HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, November 8, 1973

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Licensing Act Amendment,
Police Offences Act Amendment,
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Amendment,
Registration of Deeds Act Amendment.

PETRO-CHEMICAL PLANT

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As the House is aware, I have been negotiating for a petro-chemical industry at Redcliff Point for some time; in fact, a petro-chemical industry to back up industries that would give benefits to this State far in excess of just a mere petro-chemical complex. In Canberra this morning the Commonwealth Minister for Minerals and Energy (Mr. R. F. X. Connor) said in reply to a question that negotiations had proceeded to such a stage that an announcement could be made of the successful consortium, which is ICI/Alcoa/Mitsubishi and other partners, including Australian companies, yet to be finalized.

I deferred making any announcement, as I felt it would be more courteous first to tell the other major contender involved (that is, Dow Chemical Company) of the decision of the South Australian Government. I was able to do this only this morning, as I did not want to do it on the telephone or by letter, particularly as that group of companies had spent well in excess of $1 400 000 in its examination of the project.

On Tuesday evening, with the Minister of Development and Mines and senior officers of the Public Service, I held detailed negotiations with the Petro-chemical Consortium of South Australia, which is the name given to their group by ICI/Alcoa/Mitsubishi. They indicated that they had both the capability and the technical know-how to carry through such a project, ever conscious of the environmental factors that needed to be protected. The other partners in the group will be Australian companies including Ampol, and the Australian Industry Development Corporation has played a co-ordinating role in assuring a satisfactory degree of Australian equity. I have been discussing this possible participation with Ampol since February of this year. I made quite clear that, at the stage of reaching an announcement of the successful consortium, they would have to clarify the precise shape of what the consortium was to be, and to agree to build into any indenture Act assurances satisfactory to the Environment and Conservation Department.

The consortium has satisfied the Government that it could meet State requirements and had taken a constructive role in the initiation and development of environmental impact studies associated with the project. We have required that into any indenture would be built the future development programme details so that there would be no case of empty promises made at the beginning not being kept in the future. With my officers, we also discussed housing and the social infrastructure that would be involved.

To co-ordinate the whole project, the Government is proposing to make Mr. W. M. Scriven (Director of Industrial Development) the Chief Project Officer, and he will be spending most of his time on bringing to fruition this project, with the help of a full-time Project Officer from his division (Mr. E. G. Knuepffer). I also arranged for the Minister Assisting the Premier (Hon. D. J. Hopgood) to chair a special Project Co-ordination Committee comprising Mr. Scriven in his capacity of Chief Project Officer, Mr. G. Inglis (Chief Environmental Officer from the Environment and Conservation Department) and Mr. R. D. Bakewell (the permanent head of my department). This group will be the basic co-ordinating body with which the consortium will deal, although from time to time various members of Government departments as well as the Commonwealth will be seconded to assist.

The environmental aspect is the most important factor, and the results of joint studies by the State Environment and Conservation and Fisheries Departments and the consortium will be published in a comprehensive environment impact statement now being developed. Heads of agreement and much of the detail of the indenture are well advanced. A Bill for acquisition of the land will be introduced shortly, with leasing provisions subject to the ratification of the indenture by Parliament. It is expected that the indenture Bill will be put before the House and referred to a Select Committee in February, and that site works will commence in April next year. The consortium will now complete technical studies made by ICI/Alcoa/Mitsubishi confirming economic feasibility of the study in the light of the new group structure.

Mr. HALL (Goyder): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. HALL: My explanation concerns the motion standing in my name as Order of the Day (Other Business) No. 6, concerning the subject of the Premier's Ministerial statement. I should like to inform the House that at the earliest opportunity I will move formally not to proceed with that motion: I will move that it be read and discharged. As the Premier has now reached a successful conclusion in his negotiations on the Redcliffs project—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member sought leave of the House to make a personal explanation, but I cannot put the statement he is making in that category.

Mr. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I was about to link up my remarks with a personal explanation as to why—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member sought leave to make a personal explanation. Leave was granted, but the statement the honourable member has made so far is not a personal explanation.

Mr. HALL: Mr. Speaker, I accept your ruling, and I am trying to link up my remarks with the personal explanation that you require of me. The reason why I will move to discharge this motion is that the Premier has announced his successful negotiations—

The SPEAKER: Order! Once again, I point out that I cannot allow the honourable member to proceed with a personal explanation, because he is anticipating the subject matter contained in a motion appearing on the Notice Paper.

Mr. HALL: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will not proceed with the matter, except to say—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member sought and obtained leave, but I have now withdrawn that leave.

QUESTIONS

The SPEAKER: I direct that the following written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard.*

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

In reply to Mr. McANANEY (October 18).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Although the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act provides that the tare weight for purpose of calculating road maintenance contributions shall be the "tare weight or weight unladen thereof as shown on the certificate of registration issued in respect thereof under the Motor Vehicles Act", three exceptions to this have been made administratively:

1. Many farmers fit an additional axle on their truck to cart grain and superphosphate to and from their property. The trucks are not normally subject to payment of road charges and are registered as 3-axle vehicles. The additional axle is removed once the cartage of the heavy loads has been completed. It has been a long-standing practice to charge contributions only during the time that the additional axle is fitted.

2. Where a carrier operates a semi-trailer and uses both single-axle and double-axle trailers with it, separate tare weights and load capacities have been determined for each type. The vehicle is registered for double-axle trailer operation, and the owner designates the particular use in his return.

3. From time to time the trays are removed from five-axle tippers or equivalent and are replaced by a special trailer to move loads for which a permit is required under the Road Traffic Act. Where this occurs, the tare weight adopted for calculation of road maintenance charges is the actual weight shown on the weighnote provided.

In addition to the above administrative variations, when the charges were first introduced the Government directed that the load capacity of no vehicle should be rated as exceeding 41 tons (4.57 t) on the front axle for purposes of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act. This decision was made because it is extremely difficult to distribute weight in excess of this figure to the front axle of many vehicles. Further, authorities in other States permit only a single-tyred axle weight of 41 tons (4.57 t), which generally limits front-axle loading.

The current weight and load concessions have been confined to instances where changes in the operating unit are infrequent. This has allowed special attention to be given to the vehicles involved, and sightings are made regularly to see that returns are being completed correctly. If, however, the unladen weight of each vehicle for a particular journey should be taken as the tare weight for purposes of calculating road charges, both the completion of the returns and the maintenance of some sort of check could become very complicated, it would be quite feasible, for example, for a vehicle to do, say, three journeys on one day, one with a stock crate and two as a flat top. The whole purpose of levying road charges is to obtain from heavy commercial vehicles a contribution toward the additional wear and tear caused to public roads. The wear and tear caused cannot be calculated precisely, and it is not unreasonable for the charge to be generally levied on the highest tare weight, which is also the figure used in assessing the registration fee payable.

LOWER NORTH-EAST ROAD

In reply to Mrs. BYRNE (October 30).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Tentative provision is being made for an allocation of funds for the reconstruction and widening of Lower North-East Road between the Torrens River and Grand Junction Road in 1974-75. This provision is to cover the cost of relocation of services and the start of drainage work to allow the main construction gang to move in at the end of July, 1975. Whether funds for this work can actually be made available will depend largely on the provisions of the next Commonwealth Aid Roads Act.

BRIGHTON ROAD

In reply to Mr. MATHWIN (October 18).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Highways Department is very conscious of the need to maintain access to shopping centres, particularly during a busy trading period such as Christmas. The construction programme for Brighton Road has been arranged to reduce interference with trading to an absolute minimum.

HILTON PROPERTY

In reply to Dr. EASTICK (October 18).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: One other total property at the south-west corner of Burbridge Road and Winifred Street has been acquired by the Highways Department.

STRATHALBYN ROAD

In reply to Mr. McANANEY (October 30).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: It is intended to resurface the main road between Flaxley and Strathalbyn with hotmix when funds permit. However, funds are fully committed on several major projects of higher priority at present. It is expected that it will not be possible to hotmix this road for four years. The delay in resurfacing with hotmix is caused by the higher priority of other works. It is not intended to reroute or realign the road. Funds are now being expended in connection with the construction of the Strathalbyn-Wistow Road, which will become the principal road link between Strathalbyn and Adelaide, and so relieve traffic on the road between Flaxley and Strathalbyn.

FLINDERS CHASE

In reply to Mr. CHAPMAN (November 1).

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: Provision has been made on the 1973-74 Estimates of Expenditure for the construction of a toilet block at Flinders Chase. The Director, Public Buildings Department, has been asked to prepare designs and estimates of cost.

GAS

In reply to Mr. HALL (October 24).

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: It is estimated that oversea prices for liquid petroleum gas for contracts now being negotiated would be in the range from $35 to $45 a tonne f.o.b. and $50 to $60 a tonne c.i.f. to Japan. These prices would reflect late 1973 conditions and not 1977 conditions, when the Redcliffs project comes on stream.

PETRO-CHEMICAL PLANT

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Premier say what financial or other considerations, if any, the consortium is to receive from the Commonwealth Government which will offset the expense of converting liquid petroleum gas to motor spirit? On October 25, in reply to a question asked by the member for Frome, the Premier said that there was a sizable increase in the cost of converting liquid petroleum gas to motor spirit; in fact, it. has been reported to me that not only is the increase such that the cost of the motor spirit would be about 75 per cent greater than that of motor spirit produced by the conventional means but also that there is actually a loss of energy amounting to about

25 per cent or 30 per cent of the original liquid petroleum gas component. Because this economic difficulty is inherent in converting liquid petroleum gas into motor spirit (and this is a requirement of the Commonwealth Government in respect of the overall project at Redcliffs), will the Premier say what arrangement has been entered into between the Commonwealth Government and the consortium to offset this economic problem?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Commonwealth Government has accepted that some form of assistance is necessary to ensure that the producers on the field are able to obtain a price that makes the project economically viable for them and that the refinery operator is able to market the converted liquid petroleum gas in gasoline form in Australia at a price that will meet the market. Several differing methods of achieving this have been discussed. Finality has not been reached on the method of achieving it, but the fact that it has been accepted in principle (and that matter must be covered in some way by the Commonwealth Government) has been accepted by the Minister for Minerals and Energy.

Dr. Eastick: Is it a guarantee?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, he has made clear that that is his attitude.

Mr. COUMBE: While welcoming the news of the decision to proceed with Redcliffs, I ask the Premier whether it is expected that all future announcements in respect of industrial development in South Australia will henceforth be made by Commonwealth Ministers instead of the responsible State Minister. The Premier has just announced that Mr. Connor made the announcement on this matter in Canberra this morning. This project being of major importance to South Australia, there can be no doubt that we have expressed our desire that the project proceed, and we welcome the news that it will proceed. However, as we are dealing with a major industrial development, I would have assumed that the decision would more properly be announced by the responsible State Minister. Therefore, I ask whether future major industrial projects to be undertaken in South Australia are likely to be announced by the Commonwealth Minister rather than the responsible State Minister.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation say what are the specific requirements that the consortium had to meet before being given the assurance that it could proceed with the petro-chemical plant? The Premier has said in his statement this afternoon that certain assurances would have to be written into any indenture prepared between the Government and the consortium and that these assurances would have to be satisfactory to the Environment and Conservation Department. The Premier said:

> The consortium has satisfied the Government that it could meet State requirements...

Obviously, these requirements have already been drawn up, because the consortium has agreed that it can meet them.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I think the honourable member has misunderstood completely the report that the Premier gave. The Premier indicated that the consortium had accepted the fact that there would be environmental requirements that would have to be met in respect of the project. As the Premier outlined in his statement, the requirements include a total environmental impact statement, taking into account the activities of the project in relation to the surroundings, emissions from the factory, and effects on land and marine life within the area. It is to be a total environmental impact statement, taking into account all the aspects involved with such an activity.

Mr. Dean Brown: But what are the specific requirements?

The SPEAKER: Order!

JUVENILE ASSESSMENT

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Minister of Community Welfare discuss with the Minister of Education the desirability of introducing trained social workers as an interim measure into the Schools Health Service until more social workers are available for appointment to schools or groups of schools? The Schools Health Service does a fine job in detecting early defects in the health of children, especially in the case of visual difficulties. Sometimes officers of the service arc over cautious, but I believe it is better that they be that way because they then do not miss any defects. The Psychology Branch of the Education Department has also done a good job in assessing and helping children. Recently reported oversea research indicates that juvenile crime has been reduced in Lancashire by one-third between 1965 and 1973 as a result of a research project conducted by the Home Office Research Unit. Social workers from the unit were attached to schools to try specifically to detect early signs of maladjustment. In this way it has been estimated that one-third of the crime that would have otherwise been committed by juveniles has been prevented. As South Australia already leads the world in respect of the treatment of juvenile offenders and their assessment, particularly having regard to the establishment of juvenile aid panels, I believe that this innovation would be a welcome addition to our programme.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I am most conscious of the importance of developing adequate welfare services for schoolchildren. Active steps are being taken to stimulate liaison between district officers of the Community Welfare Department and social workers and the staff of schools in the locality served by community welfare centres or district offices. I hope that, as that liaison develops and as each group develops confidence in the other, much can be done to identify the problems of the children in the schools and to provide the help of social workers for them. I am interested in the honourable member's description of the Lancashire experiment. As I have not heard of it, I should be grateful if he would supply me with any references to literature on this topic, because I should like to have it examined to see what lessons it might hold for South Australia. I will discuss the matter with the Minister of Education.

ABDUCTION

Mr. HALL: Will the member for Hanson say whether the report in this morning's *Advertiser* on an alleged attempted abduction of a child aided by the injection of drugs is correctly reported? Is the honourable member accurately quoted in that report?

The SPEAKER: Order! Questions seeking information in respect of whether something that appears in the press is correct or otherwise are inadmissible.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Attorney-General, representing the Chief Secretary, say whether the Government has received any report on the molestation of young children, particularly girls, and especially in connection with drugs, at shopping centres or in public conveniences? On the front page of this morning's newspaper appears a news item which is headed "Child 'Drugged in Kidnap Bid' " and which tells a most horrifying story, mostly from the lips, apparently, of the member for Hanson. I am reminded that in July last year the honourable member asked a

similar question of the Minister of Education. Having heard such stories as this from other sources, I have always regarded them as fantasy, horrifying fantasy.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is not permitted to comment.

Mr. BECKER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I take exception to the honourable member's comments. Is he accusing me of not telling the truth—

The SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr. BECKER: —or is he accusing me of creating a fantasy?

The SPEAKER: Order! I cannot uphold the point of order, as I have ruled out of order the remarks of the honourable member for Mitcham. Those remarks were not permissible, as the honourable member was commenting.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: If there is any truth at all in these statements—

Mr. McAnaney: Question!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: —the public should know about it, and it is for that reason that L ask my question.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I agree entirely. I read the report, and there is no question that, if what is stated is accurate, it is a serious matter and something that calls for a police investigation. I will certainly ask the Chief Secretary to have the police investigate the matter in an endeavour to ascertain what foundation there could be for the report, and I will let the honourable member have a reply in due course.

Mr. BECKER: Will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary to initiate a programme of education within the community warning parents of children to report immediately to the police the description of any person who accosts their children? I refer to an article in today's *Advertiser.* The parents of the child involved are greatly concerned about this. Like many members of the public, they wish to know what the Government intends to do about this type of action.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I think the education of children in how to behave if approached by strangers is very much a matter for parents. I should have thought that the honourable member and his Party had not gone so far along the road of paternalism as to want the Government to tell parents how to educate children on their behalf. I do not doubt that the parents of children can handle this kind of situation adequately. I am sure that in many schools teachers have discussed these matters with children.

Mrs. Byrne: There's a film on the subject.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I am told there is a film on this topic. Certainly, between the parents and the schools I am sure that the matter is being handled adequately and will continue to be handled adequately.

Mr. HALL: I ask the member for Hanson whether he will make available to the police, on a confidential basis, the details surrounding the material which he had publicized in today's *Advertiser,* especially in relation to the names of the parents and the child involved, the place where the event is alleged to have taken place, and the time it took place. If he has not already made these details available to the police, I ask him whether he intends to do so, on a confidential basis.

The SPEAKER: In calling upon the member for Hanson to reply to the question asked of him, I point out that he is under no obligation to reply to the question, because it concerns a personal matter between the member for Hanson and some other authority.

Mr. BECKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your remarks. That is how I am treating the situation: it is a matter between me and the people who approached me. The question is framed in the typical manner I would expect from the sour grapes poured on me and my Party by the two black crows on the cross benches.

Mr. HALL: When the Attorney-General undertakes the investigation into the allegation of abduction by the use of drugs, will he also inquire whether the police have yet been notified of this incident? I believe this aspect of any investigation the Attorney may make is important because it has implications concerning the Police Force. I ask the question because the hands of the police are tied at present if they cannot receive any details of the incident and yet are to be subject to some part of the investigation that will follow if the Attorney-General proceeds. My information is that no notification has been given to the Police Force.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I will see to it that the Chief Secretary is requested to obtain that information from the police, and I will particularly ask him to have the inquiry include that aspect, also.

PAMPHLETS

Mr. McANANEY: In the absence of the Minister of Education, is the Premier aware of the common circulation at secondary schools of the pamphlet *Upryse* and, if he is, does this meet with his approval? At a primary school this morning, teachers who examined the pamphlet after it had been received by a young child were most upset that such a pamphlet was being circulated. Perhaps for students at Matriculation level the pamphlet would be acceptable by modern standards. However, when it gets into the hands of children about the age of 12 years, I think it is time that action was taken.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member can supply me with the names of the people who circulated the paper concerned and the circumstances involved that could lead to a proper police investigation in the matter, I shall have a look at it.

BRICK DISPUTE

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Minister of Labour and Industry say what progress has been made in negotiations to settle the dispute in the brick industry? When the member for Fisher asked a question about the matter on Tuesday of this week, the Minister replied that a conference would be held on Wednesday (that is, yesterday) at which he hoped the dispute would be settled.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: True, a conference took place yesterday with the result that both parties agreed to attend a compulsory conference this morning in the Industrial Court. I understand that conference is proceeding at present.

NATIONAL PARKS

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say whether the Government intends, during this financial year, to purchase more land for the purpose of providing national parks and recreation parks or for similar purposes? In recent years we have been told by the Government that it has purchased many tracts of land for such purposes, but to my knowledge there has been no announcement of any purchases to be made during this current financial year.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The honourable member will be pleased to know that we have a programme for this year that is greater than that of last year. I cannot give the Leader the exact figures but I will obtain the

information and see that he receives it. I can assure him that we are continuing to purchase many areas of open space under the Planning and Development Act for recreation parks and under the National Parks and Wildlife Act for national parks.

SPORTING FACILITIES

Mr. ARNOLD: Will the Minister of Recreation and Sport say to what extent the Government will assist in the establishment of youth centres and sporting facilities? In the *News* of October 31 a report from Canberra, headed "Government won't be sport's wet nurse", states:

> The Australian Government would not become the wet nurses of Australian sport, the Recreation Minister (Mr. Stewart) said today. Mr. Stewart said the Government's sports aid programme would help only those sporting organizations prepared to help themselves.

I fully agree with that statement. I have been approached by a group of young people in Barmera who wish to establish a youth centre in that town, and I ask the Minister to say whether any literature is available indicating to what extent and how the Government will support this type of facility.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The honourable member would have noticed that it was indicated in the Australian Government's recent Budget that money would be made available to the States for several sporting and recreation facilities, such as grants for athletes to attend championships overseas or for oversea athletes to attend championship functions conducted by Australian sporting groups. One of the major expenditures that the Commonwealth Government indicated was to assist such community sporting and recreation projects as would be supported by councils, State Governments, and general sporting groups in a specific area, in the sorts of recreation activity that would hold various activities under one umbrella. The Commonwealth Government has received a detailed submission from the State Government and we expect that announcements will be made soon about the projects that the Commonwealth Government will be supporting. Further, several applications are now before the State Government seeking assistance from us, and I suggest that the honourable member get as much information as possible from the group to which he has referred and ask it to make a submission to me, so that I may determine whether it is a proposal that should be forwarded to the Commonwealth Government for support or whether it is one for consideration by the State Government.

INFLATION

Mr. GUNN: In view of the Prime Minister's statement reported in today's *Australian* that the State Premiers would not co-operate with the Commonwealth Government in fighting inflation, will the Premier say when he indicated to the Prime Minister that this State would not co-operate, and why he did so?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Obviously, the Prime Minister was referring to a majority of State Premiers.

Mr. Gunn: He referred to all States.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I refer the honourable member to statements by the Prime Minister that he appreciated the co-operation of this State in relation to incomes-prices policy and control and, in addition, to his statement that the legislation introduced in the South Australian Parliament in relation to the Land Commission and the control of urban land prices was model legislation that the Commonwealth Government would commend to the other States.

PASSENGER LIMOUSINES

Mr. MILLHOUSE: My question is to the Minister of Transport.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Is this Jeckle?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I think that, following the comments by the member for Hanson yesterday—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: —making fun—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: —of me—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is asking a question.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes, I was trying to, but before I had even started, the interjections—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member must ask the question. Otherwise, leave will be withdrawn.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have not put the question yet.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has been standing up for about three minutes already!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Well, one never argues with the Speaker. Has the Minister of Transport considered the suggestion that there should be comfortable 10-passenger to 15-passenger limousines running every five minutes on all bus routes? Apparently, this suggestion was made by Mr. T. J. Strehlow (Chairman of the Federation of Adelaide Metropolitan Residents Associations) in the federation's first annual report, and it was reported in the paper earlier this week. Mr. Strehlow goes on to comment about the—

The SPEAKER: The honourable member must seek leave to explain the question.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes, I do seek that leave. Mr. Strehlow goes on to comment about the Government's placing economic growth first and the environment a very poor second. He also reflects on the lack of policy of the Opposition, and that presumably refers to the Liberal and Country League because the Liberal Movement has a policy on conservation.

Mr. McAnaney: Question!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I therefore put the question.

The SPEAKER: Leave to explain has been withdrawn.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I saw the newspaper report of Mr. Strehlow's statement and I must say that I did not give it serious consideration, because that was not required.

Mr. Millhouse: Like dial-a-bus, is it?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: No. I think it is a little like the policy of the L.M., which, like that of the L.C.L., does not exist. This proposal is merely a question of simple arithmetic. If we increased the frequency of buses from the present standard to a five-minute standard and if we reduced the capacity of the buses, probably to about one-quarter of their present capacity, it would seem that the cost of operation would be about eight to 10 times greater than it is at present. One needs to go no further: one can dismiss the proposal at that point.

FIRE SERVICES

Mr. RUSSACK: In the absence of the Minister of Works, can the Premier, representing the Minister of Agriculture, say what progress has been made on plans for the proposed headquarters of the country fire services, for which I understand land has been reserved at Keswick?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I cannot give the information to the honourable member now, but I will get a report from my colleague.

HOUSEBOATS

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation say what is his policy regarding houseboats moored adjacent to the bank near towns on the

Murray River? I have been approached by a body that is concerned about houseboats moored near a reserve.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I understand that the honourable member's question relates to policy in respect of houseboats on the river.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Moored adjacent to the bank permanently.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: Doubtless the honourable member has asked the question in relation to the pollution that could occur as a result of the use of these houseboats on a permanent basis. The honourable member probably will recall that about 12 months ago, after discussions with officers of my department, the Engineering and Water Supply Department formulated policies to ensure that, in relation to the use of houseboats on the river periodically or on a permanent basis, controls were introduced regarding the disposal of normal garbage waste and, more particularly, sewage. Action was taken to ensure that a proper system was embodied on the houseboats so that no sewage went into the river. At present I am not certain what stage has been reached regarding the proclamation of those regulations, and I point out that, to ensure that sufficient points were provided along the river so that sewage could be pumped from the houseboats at convenient places, an operating date was not set at the time. However, I will check with the Minister of Works to see what stage that matter has reached and let the honourable member know.

PENSIONER CONCESSIONS

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Will the Minister of Transport ensure that pensioner concession certificates for public transport which are issued by other State Governments are negotiable in South Australia? A pensioner from New South Wales recently moved to South Australia and in the interim period before obtaining a South Australian concession, when travelling on our public transport, tried to use a concession certificate brought from New South Wales. Unfortunately, during that interim period, this pensioner was several times refused permission to travel on such a concession. In the circumstances, I believe it is appropriate that we should make certificates that are issued in other States negotiable in South Australia, so perhaps the Ministers of Transport in the States will, at the next joint conference, consider making such certificates negotiable throughout the whole of Australia.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: From the tenor of the honourable member's question, I presume that the pensioner concerned has contacted him and given him the details of this matter. I hope that the honourable member will now go back to that pensioner and give him or her the details that I am about to give the House. I have been urging my counterparts in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia to agree to making reciprocal arrangements for recognizing pensioner cards, irrespective of where pensioners may be. Unfortunately, I cannot get agreement with any of those Ministers. The honourable member may be willing to use whatever offices he may have (good or bad) with Mr. Meagher, in Victoria, and Mr. Morris, in New South Wales, because they are the two States that people from South Australia mostly visit. If we could only obtain this agreement, we would achieve a great deal. I have attempted at transport meeting after transport meeting to obtain the very thing that the honourable member is now asking me to obtain, but I have received no support from the other Ministers. I hope that the honourable member will now use his offices with those Ministers with whom he ought to have some persuasion, and perhaps we will obtain what I believe is a justifiable right for the pensioners of Australia.

SOUTH-EAST WATER POLLUTION

Mr. NANKIVELL: In the absence of the Minister of Works, I ask the Premier whether he will request his colleague to table in this House the report of the detailed study on waler pollution in the South-East. Reference was made to this report on August 8, when the Minister of Works launched, in Mount Gambier, his anti-pollution campaign with respect to South-Eastern waters. Although the report may contain contentious suggestions, I believe that not only members but also people who live in the areas concerned should have access to it so that they know exactly what they will have to contend with if they are to observe the anti-pollution requirements implemented by the Government in further regulations.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will refer the matter to my colleague.

IRRIGATION LICENCES

Mr. WARDLE: In the absence of the Minister of Works, I ask the Premier whether the Government has varied its policy relating to divertees of water from the Murray River. I understood, as evidently did many growers along the Murray River, that when meters were installed in connection with pumping equipment water would be allocated rather than an area of land being licensed by the Government, so that instead of having a permit to irrigate, say, 50 acres (20 ha) a person might be allotted 1 000 000gall. (4.546 M*l*) of water. I believe it was understood that that water would then be used by the divertee for whatever crop he wished to produce, and it was obvious that, in order to meet the demands of markets and maintain soil fertility, it was necessary to vary the crop. Now, however, I believe that the policy has been changed, so that, should a divertec use less water in connection with a given crop and for a certain reason, he will never be able to return to growing a crop requiring more water, and the original quantity of water will not be allocated to him, so he will have to accept less. Will the Premier say whether there has been any change in Government policy on this matter?

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

PARK LANDS

Mr. COUMBE: Is the Minister of Local Government conversant with the survey being carried out by the Adelaide City Council regarding the park lands surrounding the city itself and in North Adelaide, especially in relation to preserving the park lands from further intrusion by utilities? Is he aware of the suggestion that same part of the park lands now occupied by certain Government buildings should be resumed? Further, has the Minister been approached on (and is he considering) this important matter, which is exercising the minds not only of people in the area surrounding the park lands but also of many people in the metropolitan area?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As I do not have the details of the survey to which the honourable member refers, I will obtain information on that. It is the Government's policy, however, al the first opportunity to return those park lands that have been used for other purposes to the use for which the original purpose was intended. I had a discussion only this week, or possibly late last week, with an officer associated with one of the Government buildings currently occupying park lands, and it is hoped that we shall soon be able to make an announcement on the future of that property.

FUEL RESOURCES

Mr. GUNN: Can the Minister of Development and Mines say whether, in view of the discussions by the Commonwealth Minister of Minerals and Energy with a Japanese consortium in respect of production of fuel from coal, it is likely that the large coal deposits south of Coober Pedy will be used for this project?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I saw the reference to this matter in this morning's *Advertiser,* and I should like to take further advice on it. The reference was to black coal, whereas, as the honourable member will be aware, the deposit to which he refers is of a sub-bituminous type, of higher calorific value than the coal at Leigh Creek. Nonetheless, it is technically sub-bituminous, so I am not aware of its exact applicability to the project the Commonwealth Minister has in mind. L will get a report for the honourable member. Further, in the long term, opinion in respect of energy resources is swinging around to the view that coal should be used, if at all possible, for metallurgical purposes, rather than as a source of energy. Of course, this depends on how rapidly we can develop alternative and cleaner sources of energy, such as solar energy and fusion.

LEGAL AID

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General say whether it is the Government's policy to provide legal assistance for all persons charged with major criminal offences or only in specific instances? If the latter is the case, on what basis is a decision to provide assistance made?

The Hon. L. J. KING: A legal assistance scheme is administered by the Law Society of South Australia. It is financed partly by interest from the statutory accounts kept by the Law Society (consisting of part of the balances of solicitors' trust accounts), partly by contributions made by the applicants for legal assistance themselves, partly by Government funds, and partly by the fact that legal practitioners who participate in the scheme forgo 20 per cent of their normal fee for work they do under the scheme. Any person charged with an offence may apply to the Law Society for assistance and, provided that the matter is sufficiently serious as to justify legal assistance (and that simply means that a prudent person possessed of means would employ a solicitor) and that the applicant cannot procure legal assistance entirely from his own resources, he will be granted legal assistance, and that applies irrespective of the nature of the charge. It depends purely on the means of the applicant.

Alongside of that, there exists the scheme operating under the Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act which empowers the Supreme Court and the Local and District Court to assign a, counsel and a solicitor to persons charged with indictable offences. Judges frequently use that power and assign a counsel, a solicitor, or both, and their costs are paid out of a fund maintained under the control of the Sheriff. In every case a person charged with a criminal offence has at his disposal, if he cannot pay for representation from his own resources, the means of obtaining adequate representation.

FERRY

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister of Transport find out whether any small class of ferry that may be surplus could be made available to transport equipment from Loxton to Katarapko Island once the Murray River has subsided, so that members of the Loxton Field and Game Association can carry out restoration work on the reserve?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall have much pleasure in referring that question to the Highways Department.

M.V. *TROUBRIDGE*

Mr. CHAPMAN: Will the Minister of Transport obtain and supply me with a draft of the financial trading balances of the m.v. *Troubridge* for the financial year 1972-73? Although I have obtained the Highways Department report in respect of the 1972-73 physical operations of the vessel (and they are set out in great detail), I cannot locale the actual trading balances. Therefore, I should appreciate the Minister's co-operation in this regard.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be glad to get that information.

FRANCES RAILWAY COTTAGES

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Transport say whether a final decision has been made about the future of railway cottages at Frances? This question has previously been asked by the member for Victoria, and recently a deputation met with the Minister, who indicated that the whole programme would be considered. It has been stated that there is to be no demolition in the immediate future, but there are still rumours current that the demolition will take place soon.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The basis of the problem to which the member for Victoria referred and which was subsequently referred to by the deputation (I think, the Hon. Mr. DeGaris presented the deputation to me) did not concern demolition of the cottages: rather it concerned the retention of the railway gang at Frances. This matter is now being reviewed by the Railways Commissioner and, at this stage, I have no further information.

ABORIGINAL LORE

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Can the Attorney-General say whether the Government has considered amending section 69 of the Evidence Act in order to protect from publication matters which, in Aboriginal lore, should be kept secret? I ask the Attorney-General this question in his capacity both as Attorney-General and as Minister responsible for Aboriginal affairs, although he is no longer Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. He will know that the provisions of section 69 of the Evidence Act give the court power to prohibit the publication of evidence in certain circumstances. So far as I can see from looking at the section, that power does not extend to prohibition on the grounds to which I have referred in my question. We know that certain matters are not only sacred in Aboriginal lore but also are to be kept secret, indeed, on pain of death. The report on the front page of this morning's paper prompts me to ask the question because, from reading the report, it seems that several matters have been included in it which are the things to which objection is taken by Aboriginal people as to their publication. As a former Minister responsible for these matters, I know of and respect the sensitivity of Aborigines in such matters, and it is for that reason that I ask the Attorney-General this question, as I hope he will be as sympathetic in this matter as I tried to be.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I have some difficulty in answering this question, because I have arranged for instructions to be conveyed to counsel for the prosecution in this case that an application under section 69 should be made in respect of any further evidence of the kind reported this morning being held in the case. The application may have already been made, but, whether it has or not, it would not be proper for me to comment on section 69 or its application at this stage.

LOXTON TURN-OFF

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Transport say whether consideration will be given to erecting what, for want of a better word, I call a hoarding sign, or a large off to the left; then, latterly, the turn-off to Loxton on the present Kingston turn-off from the Kingston bridge approach, indicating clearly the sequence of junctions as a motorist approaches the bridge: namely, the Kingston turn-off to the left; then, latterly, the turn-off to Loxton on the right; and the through road to Barmera across the bridge? The erection of this sign would probably be a solution to the problem which I have been asked to raise and which has been continually raised by me because the present sign post does not give sufficient warning. Some people think that they still have to go to Loxton via Kingston, and there has been some confusion because the Kingston turn-off precedes the turn-off to Loxton. Motorists turn off at the sign to Kingston and eventually realize that they cannot get back on to the Loxton road.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I will refer this further point to the Highways Department.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Premier say whether it is Government policy to announce in local newspapers the details of legislation before such legislation is introduced into Parliament? Today, the Film Classification Act Amendment Bill was fully explained in the *Advertiser* and last week there were other instances of Bills being fully explained in local newspapers before they had been introduced here. Opposition members, therefore, have to get their information from the press before the Bills are introduced. Is this Government policy?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No.

MISSING PERSONS

Mr. BECKER: In the temporary absence of the Attorney-General, will the Premier obtain from the Chief Secretary a report on the number of persons reported missing in the State in the past 12 months, the number still listed as missing, and the ages of the persons in each group?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will refer the question to my colleague.

CORNY POINT WATER SUPPLY

Mr. HALL: In the temporary absence of the Minister of Works, will the Premier ascertain what progress has been made in research and investigation to provide the Corny Point area with a reticulated water supply system based on the Carribie Basin? For several years a scheme for this area has been under some sort of investigation, and I have spoken with representatives of the District Council of Warooka about its possibilities. That council would like to know whether there is such a plan and, if there is, what stage it has now reached. I am sure the Minister would understand the need for a water supply in this area.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will refer the question to my colleague.

REFLECTOR TRIANGLES

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Minister of Transport consider introducing legislation to make compulsory the carrying by motorists of reflector triangles? As the Minister is aware, in parts of Europe it is an offence not to carry this equipment in a motor vehicle. The equipment is used specifically by motorists when vehicles have broken down or are pulled on to the side of the road. The triangle is about 2ft. (61 cm) high, is painted with reflecting red paint, and must be displayed in the circumstances to which I have referred. Before one takes a car to the Continent, it is stipulated by law that the car must have this equipment. As I know that road safety is so much on the mind of the Minister, I ask him to consider this suggestion.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Already there are stringent requirements regarding reflectors on motor vehicles, these requirements needing to be satisfied before a vehicle can be registered. I doubt very much whether the device to which the honourable member has referred would be of much value; rather, I think motorists would regard it as an added imposition. However, I will look into the matter and, if there is anything further I can add, I will report back to the honourable member.

MURRAY NEW TOWN (LAND ACQUISITION) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the House of Assembly's amendment to the Legislative Council's amendment No. 3 without amendment, and that it did not insist on its amendments Nos. 4 and 5 to which the House of Assembly had disagreed.

URBAN LAND (PRICE CONTROL) BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

FILM CLASSIFICATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Film Classification Act has now been in operation for about two years. The present amendments are designed to assist in solving a few practical problems in its administration that have arisen over that period. The first amendment makes it an offence for an adult person to assist a child between two and 18 years of age to gain admission to the exhibition of a film to which a restricted classification has been assigned. This will enable a prosecution to be launched against an adult person who may morally be the real offender in this kind of offence. The Bill gives an exhibitor greater power to require evidence of age from a person who seeks admission to a theatre in which a film to which a restricted classification has been assigned is being, or is about to be, exhibited.

The Bill seeks to give appropriate legal effect to the classification assigned to a film. It is clearly ludicrous that where a film has passed the censorship authorities established under the national scheme of film censorship and a classification has been assigned, the exhibitor of the film may have to face further challenge in the courts to his right to exhibit the film The Bill therefore provides that, where a classification has been assigned to a film in accordance with the principal Act, it shall not be an offence to exhibit the film in accordance with that Act. The final amendment deals with the problem of the exhibition of R classification films in drive-in theatres. The amendment provides that where, in the opinion of the Minister, the exhibition of a film can be viewed from a place outside the theatre in. which it is being exhibited, the Minister may, by order, prohibit the exhibition of R classification films in that theatre.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 makes it an offence for a person to assist a child to obtain admission to a theatre in which an R classification film is being, or is about to be, exhibited. It also empowers the exhibitor or an employee of the exhibitor to obtain evidence of age from a person

seeking admission to the theatre. Clause 3 prevents further legal challenge on grounds of censorship where a film has been classified by the appropriate authorities, and enables the Minister to prohibit the exhibition of R classification films in certain drive-in theatres.

Dr. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.

CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLICATIONS BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for the classification of publications, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

It arises from the new approach to censorship that has emerged in Australia over the last few years. The old paternalism under which Governments appointed themselves as guardians of morality, and denied citizens the right to consider published material, now has much diminished in force. There are some who see the relaxation of censorship as symptomatic of a general decline in morality. In fact, this is a mistaken view. As Milton pointed out in his famous essay on censorship, the exercise of powers of censorship is an affront to the dignity of human personality; it is a patronizing and paternalistic act that is not appropriate in an adult society. In so far as it excludes material from consideration, it does not promote morality but, on the contrary, strikes at the basis of a person's moral autonomy by taking away rational choice in the selection of reading material. Moreover, the very existence of censorship implies the possibility of. its use for sinister purposes: that it may be used to exclude from consideration and debate ideas and material that those who are invested with these powers may from motives of self-interest wish to remain shrouded in silence or secrecy. There are, therefore, many reasons why the new approach to the problems of censorship can now be welcomed.

There are, however, correlative problems which arise from the relaxation of censorship controls. The Government recognizes the principle that citizens are entitled to reasonable protection from material that they find personally offensive. If restrictions are to be removed, as they have been, at least those who take offence at. material of a certain kind should not be subjected to the public flaunting of material of this kind. Similarly, it is recognized that children whose judgment is immature and who may be overly susceptible to the influence of published material need protection during their formative years, and it is for their parents to decide what they should and should not read. The present Bill, therefore, establishes a board of experts vested with powers to consider any publication that may be available for sale or distribution in this, State. The board will have power to classify any publication which deals with matters of sex, drug addiction, crime, cruelty, violence or other revolting or abhorrent phenomena, which is presented in a manner that is likely to cause offence to reasonable adult persons, or which is unsuitable for perusal by minors, as a restricted publication.

On the other hand, if the board decides that a publication is not likely to be offensive to reasonable adult persons and is not unsuitable for perusal by minors, it may classify the .publication as suitable for unrestricted publication. Where the board has classified a publication as a restricted publication, it may impose conditions relating to the sale, exhibition or dissemination of that publication. Any person who sells, exhibits or disseminates a publication in contravention of a condition imposed by the board is guilty of an offence. The board in deciding the issues with which is is confronted must have regard to standards of morality, decency and propriety that are generally accepted by reasonable adult persons. In exercising its powers, the board will give effect to the principles that adult persons are entitled to read and view what they wish in private or public and that members of the community are entitled to protection (extending both to themselves and to those in their care) from exposure to unsolicited material that they find offensive. Where the application of those principles would lead to conflicting conclusions, the board is required to exercise its powers in a manner that will achieve a reasonable balance between the application of those principles.

Clauses 1 to 3 are formal. Clause 4 contains definitions required for the purposes of the new Act. Clause 5 deals with the establishment and constitution of the board. It is to consist of five expert members appointed by the Governor. Clause 6 deals with the conditions on which a member of the board is to hold office. Clause 7 deals with the procedure of the board. Clause 8 is a saving provision dealing with vacancies in the membership of the board. Clause 9 provides for the payment of allowances and expenses to the members of the board.

Clause 10 provides for the appointment of a registrar to the board. Clause 11 provides that the board may of its own notion, or at the request of any person, meet for the purpose of considering the classification to be assigned to a publication. The board is required to consider the classification to be assigned to any publication referred by the Minister to the board for its consideration. Clause 12 sets out the criteria that are to be applied by the board in performing its functions. I draw members' attention to this clause which provides:

(1) In considering questions as to whether a publication is offensive, or suitable or unsuitable for perusal by minors, the board shall have regard to standards of morality, decency and propriety that are generally accepted by reasonable adult persons.

(2) In performing its functions under this Act, the board shall give effect to the principles—

(*a*) that adult persons are entitled to read and view what they wish in private or public;

and

(*b*) That members of the community are entitled to protection (extending both to themselves and those in their care) from exposure to unsolicited material that they find offensive.

and in a case where the application of those principles would lead to conflicting conclusions, shall exercise its powers in a manner that will, in the opinion of the board, achieve a reasonable balance in the application of those principles.

(3) in performing its functions under this Act the board shall have due regard to decisions, determinations or directions of authorities of the Commonwealth and of the States of the Commonwealth relevant to the performance of those functions.

Clause 13 sets out the conditions on which the board is required to classify a publication either as a restricted publication or as a publication suitable for unrestricted publication. Where a publication under consideration by the board consists of an issue or instalment of a series of publications that are issued periodically or by instalments, the board may classify future publications of the same series on the basis of the publication presently under consideration. The board is empowered to alter any classification that it has previously assigned to a publication. If someone gets the right to a classification of a series and departs from the basic material submitted for that series, the board can alter that classification. Clause 14 sets out the conditions that the board is empowered to impose on the sale, exhibition or dissemination of a restricted publication.

Clause 13 (3) provides:

The board may refrain from assigning a classification to a publication where the board is satisfied that to do so, or to impose conditions in respect of the publication, could not give proper effect to the principles that the board is bound to apply.

The purpose of that is that where there is a publication in relation to which the board, whatever it does, does not consider that by means of classification and restriction on conditions it can provide protection to the public, on the principle that has been laid down in the previous clause, it can refuse to assign a classification. That does not mean that the publication in itself is then illegal, but it would then run the risk of prosecution and of the normal test of obscenity, indecency or impropriety before the law. Clause 15 empowers the board to summon witnesses and hear or examine evidence in relation to any publication that is presently subject to its consideration. Clause 16 provides for notice of a classification or conditions assigned or imposed by the board to be published in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State and in the *Gazette.*

Clause 17 makes it an offence for a person to act in contravention of a condition imposed by the board. Clause 18 enables a member of the Police Force who has reason to believe that an offence has been committed in relation to the exhibition, sale or distribution of a restricted publication to enter upon premises and seize copies of restricted publications that may be involved in further offences. A court may order that restricted publications involved in the commission of an offence be forfeited to the Crown. Clause 19 provides that notwithstanding any other law it shall not be an offence to print or produce the publication so that it may be submitted to the board for classification; to sell, distribute, exhibit or display a publication that has been classified for suitable and unrestricted distribution; or to sell, distribute, deliver, exhibit or display a publication in compliance with conditions imposed by the board. Clause 20 provides for the summary disposal of proceedings. Clause 21 enables the Government to make regulations necessary for the purposes of the new Act.

Dr. TONKIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Fire Brigades Act, 1936, as amended. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I ask leave to have the second reading speech incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

EXPLANATION OF BILL

With minor exceptions, this measure is concerned with expressing in statutory form, in relation to the Fire Brigades Board of this State, a policy adopted by the Government of "worker participation" in the operation of enterprises. The form in which the application of this policy is expressed will become clear on an examination of the clauses of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 amends section 9 of the principal Act and enlarges the membership of the Fire Brigades Board from a Chairman and four members to a Chairman and five members. The present Chairman and the present four members will, by virtue of proposed subsection (2) of this section, continue in office for the balance of the term for which they were last appointed. Clause 4 amends section 10 of the principal Act and provides for the nomination by the Minister of the additional member.

Clause 5 inserts a new section 10a in the principal Act and provides for the election of a person to be nominated as the additional member. It is felt that the substance of this clause is reasonably self-explanatory. Clause 6 repeals and re-enacts section 20 of the principal Act which sets out the fees payable to the Chairman and members of the board. From time to lime these fees have been varied by regulations under the Statutory Salaries and Fees Act, 1947, and this method of variation has caused concern in relation to the preparation of a consolidation of the Statutes since, in terms, the regulations do not textually amend the Statute.

Accordingly, this re-enactment provides that the fees will be expressed al their present level and future variations will be provided by regulation under the principal Act, thus rendering textual amendments unnecessary. Such regulations will, of course, be subject to the scrutiny of this House. Clause 7 proposes an amendment consequent on proposed new section 10a, which provides for an election of an employee of the board to be nominated as a member of the board.

Mr. COUMBE secured the adjournment of the debate.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Consideration in Committee of the Legislative Council's amendment:

Page 1, line 17 (clause 3)—After "shall" insert ", when acting in the exercise of his powers or the performance of his duties,".

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

That the Legislative Council's amendment be agreed to. So far as I can judge, this amendment makes no practical difference to the operation of the Bill, although it seems to have occasioned an extraordinary degree of warmth and consumed a deal of time in another place. The amendment simply provides that the Auditors-General shall be deemed to be company auditors when acting in the course of their duties. In my view, that makes no practical difference to the Bill as it left here. It departs from the form of the uniform Bill adopted by the Parliaments of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. However, I suppose uniformity in actual form is not of any great importance, and certainly it is not a matter that ought to occasion any difference of opinion between the two Houses.

Mr. COUMBE: This amendment merely spells out in a more definitive form the original provision in the Bill dealing with the Auditors-General of the States or Commonwealth, or Territories of the Commonwealth. It was canvassed in this Chamber previously, and was omitted from the original legislation which this Bill seeks to amend. The amendment made in the other place merely spells out the matter in more precise terms. I am not sure whether il makes any difference.

Motion carried.

PYRAMID SALES BILL

In Committee.

(Continued from October 17. Page 1313.)

Clause 4—"Interpretation."

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

To strike out the definition of "consumer" and insert:

"consumer"—

(*a*) in relation to a trading scheme, pursuant to which goods or services are supplied to a person for supply by that person, by way of retail sale, from premises from which other goods or services are supplied by way of retail sale, means the person so supplied with those goods or services;

and

(*b*) in relation to any other trading scheme, pursuant to which goods or services are supplied to a person means the person so supplied with those goods or services for enjoyment, use or exercise and not for resale:;

and in paragraph (*b*) in the definition of "pyramid selling scheme" to strike out "another person'' and insert "other persons".

The amendment provides a new and double-barrelled definition of consumer: one barrel is substantially the ordinary meaning of the term (that is, one who consumes or otherwise uses goods or services), and the second barrel is for use in a trading scheme which has as its object the supplying of goods to retail sellers for the purposes of resale. In that case, for the purposes of the definition of pyramid selling scheme, a retail seller will be regarded as a consumer of the goods. The need for this second and somewhat specialized definition arose when it was brought to the attention of the Government that some pyramid schemes had as their object the supplying of goods to retail sellers. If the retail sellers were regarded as participants in the scheme, such schemes would not be caught by the definition of pyramid selling scheme, whereas under paragraph (*c*) of that definition transactions under the scheme must take place at premises other than premises at which a participant normally carries on business.

If the retail seller is a participant, that would exclude transactions of that kind from the scheme and, in the special case that I have mentioned, retail sales pursuant to the scheme made to a shop, therefore, would not fall within the description of such transactions and, if we are to extend the protection of this legislation to participants in the scheme who are retail sellers, it can be done best by this double-barrelled definition of selling. The second amendment is a drafting amendment intended to clarify the application of paragraph (*b*) to pyramid selling.

Dr. EASTICK (Leader of the Opposition): I accept the amendments. Neither the Government nor the Opposition intended that legitimate selling undertaken by direct selling organizations should be interfered with. I do not consider that the alteration will disadvantage the public of South Australia. It will maintain the employment available to many people on a part-time basis in providing goods and services to the community, to the advantage of the community. The first amendment is a somewhat novel but very effective means by which the person in the middle will be regarded as a consumer of goods, and he may then sell to a consumer.

Amendments carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 5 and 6 passed.

Clause 7—"Prohibition on certain payments."

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

In subclause (1) after "resident" to insert "or carrying on business".

This amendment is intended to cover the situation of a body corporate that may not necessarily be resident in the State but may be carrying on business in the State. The concept of the residence of corporations is one of continuing difficulty in the law, and it is thought better to make clear what corporations are covered by the Bill by providing the dual concept of residence and carrying on business.

Dr. EASTICK: This is a legitimate amendment and I support it. It was not intended that there should be a loophole in the overall selling arrangement that would be to the advantage of any group.

Amendment carried.

The Hon. L. J. KING: I move to insert the following new subclauses:

(5a) It shall be a defence, to a prosecution for an offence that is a contravention of subsection (1) or subsection (3) of this section, for the defendant to prove that the payment that was made or, as the case may be, the payment in respect of which the inducement or attempt to induce occurred was, at the material time pursuant to subsection (5b) of this section, an approved payment for the purposes of this section.

(5b) In relation to a payment to be made by a participant in a pyramid selling scheme for sales demonstration equipment or for any other thing or purpose as the Minister may approve the Minister may from time to time by notice published in the *Gazette* declare—

(*a*) any such payment;

or

(*b*) any such payment of a class or kind,

to be an approved payment for the purposes of this section and may by notice published in a like manner revoke or amend any such declaration.

It has been brought to the attention of the Government that some quite legitimate payments made in connection with trading schemes may in strict Jaw fall within the class of payment that would be proscribed by this clause if it stood in its original form. Examples of such payments are payments of a reasonable amount for sales demonstration equipment dr material. Accordingly, the two new subclauses will provide a means of exempting such payments from the application of the penal provisions of clause 7.

It will be seen that, in new subclause (5a), a prohibited payment does not include a payment approved pursuant to new subclause (5b). It is obvious that it is quite impossible to spell out an exhaustive list of the types of payment that may exist, but we have in mind payments for sales demonstration equipment and analogous payments, so that where, in a direct selling scheme, the participant's only payment is a reasonable amount paid for demonstration equipment or, perhaps, for some other reasonable purpose connected with his participation in the scheme, as there is power for the Minister to declare that to be a reasonable payment it will cease to be obnoxious to the measure.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 8 to 10 passed.

Clause 11—"Evidentiary."

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

In subclause (1) after "complaint" to insert "or information".

Under this Bill, prosecutions may be instituted either by complaint or by indictment on information, and the evidentiary provisions in the clause should apply to both forms of proceeding.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (12 and 13) and title passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PAWNBROKERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL (LICENCES)

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 18. Page 1341.)

Mr. NANKIVELL (Mallee): I agree with the sentiments expressed in the second reading explanation, namely, that the existing system is not only expensive and time consuming but also seems to be unnecessary. I support the Bill.

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

FLAMMABLE CLOTHING BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 3. Page 1039.)

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg): I support the Bill and congratulate the Minister and the Government on introducing this measure, much of which no doubt is taken from

the Bill I introduced earlier this session. This Bill is similar to mine, except when it comes to considering real decision and using real initiative so as to set the pace for the rest of Australia. The Minister has freely admitted that there is a great need in Australia to label flammable clothing. Indeed, the public should be alerted to the problems and dangers that exist in this regard and must be made aware that certain clothing, especially nightwear, is almost as dangerous as an incendiary bomb.

However, I believe that the Minister and the Government have failed to grasp the nettle, for I regard this as weak legislation and as legislation which, as it were, has a hole in the middle. Indeed, it is a great disappointment to me. The Government has not faced up to its responsibilities in this matter, nor has the Minister really tackled this problem, which involves people of all ages but especially older people. The Bill seeks only to have children's night clothes labelled, but I believe older people must be given some guidance on this and that they may be in as much trouble wearing this type of clothing as may be young people. Clause 3 (2) provides:

> The Governor may, from time to time, by proclamation fix a day to be the appointed day in relation to any prescribed article of clothing and may by subsequent proclamation amend or revoke any such proclamation.

I emphasize that, in addition to children, the older and infirm people must be looked after and protected from what is potentially a terrible danger. In his explanation, the Minister said:

> I should add that initially it is proposed that the regulations will be made only in respect of children's nightwear, and a draft of those regulations has been prepared since the Ministers' conference and is being considered by all States. ... Ministers have asked their permanent heads to consider whether regulations should also be made in respect of other items of clothing and whether warnings can be conveyed by readily recognizable symbols as well as by words.

The Minister also said, almost at the beginning of the explanation:

> ...State Ministers of Labour first discussed the need for Government action in this matter at their 1966 conference.

That was before the Minister's time, and it has taken nearly 10 years to get to the stage only of labelling children's clothing. If it takes another 10 years to reach the stage of labelling other clothing, especially elderly people's nightwear, it is a sorry state of affairs and is just not good enough. What will happen to these people? Although the Minister is concerned about them, I am disappointed that he has not seen his way to go further in this matter. True, there are problems in respect of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, but the Minister should set the pace in Australia, especially in this area where there is such a need for safety.

The Minister stated in his explanation that "they will probably use symbols as well as words". I am concerned that the public will be faced with too many labels. In reply to a question I asked the Minister, he referred to the number of labels in use, as follows:

> Low fire hazard garment designed to reduce fire hazard; keep away from fire; Warning—Flammable garment—Keep away from fire.
>
> For garments that contain fabrics that melt, the following will have to be added:
>
> Warning—Do not wear under any flammable garment.

Although many migrants who cannot speak good English may need the symbols, I am concerned about the number of words and symbols involved in this area. Such a large number will confuse members of the public so that they will not know what they are buying.

In my Bill attention was given to the need to test labels. As I assume that labels are to be of the cloth type and stitched on to the garment, I should like to know how they will be tested, especially in respect of the standards laid down by the Standards Association. I refer to Standards Book 1249/1972, and the testing in respect of fabrics, as follows:

> Fabric labels which have been tested in a solution at 60°C containing five grammes per litre of common soap and water.

The Minister should take this into account in drafting the regulations, which will be the most important part of this legislation. The temperature of 60°C is not hot enough. I refer to the Australian Standard 1248, dealing with the washing conditions of cotton and linen. The solution there is to be of a temperature of between 80°C and 85°C, with a washing time of 30 minutes.

The main use for these labels will be on garments for sale off the rack, where purchasers will decide whether they will buy the garments or not. However, when children grow out of their clothes, the clothes will be given to a local charity or sold but, however they are disposed of, they are passed on. If clothing labels cannot be subjected to rigorous cleaning treatment, clothing will change hands without the new owner realizing the inherent danger of the fabric being worn. Will the Minister draft regulations with this problem in mind? The Minister has said that regulations will be made "only in respect of children's nightwear..." This could be a problem.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: It will be governed by regulation.

Mr. MATHWIN: Up to what age is a person a child? Some children at age 14 are 6ft. 2in. (163 cm) whereas others are only 4ft. 6in. (137 cm). The Minister referred to accidents in respect of burns resulting from the use of nightwear. He said that the number of burn accidents to young children in which nightwear was involved was relatively small. In 1972-73, 445 children were taken to the Adelaide Children's Hospital suffering from burns and, of those, 145 were admitted. I challenge the Minister's statement, because I do not consider that to be a small proportion. The Adelaide Children's Hospital is the only hospital that keeps such records, yet I am sure that children are taken to other hospitals where no records are kept, although I assume that certain information is sent to the Adelaide Children's Hospital. Of the 145 children admitted, 93 were girls and 52 boys.

I believe that all clothing should be covered by legislation. As a start, the Bill should cover all nightwear, especially that of children and older persons. Elderly people need just as much protection as, if not more than, younger people. Many old people smoke cigarettes in bed: some even fall asleep while still smoking. How they do it I do not know (I am a non-smoker myself). However, they do, and they cause fires.

Mr. Coumbe: Another health hazard.

Mr. MATHWIN: Yes. Their reactions are slow. They get up in the morning and wear a dressing gown; they have a gas stove; they reach for a pan of milk over an open flame, and within 45 seconds to 47 seconds they could be completely incinerated. Whether it is a child or an older person, it takes the same time. Older people are more susceptible to falling over, stumbling and fainting. They feel cold on winter nights and stand near a fire or radiator to get warm and, if they are wearing a garment made of man-made fibres, they may become engulfed in flames.

Some of the synthetic fibres now being made can flash alight merely by being close to a flame; they do not have to make contact with it.

I believe, and I think the Minister realizes, that it is imperative that some protection be given to older people, particularly regarding nightwear, such as pyjamas, dressing gowns, etc. In the United Kingdom (and I mentioned this in an earlier debate on a similar measure), the first legislation on this subject was introduced in 1913. The British Parliament realized the problem, and the British legislation covered all items of nightwear. In the United States of America the legislation is known as the Wool Products Labelling Act, and it has been in force for some time. The American Legislature covered everything: it did not fiddle around with the legislation, and it was not half-hearted. The legislation covers suits, the lining of suits, the suit material and fur coats.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Does it cover the top pocket?

Mr. MATHWIN: Yes, and the silk handkerchief inside it. It even covers shoe laces. If I were in America my black and gold Glenelg Premiership shoe laces would have to be covered. That was a fiery game too! The American legislation even covers carpets, antimacassars, garters, cushions and cushion covers. Yet, here we are legislating only for children's nightwear, yet night attire concerns all ranges of people, particularly the younger and older people. It is a great pity that the Minister did not grasp the nettle. He has said that South Australia is a progressive State, so he should have said that we will be the first in the field and set the pace for Australia in protecting people from the risk of being burnt to death within 47 seconds. That is what 1 expected him to say.

Mr. Arnold: Do you think he's only half-hearted?

Mr. MATHWIN: Well, I am disappointed. The *Australian* of July 7 contains an article under the heading, "Move to Outlaw Flammable Clothes—Warning Labels 'not Good Enough'." The article states:

Consumer groups in Victoria want the manufacture of flammable garments banned. Mr. I. Elliott, the general secretary of the Citizens Action Federation, which represents 12 of the 14 consumer groups in the State, said yesterday plans merely to label garments were unacceptable. He said the labels worked out by the Standards Association were unclear and absurd. He said, "They should outlaw the manufacture of all flammable clothes, not just babies' nightwear."

However, I would not go as far as banning the manufacture of such garments, but I would legislate for the labelling of all garments. The *News* of March 7 contains an article as follows:

According to Dr. A. Clarke, Director of the burns unit at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital, laws covering fireproof clothing could be extended to cover clothing for the aged. Dr. Clarke said legislation in Australia would initially be "softer" than that in America—

there is no doubt about that—

where the Food and Drug Administration had moved to ban sales of non-fireproof clothing for children up to six... Dr. Pruitt, head of a military burns unit in San Antonio, said American research showed an equal need for special fireproof clothing especially night attire for the aged.

Both Dr. Clarke and Dr. Pruitt, who are experts, advocate that fire-proof clothing, especially night attire for the aged, should be labelled. This is proof positive of the need for this legislation to go much further than it does. The Minister will be well aware of what materials constitute the greatest fire hazards; surprising though it may be, cotton is the worst, followed by wincyette, linen, rayon and flannelette. Fabrics with the pile on the outside are also a fire hazard because, if they are placed close to extreme heat, they can flash alight by combustion. The brushed-cotton type garments with artificial fibres such as acrylics and polyesters on the outside melt under extreme heat. Cotton material burns, but polyester and brushed nylon materials melt, so that whilst the flesh is burnt the material melts into the wounds, thus causing hardship to the injured and problems for those trying to nurse them back to health. Generally, brushed cotton, polyester and nylon are materials used for dressing gowns, a garment that is worn for most of the day by aged and infirm people, and they need help because their reactions are not as quick as those of younger people. Any fit and strong person dressed in such a garment would also panic in the short time after the material catches alight.

The Minister said that this Bill would cover children's nightwear, but what is to happen about a baby's cot blanket in which the baby is wrapped for most of the day and night? Will the cot blanket, which could be regarded as nightwear, be labelled? We have been referring to flammable clothing worn by children up to 14 years of age, but the regulations should also cover a baby's cot blanket. I had about 16 pages of fact and figures when I introduced my Bill: this information was given to the Minister with my best intentions, because I am concerned about this problem and that young and old people alike need protecting. I know that the Minister has a problem about uniformity, but I am disappointed that he has not taken stronger action. We in this State are concerned about this problem, which has caused the death of so many people over the years. I support the Bill but with great reluctance, because it does not go far enough.

Mr. COUMBE (Torrens): I am pleased that at last this Bill has been introduced, and I commend the member for Glenelg for his earlier efforts to try to achieve, by his own initiative, the results that will be apparent from the introduction of this Bill. I am sure that his action has expedited this matter. Those who have studied this subject (and I have been involved in it) have suffered much frustration because the matter has not been brought into legislative form until now; no doubt the Minister has shared that frustration. The date of 1966 has been referred to, and I recall, as Minister of Labour and Industry in 1968 and 1969, attending conferences at which this matter was high on the agenda. However, lime after time, because no definitive standards could be decided on, it was deferred. The matter was referred to the Standards Association, but the problem was to define an acceptable standard. Although there has been much frustration concerning this matter, I am sure the general public has been looking forward to this type of legislation being introduced. Many organizations had to be consulted and, apart from selling organizations, dry cleaners and textile companies were involved.

I remember seeing an exhibition at which articles of different types of material were deliberately burned, with frightening results, particularly with materials commonly worn by many people. Probably the worst materials are those that melt after being burned, because they cling to the skin. As one who has suffered third degree burns, I know how serious the results can be. We must remember that this legislation is not dealing only with children, and the member for Glenelg is correct in pleading for consideration of pensioners and other aged people who live alone. However, regulations can be made in those instances. We are not referring to nightwear only, because this Bill could apply to industrial clothing. Because there have been so many accidents in which children have been burned when wearing the wrong type of material, the emphasis seems to have been placed on children, but we must consider all aspects, including industrial clothing. A workman can be

badly burned because he is wearing the wrong type of material.

One reason for the Bill not being introduced before is the desire for uniformity throughout the country, but we do not have to be uniform. I know that the Minister has argued on other matters that South Australia should go ahead of other States, and we cannot use the question of uniformity as being the only reason for the delay in introducing this legislation. This Bill relies heavily on regulations: the regulation-making power contained in it sets out that certain clothing and labels may be prescribed. I make the plea that these labels or symbols be clear so that they can be readily understood. The most important time in this respect is when a person buys the clothing. A young mother may buy clothes for her child or for herself. She may wear a nightgown or a dressing gown when she is feeding the child. Older people, too, are affected by this legislation. When a person buys the actual article, that is when the label must be clearly apparent and marked clearly that the material is susceptible to fire or is fire resistant.

We must remember that not all the goods we buy in stores are made in Australia. Many of them come from overseas, and I am not just referring to high fashion. Before these articles of clothing are displayed in shops, they should have the appropriate label put on them. The Minister also has the responsibility of administering the Textile Products Description Act. If one examines that Act, one can see that, with this legislation, there will be a plethora of labels on articles. In the case of small articles, labelling will be difficult. All members are wearing shirts which, under the Textile Products Description Act, must be labelled at the back. There will be several labels on the various articles of clothing being displayed.

The definition of "the appointed day" is important. This is the day on which certain provisions in the legislation will come into effect. The idea of this appointed day is to give the various people involved in merchandising time to have the labels made and affixed. This involves not only manufacturers but also merchants, and it may involve agents. Therefore, a lee time before the appointed day is necessary so that the legislation will work efficiently. I should like the Minister to say whether different dates will be set for different articles. I put this question having regard to articles available now and not those that will become available after the operation of the legislation. Will there be different appointed days for different articles because of an inability either to make labels or to affix them or have them displayed? This should be clearly spelt out. The appointed day is the day after which offences can be committed.

Although we all support the principle behind the Bill, its provisions must be fair to those who will merchandise products, or they may not be able to have their products available to the public. I commend the member for Glenelg for his earlier efforts in trying to expedite this legislation. I hope the Bill will come into effect and will be to the benefit of the people of the State who in many cases are now suffering injuries or danger in this respect.

Dr. TONKIN (Bragg): The substance of this Bill is similar to that introduced earlier this session by the member for Glenelg, although this Bill has an added provision for inspection, about which I will speak later. I understand that the member for Glenelg may take some action about that provision. With that provision and with some added definitions, this is basically the same Bill as was introduced by the member for Glenelg. The Bill will permit regulations to be made in relation to the labelling and sale of various garments. I think that it does the Minister little credit that in his explanation he made no reference to the member for Glenelg and the great interest he had taken in the matter. I was surprised to find that the Bill was introduced as though this legislation was a new idea, something that had just been thought of by the Government, when all members know perfectly well that a similar Bill was introduced earlier this year by the member for Glenelg. I would have expected some credit, even if given only grudgingly, to be given by the Minister. This is not like the Minister, who is usually most fair in these matters; I hope it was purely an oversight. The member for Glenelg in this debate and in his explanation of the previous Bill covered matters adequately. I note that the powers given, under the Bill, to an inspector are similar to those considered by the House recently in another Bill, when those powers were modified by amendment. I believe that similar action should be taken in this case, too. In other words, I think that an inspector should be compelled to show his authority, warrant card or whatever identification he has before attempting to enter premises.

I am pleased indeed to see the Bill finally introduced, and I look forward to its passing. I am disturbed by two factors, one of which has been covered adequately by previous speakers. I am disturbed that only nightwear will be covered at present. I realize that regulations will be made and that this is a regulation Bill. However, I trust that the regulations will follow soon. This matter is complex. Labelling, particularly, is a most complicated subject, and I do not envy the Minister and his advisers their task in devising a plan. Not only is there a need to label the garment but in some cases there may be a need to label the fabric. This matter has been raised before in relation to cleaning problems. Commonwealth legislation demands that a label be affixed to all imported items, but it does not necessarily demand that that label shall be accurate or descriptive of the garments and fabric. Examples have been given where goods manufactured in oversea countries (for instance, Hong Kong) may be labelled, with the first label that comes to hand, by a worker who is unable to read English anyway and who does not know what the label says. He affixes the label simply to comply with Commonwealth legislation that demands that the label be there. I think there is a need for close control in this matter, and I hope this will also be taken into account.

The other disturbing factor is summed up by the Minister in his second reading explanation wherein he gives a history of the legislation, saying that it originated at the 1966 conference of State Ministers of Labour. That is seven years ago. I know that the problem is complex. I give the Minister credit for adequately explaining the difficulties involved. He said that the matter had had to receive the attention of the National Health and Medical Research Council and of Health Ministers. I understand that the Australian Council of Retailers, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia, the Associated Chambers of Manufacturers of Australia and, particularly, the Standards Association technical committee have done a tremendous amount of work on the subject.

I concede that it would take time, but one cannot help but wonder how many children have suffered in that seven years. I suppose this was inevitable, but I sincerely hope that this legislation will, by regulation, quickly become as complete as possible. If more funds are needed to enable the Australian Standards Association to do this work more quickly and to employ more skilled research staff to enable

it to obtain the required answers more quickly, State Governments should be willing to make grants to the association for this purpose. I am pleased that the Bill has been introduced. I sincerely hope that it will be expanded as soon as possible to cover every possible danger that may occur to anyone in the community, and not remain in its present restricted form.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I, too, support the Bill, which is one of the protective measures that comes before this House from time to time. Fortunately, when we deal with this soil of matter, we are not accused of paternalism, as happens when we are considering other legislation, particularly social legislation. Many of the Bills that come before Parliament are designed to protect some section of the community. Children are particularly at risk, and in this respect I refer to the legislation dealing with the fencing of swimming pools, and similar legislation.

I agree with previous speakers who have suggested that this legislation could and should be extended to cover clothing for everyone. I can see the wisdom of this. I, too, deplore the fact that it has taken so long for this legislation to be introduced. I realize, however, that we cannot reasonably ascribe the blame for this to the Minister; indeed, no member did so. I commend the member for Glenelg, who first brought this matter to the attention of the House since I have been a member and who dealt adequately with the subject. I do not intend to traverse the same ground that other members have covered. However, one aspect of the second reading explanation which has not been referred to but which I consider to be of great, if not pre-eminent, importance, is that of education.

If we are to be really successful in preventing some of the disturbing cases of burns that occur in the community, the public must be educated regarding this matter. I have before me an extract from the *Australian,* in which one of the experts from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization is reported as saying how necessary he considers the labelling of clothing for the protection of children. Although I will not read the report at length, this expert states that the greatest danger lies in the fluffy cottons. Press reports of this nature deal from time to time with the shocking cases of burns that are sustained by members of the community, particularly young children.

I should like to dwell briefly on the educational aspect of this matter. The only reference to this aspect in the second reading explanation concerned booklets which have been prepared for the public, particularly for migrants, and which apparently have been in demand. The following statement in the Minister's second reading explanation was made as a result of the conference of Ministers, which was held to try to draft this uniform legislation:

> They resolved to. undertake an educational programme. This has continued for several years, and it will be recalled that a few months ago I distributed to all members a copy of a reprint of a booklet titled *Safer Nightclothes for Children* produced by my department, copies of which have been printed in the Greek and Italian languages as well as English. Members will be interested to know that so great has been the demand for this booklet that stocks are already exhausted. A revised edition containing reference to this legislation, and the regulations it is proposed to be made under it, will be printed as soon as the Act has been passed. . .

The best way to avoid the traumatic experiences that result from these burnings would perhaps be to tackle the matter with a slightly different emphasis. Although I agree completely with the labelling of clothing, people must be made aware that certain garments are flammable, rather than their just looking at a tag attached to the clothing. I am pleased that a pilot health education scheme has been introduced into our schools, and I look forward to the time when this type of education is expanded. One of the 10 units set for study is safety education. It would be appropriate if the Minister or some of his departmental officers pursued this matter and ascertained whether the sort of information that people should be given regarding the flammability of clothing could be passed on to schoolchildren. This information could appropriately be given in the health education course.

I make this suggestion to the Minister in the hope that his officers may see fit to adopt it. Although I doubt it, this aspect may already have been included in the course. I have merely outlined the programme, without going into the details of it. I recall seeing experiments conducted at exhibitions: materials were burnt, and one could see how flammable certain clothing was. This sort of experiment would be of interest to schoolchildren, and could easily be conducted in our schools. This sort of preventive educational programme would be most useful.

I am pleased that this Bill has been introduced. Unfortunately, it has taken too long to introduce it, but the reasons for this are well understood. I emphasize that we must educate the public regarding the dangers inherent in the wearing of certain clothing in the household situation. My Party has a programme regarding safety, and I hope the Minister will see fit to take up this matter and perhaps lay a little more emphasis on its educational aspects. I support the Bill.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE (Minister of Labour and Industry): I should like briefly to say how much I appreciate the concern regarding this matter that was expressed by the members for Bragg and Torrens, as well as by the member for Kavel, who has just resumed his seat, all of whom made a useful and reasonable contribution to the debate, offering helpful advice. I intended initially to refer to the interest taken by the member for Glenelg in this important legislation. However, having this afternoon listened to his attacks not only on me but also on the Government, I am afraid that, if I referred to him, I would have to alter my remarks. The member for Glenelg said he was disappointed in me and the Government. I know that I am speaking for the Government when I say that the feeling is reciprocated.

He also said we should lead the Commonwealth in this type of legislation. The member for Torrens and other members who have spoken have been fully aware of the difficulties of bringing to fruition legislation of this kind: it has been necessary to reach an agreement. The matter, which was dealt with also by a previous Government when the member for Torrens was Minister of Labour and Industry, involves obtaining uniformity throughout the Commonwealth. Surely the member for Glenelg would realize the difficulties and would not be so foolish as to suggest that the Government should have introduced this legislation before uniformity had been achieved. He would realize that business people, as well as his constituents, would ask why such a thing had been done.

This is important legislation; every possible step must be taken to protect people from the dangers resulting from wearing flammable clothing. Although I was disappointed in the honourable member, he did not surprise me. It is bad enough to appear stupid, but when he opened his mouth this afternoon and made a certain remark he removed any doubt. I am sure all members, as well as the general public, will be pleased to know that before long legislation for the control of flammable clothing, particularly children's clothing, will be in force throughout

the Commonwealth. I appreciate the co-operation of members. Although wrangling has continued over many years, the final decision to introduce this legislation was reached in Adelaide earlier this year at a Ministerial conference. As a result, this legislation is before the House and it is hoped that it will be in force from January 1, 1974. Regulations regarding the control of all forms of flammable clothing will be introduced when found necessary.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 passed.

Clause 5—"Powers of Inspectors."

Mr. MATHWIN: I move to insert the following new subclause:

(4) An inspector who intends to exercise any of the powers conferred on him by this section shall not refuse or fail, at the request of a person in relation to whom he intends to exercise those powers, to produce to that person the certificate of appointment furnished him under subsection (2) of section 49 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1972.

Penalty: Fifty dollars.

Before he became angry with me, the Minister said he was sympathetic to this amendment and that it might be necessary as a result of an error in the drafting of the Bill. The reasons for it are obvious.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE (Minister of Labour and Industry): The honourable member has been most unkind to me this afternoon and I feel inclined not to carry out the agreement I reached with him earlier. However, I do not bear a grudge and I am willing to accept the amendment. It is normal procedure for any inspector to have authority to enter premises.

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (6 to 10) and title passed.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE (Minister of Labour and Industry) moved:

That this Bill be now read a third time.

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg): I support the Bill in its amended form. I am disappointed to know that the Minister was disappointed in me; also I am disappointed that he called me stupid, because it takes one to know one.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Bill read a third time and passed.

HIGHWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 17. Page 1305.)

Dr. TONKIN (Bragg): I support the Bill, which I regard as being most important in view of what the Minister said in the last sentence of his explanation, namely:

The expeditious passage of this Bill will enable the new edition of the consolidated legislation presently being prepared to be brought out without undue delay.

The Bill shows in its drafting the fine hand of the Commissioner of Statute Revision (Mr. Edward Ludovici), and I pay a tribute to his work in this respect. I hope that we will see the expeditious printing of this new edition of consolidated legislation.

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

SNOWY MOUNTAINS ENGINEERING CORPORATION (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 25. Page 1451.)

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg): I support this Bill, which ties up with its sister legislation of the Commonwealth Parliament, namely, the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Act of 1973. Section 17 of the Commonwealth Act has been amended to extend the powers of the corporation and to give the Minister power to approve the carrying out of work. Therefore, it is necessary to strike out subsections (4) and (5) of section 4 of our Act.

Members know the efficiency and quality of work of what used to be known as the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, later known as the Snowy Mountains Engineering Authority. I am sure that all members agree that it is still imperative that the knowledge and, in particular, experience in engineering work that the authority has gained should not be lost. The Bill envisages that the authority will be available for consultation and to assist in design work and civil engineering, not only in Australia but also in other countries if they desire this assistance. The corporation cannot carry out physical work, but it gives technical advice and assistance and is even able to assist private consulting engineering firms.

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

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from November 7. Page 1636.)

Mr. RUSSACK (Gouger): This is a simple amendment to the principal Act. Legislation regarding friendly societies goes back as far as 1886. In 1919 the present Friendly Societies Act was passed but the provisions of section 9a were not inserted until 1956. That section provides:

Subject to this section, a society may, out of a separate loan fund to be formed by any one or more of the following things, namely, contributions or deposits of its members or money transferred or borrowed from another fund of the society in accordance with this Act, make loans to members of the society as provided by the general laws or rules of the society.

The section allows the societies to become autonomous in their governments and, generally, allows them to lend small amounts. Subsection (4) of that section originally provided that a member would not at any time be indebted to the fund for more than $200. In 1961 the amount was increased to $400 and a further increase to $1 000 was made in 1966. This Bill increases the amount to $3 000. In other words, subsection (4) of section 9a would read:

A member shall not at any time be indebted to the fund for more than three thousand dollars.

So that the House may more fully appreciate what is being done under this Bill, may I give just one example of the business that has been negotiated by one of the four societies now operating in South Australia. In this society provisions were introduced in 1963, just 10 years ago, making it possible for members to be granted loans for necessary purposes in their private lives and domestic affairs.

This society has 1 469 members, who contribute to a special fund. In this fund for savings of up to $300 they receive 51 per cent interest per annum. For savings of over $300 they receive interest at 6 per cent per annum. This money is then loaned to the members, after application and consideration, and it can be loaned at the reasonable rate of 5 per cent flat per annum. The money is borrowed by members for various reasons of normal necessity. To give an example, this one society over a period of 10 years has loaned to its members for house renovations and extensions $465 000; for motor vehicle purchases and repairs, $383 000; for consolidation of debts, $158 000; for holidays, $41 000; and for sundry items, $138 000.

So, over that period of 10 years, there has been made available to people who would otherwise possibly not have been able to have these things, by way of loan, $1 250 000. At the moment, $200 000 is out on loan, and the average yearly lending is now $100 000. There is at present in this fund $250 000, but there is a difficulty, which can be overcome if this Bill is passed. The society would then be able to make available to its members more money. I stress the importance of this Bill being passed. It will enable people to get loans for some of the necessary things I have mentioned as examples. This society is one of four similar societies in South Australia. I am sure I voice the opinion of all members on this side of the House when I say I support this Bill.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.5 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 13, at 2 p.m.