this warning) we know that the views of the Premier are far more "advanced" than those of the Attorney-General—

The SPEAKER: Order! I rule the honourable member's remarks out of order. We are dealing with the office of the Attorney-General and the transfer of power from the office of the Attorney-General to that of the Premier, in accordance with this Bill. We are not dealing with the personal views of the Premier or those of any other person. We are dealing with the office of the Premier and the debate will continue along those lines, otherwise I will sit the member for Mitcham down.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Sir, I am merely pointing out that, as a result of the transfer of office, to use your word, from one member of Cabinet to another, there will be in South Australia, I believe, a significant change in the administration of matters of censorship and it will be even laxer than it has been in the past.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham is out of order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I respectfully suggest that this is a consequence of the Bill, of the transfer of Ministerial responsibility from one Minister to another, and the second reading explanation says there is to be a transfer of Ministerial responsibility from the Attorney-General to the Premier. Why, then, should that matter not be debated? It is all very well to say that it is a transfer from one office to another, but as a matter of common sense one cannot, especially in a matter of censorship, which is so much a matter of judgment, divorce the holders of that office from the office itself. That is the point I make and, despite the apparent insignificance of this Bill and the way it has been treated in the debate so far, it is in fact a significant change in South Australia because of the difference of personal views on this topic between the two Ministers concerned.

I want to know why this change is being made. Is it because the Government is not satisfied with the way the Attorney has administered these matters, or is there some other reason for it? All we get in the second

reading explanation is that it follows on the reallocation of Ministerial responsibilities that has taken place recently. That is nothing; it does not give us any reason why there should have been a reallocation of responsibilities. Why is this House not entitled to know the real reasons for a change that I believe will be of some significance? It will certainly be on a matter of controversy, importance and significance in the community. One has only to think of what has happened in the past week in South Australia in the public administration of this matter to see that it is important. I have in mind the public demonstrations that have occurred. I hope enough has been said to get the Attorney-General on to his feet to give a better explanation than he gave when he originally explained this Bill, because he then gave no real explanation whatever.

Mr. EVANS (Fisher): As a Liberal and Country League member, I wish to speak in this debate. L.C.L. members do not wish to make fools of themselves by querying your rulings, Mr. Speaker, on every minor issue.

The SPEAKER: Order! I rule that out.

Mr. EVANS: We, through the member for Bragg, queried the reasons for this transfer of power, even though that has been denied by the member for Mitcham. Also, the member for Bragg made the point that on matters of censorship the Attorney-General has perhaps a more narrow, more restrictive viewpoint than has the Premier. The member for Bragg, at the end of his second reading speech, made the point that the Premier was a little bit more lax in his approach.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ruled the honourable member for Mitcham out of order, and I rule the honourable member for Fisher out of order. It is not a matter of personal opinion, as far as the honourable Premier is concerned. If honourable members read the second reading explanation, they will find that this Bill enables authorization to be given by the Minister who is for the time being to undertake responsibility for censorship. It is an authorization for the transfer of power from one office to another. That is the line along which the debate will continue.

Mr. EVANS: I accept your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will not allow the debate to continue along the line of comment which has been made in the second reading debate and which I have ruled out of order. It is not subject to further debate by honourable members.

Mr. EVANS: The transfer of power will not only give the power to the Premier rather than the Attorney-General: it will also give the power to any one of the other Ministers. The member for Bragg said in his speech that the Attorney-General had not authorized many prosecutions when he had the power in his own lap but that, in fact, he had shown a masterly inactivity in matters of censorship. Of course, we realize that, when there is a transfer of power to any one of a number of Ministers, the Government could not afford to have many and varied views being given on censorship, because that would be damaging to it as a Party. We have to accept that situation, which will be a Party approach, with the transfer of power to any one Minister. The Attorney-General now has the opportunity, in closing this debate, to explain the main reasons for the transfer. The only way we will know whether his reply is accurate is by practice in the future. Again I say that I believe that the relevant points were raised by this side, without the member for Mitcham.

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): I am not sure whether I should express gratitude to members who have spoken, because, having listened to them all, I am

not sure whether they are pleased or sorry that I shall be shorn of this interest and responsibility. The only thing I wish to say on that aspect is that, whatever I may have been (right or wrong, successful or unsuccessful) in the administration of this difficult responsibility, I have certainly not been, as some members opposite have said, inactive. Indeed, this aspect of my responsibilities has occupied probably more time than has any other single aspect of the office. So, it has been indeed a very active part of my duties as Attorney-General over the past 3½ years. Of course, the degree of activity in this area cannot be measured by the number of prosecutions, because that is an entirely different matter.

I do not intend to follow the speculations of the member for Mitcham, even if you would permit me to do so, Mr. Speaker. I only want to say that I have enjoyed, during the 3½ years in which I have administered this responsibility, the complete support of Cabinet, sometimes in controversial decisions and situations, as well as the complete support of the Premier. I want to make clear that that has been so. It has been a difficult area of responsibility and a worrying one; I do not by any means discount that word, which was used by the member for Mitcham—this area does have its worrying aspects. However, although it has been worrying and demanding, it has also been interesting and challenging. This transfer of responsibility results from the appointment of an eleventh Minister and the decisions the Premier then took as to the reallocation of Ministerial responsibilities. That, of course, is naturally the prerogative and responsibility of the Premier. His reasons have been communicated to me and to others, and probably expressed publicly, although I am not sure about that.

The situation is simple. The responsibilities which I, as Attorney-General and as Minister of Community Welfare, have carried have been heavy. The Premier decided to divest himself of Ministerial responsibility in some areas, and one of them was the area of responsibility for the office of Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs. As Attorney-General, I have been deeply involved in consumer affairs; indeed, the Premier and I have had a long-standing arrangement that I have been, in practice, administratively responsible for that part of the Commissioner's duties that concern consumer affairs, as distinct from prices. So, it was an obvious and sensible reallocation of responsibilities for me to take over the whole of the responsibilities in connection with the Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs. I could not have done that if I had retained the whole of my previous responsibilities. It was necessary to look at a specific area that could be cut off, so to speak, from the responsibilities of the Attorney-General. The censorship aspect appeared to be the natural and logical responsibility.

The Premier has retained direct personal responsibility for matters relating to the arts in this State. His interest in these matters is well known, and it seemed natural that he should deal with matters such as film classification, censorship of obscene publications, and the like. His decisions, made after consultation with his colleagues, seemed to me to be logical and natural. In one sense I am happy to be rid of the responsibility which, as the member for Mitcham has said, has been onerous, burdensome, and worrying. In other ways, I part with it with regret, because it has also been challenging. I have tried to develop certain concepts which I believe are now fairly well embedded in the attitudes of the South Australian community, and I think they will find expression in the Restricted Publications Bill to be introduced.

Mr. Millhouse: What are they?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have frequently expressed my general philosophy and my approach to these questions.

Mr. Millhouse: What concepts?

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have often expressed the concepts of censorship which I hold and to which I have tried to give effect. I do not intend to enunciate them now and you, Mr. Speaker, would not permit me to do so if I tried. Like the member for Mitcham, I have a deep respect for your rulings, and I do not intend to circumvent them in any way.

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

#### **ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL (COMMISSIONER)**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 16. Page 1246.)

Dr. EASTICK (Leader of the Opposition): The Opposition supports the Bill, which is intended to insulate the Electoral Commissioner from other activities that may take place in the department. This will give him a degree of administrative independence. I believe he has always had this, although I accept that in certain circumstances technicalities can arise. I do not think there is any need to suggest that the Bill will increase the status of the position. I believe that everyone will acknowledge that Mr. Douglass has acquitted himself well. He is well regarded in the community and by members of Parliament, to whom he has always been accessible. He has helped with any questions put to him.

One unusual aspect of the Bill places in the hands of the Governor the opportunity in certain circumstances to remove the Commissioner. One would not expect that this situation would arise. However, in the area of judicial appointments and other appointments in the past, where a situation has arisen that cannot be corrected by the normal processes and when individuals have been unwilling to resign, an almost impossible position has prevailed. I accept this provision in the Bill, knowing that it will be used only in the most extraordinary circumstances. I approve of the provision whereby the appointee (in this case Mr. Douglass) may retain the benefits that previously accrued to him, with superannuation being available. The Opposition supports this provision. We recognize that many people who accept positions of this type and place themselves outside the Public Service not infrequently do so at disadvantage to themselves with regard to superannuation and other accruals. The intention here is completely fair. Clause 5 is a practical and humane provision. In the short session in June, a situation was created by the legislation passed whereby, in the event of a double dissolution, as many as 22 candidates could stand for the Legislative Council at the one time. Unless we have the alteration as provided in the Bill, we could find that people who were actually elected to Parliament could still forfeit their deposit. I believe that that would apply only to the last one or two on the ballot-paper in a double dissolution situation. However, this provision is realistic, having regard to the possibilities that may arise. I support the Bill.

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

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) moved:

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

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg): Although I support the Bill, I register my disapproval at the speed with which it has been taken through the House. The second reading explanation is not available, as this week's *Hansard* is not yet available. The Bill is not on the file. This measure was introduced only last Tuesday. Although members want to refer to the second reading explanation, it is not available. I object to this procedure strongly; it is yet another example of what we face in this Parliament.

The SPEAKER: Order! Standing Orders do not allow

a debate at this stage except in relation to the Bill as it came out of Committee.

Mr. MATHWIN: Thank you. I support the Bill, but I object to the speed with which it has been rushed through the House.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, October 23, at 2 p.m.