

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, July 23, 1974

The House met at 12 noon pursuant to proclamation, the Speaker (Hon. J. R. Ryan) presiding.

The Clerk (Mr. A. F. R. Dodd) read the proclamation summoning Parliament.

After prayers read by the Speaker, honourable members, in compliance with summons, proceeded at 12.10 p.m. to the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. They returned to the Assembly Chamber at 12.44 p.m. and the Speaker resumed the Chair.

NEW MEMBER FOR GOYDER

Mr. Leslie David Boundy, to whom the Oath of Allegiance was administered by the Speaker, took his seat in the House as member for the District of Goyder, in place of Mr. Raymond Steele Hall, resigned.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

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

That the member for Spence (Mr. Crimes) be Acting Chairman of Committees of the whole House during the absence overseas of the Chairman of Committees (Mr. A. R. Burdon), and in the absence of the Speaker he take the Chair as Deputy Speaker; and that the Acting Chairman of Committees shall, while acting as Deputy Speaker or as Chairman of Committees, perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker or of the Chairman of Committees, as the case may be, in relation to all proceedings of the House or of any Committee: provided that, if the House shall adjourn for more than 24 hours, the Acting Chairman shall continue to perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Speaker for 24 hours only after such adjournment.

Dr. EASTICK (Leader of the Opposition) moved:

That the member for Mallee (Mr. Nankivell) be nominated.

The SPEAKER: Two members having been nominated for the position, it will be necessary to hold a ballot.

A ballot having been held, Mr. Crimes was declared elected.

[Sitting suspended from 12.56 to 2.15 p.m.]

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS

The SPEAKER: I draw the attention of the House to the death recently of former members of the House of Assembly in Mr. E. C. A. Edwards, member for Eyre from 1968 to 1970, and Mr. E. R. Dawes, C.M.G., member for Sturt from 1930 to 1933. I express deepest sympathy to their relatives and pay a tribute to their service to the State.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): Many members of the House will recall the service in this place of Mr. Edwards, as member for Eyre. His time here representing that district was interesting and colourful. To this House and to his district he gave devoted service. I believe all members will express regret at his passing and sympathy to his family.

Although I do not think any present member of this House would have been a member at the time Mr. Edgar Dawes was here, many of us will remember his service to the State and the Commonwealth. In his short period in this House, he became, within one term, Leader of the Labor Party. Although he was defeated at the next election, he continued his public service and his service to the trade union movement in South Australia. He became a member of the Board of Governors of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. He served in many other public capacities in South Australia, becoming Vice-Chairman of the Australian

Broadcasting Commission. He gave great service to this State, this Parliament and the trade union movement in South Australia, being President of the Trades and Labor Council. He was an outstanding Labor leader: everyone who knew him respected and liked him. The sympathies of all members go to his family.

Dr. EASTICK (Leader of the Opposition): As the Premier has rightly said, no present member of the House would have been here with Mr. Edgar Dawes. However, Mr. Dawes's involvement in community affairs on the South Australian scene was well known to many people outside the political field. As has been said, he was associated with the A.B.C., initially as a commentator on politics and international affairs, and his membership of the Talks Advisory Committee is particularly well known. In addition, he was a Governor of the Adelaide Festival of Arts. Therefore, up to the time of his death he continued his involvement in community activities.

Mr. Ern Edwards, as the Premier has stated, had a fairly short political career. Nonetheless, in that time he showed a sense of purpose and sincerity that marked the representation he gave his district. At his cremation, the officiating clergyman said (and this remark was accepted generally and certainly accepted by the family of Mr. Edwards) that Mr. Edwards was not the type likely to set the house on fire. However, his interest and the representation that he gave, whether in matters of politics, or South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, were nonetheless sincere. He had a special interest in music, and this also was brought to the fore at his cremation service. I support the remarks that have been made and add my comments on behalf of the Opposition.

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): The printed paper we have before us states that members may pay tribute to departed former members. Although I did not have the privilege of knowing the late Mr. Edgar Dawes, I extend to his relatives the sympathy the Premier has expressed. I did have close contact with the late Mr. Edwards in my role as Government Whip in my Party when things were different and we were on the other side of the House.

In his short period of representation, the late Mr. Edwards brought to this Parliament a firm dedication to those people in whom he believed and whom he represented with great fervour. With that dedication of representation, he brought to this Parliament a latent humour. My Leader has said that the late Mr. Edwards would not set the house on fire, but the late gentleman had that rare ability, denied to so many of us, of having this Chamber filled with members when he spoke.

With great respect, I take the liberty of telling a story to show the sense of humour, perhaps unconscious under-surface humour, of a member who perhaps was denied the privilege of representing his district in this House for longer, and that is now history. On that occasion Mr. Edwards was speaking in this place about two distinguished personalities—Mr. Andrew Jones and Mr. Chris Hurford, now a Commonwealth member.

The late Mr. Edwards referred to Mr. Hurford as Mr. Hereford, and the spontaneity of our friend the member for Ross Smith, then the member for Enfield, came to the surface. That honourable member, by way of interjection, asked whether Mr. Hurford had a white face, and Mr. Edwards, with his quick and latent humour, said, "No. He should have a red one." This was but one example of the humour that was hidden in the former member for Eyre and he earned what new members will experience, irrespective of the side of this House to which they come,

namely, that amongst all the disaffection there is great affection. The late Ernie Edwards, in that short period of two years, earned an honoured place among the colleagues who served with him. As Government Whip at that time and as one of his colleagues, I pay my tribute now and express my sympathy to his family.

As a mark of respect, members stood in their places in silence.

LIBERAL PARTY

The SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have today received a letter dated July 23, 1974, from Dr. Eastick (Leader of the Opposition), as follows:

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I wish to advise that a State council meeting of the Liberal and Country League on July 22 resolved that henceforth the Party be known as the Liberal Party of Australia (South Australian Division). I would appreciate it if you would note that Parliamentary members of the Party will now be known as members of the Liberal Party.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL (GOVERNOR)

The SPEAKER: I draw the attention of the House to a proclamation in the *Government Gazette* dated July 4, 1974, notifying Her Majesty's assent to the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1974, which proclamation I now ask the Clerk to read.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

The SPEAKER: I have to report that, in compliance with the summons from His Excellency the Governor, the House attended in the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, of which I have obtained a copy, which I now lay on the table.

Ordered to be printed.

PETITION: DAYLIGHT SAVING

Dr. TONKIN presented a petition signed by 59 persons stating that conditions in this country do not warrant daylight saving, that it is totally unnecessary, and that it is distressing to young children and elderly people. The petitioners prayed that daylight saving be not introduced again and that a referendum be held in relation to this matter.

Petition received.

PETITION: HOTEL TRADING HOURS

Mr. GROTH presented a petition signed by 28 members of the Elizabeth Seventh Day Adventist Church and other residents of the Elizabeth district expressing strong objections to the proposals to permit hotels to trade seven days a week, and suggesting that the tremendous increase in the consumption of liquor of all kinds was detrimental to public health, road safety, and family harmony. The petitioners prayed that the Government should not further liberalize the liquor laws in this State.

Petition received and read.

PETITION: ANTHONY NOLAN

Mrs. BYRNE presented a petition signed by 714 persons stating that Anthony Nolan, aged two years, who has been in England for the past eight months waiting for an operation that could save his life, suffers from a rare blood disease, and urgently needs a transplant of healthy bone marrow to survive. With its present limited resources, London's Westminster Hospital can examine only four prospective donors a day, and the longer the search takes

the slimmer are Anthony's chances of survival. The petitioners prayed that the Government would donate money towards Anthony's cause.

Petition received and read.

PETITION: WATER RATES

Mr. DEAN BROWN presented a petition signed by 928 residents of the City of Burnside who expressed concern at the present inequitable system of estimating and charging water and sewerage rates, particularly in the present period of high inflation. This practice has resulted in water and sewerage rates being increased, in many instances, by more than 100 per cent, which is an unfair, discriminatory and grossly excessive impost on them, and which will cause hardship to many residents on fixed incomes. The petitioners prayed that the House of Assembly would take action to correct the present inequitable and discriminatory situation.

Petition read.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: It is with much sympathy for these people that I move:

That the petition be received.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member can move only in accordance with Standing Orders.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Coromandel Valley Primary School (Replacement),
Fishing Haven, Port Adelaide,
Glenside Hospital (Residential Accommodation),
Holden Hill North Primary School,
Mines Department Building, Glenside (Redesign),
Parafield Gardens High School,
Victor Harbor and Encounter Bay (Additional Water Supplies),
Yorketown Area School.

Ordered that reports be printed.

OMBUDSMAN REPORTS

The SPEAKER laid on the table the following reports by the Ombudsman:

Refusal of the Engineering and Water Supply Department to issue a water licence,
Refusal by the Engineering and Water Supply Department to provide indirect water service in metropolitan watershed area.

Ordered that reports be printed.

QUESTIONS

INFLATION

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Premier urge his Commonwealth colleague the Prime Minister to implement urgently a temporary prices, wages, and salaries freeze as a positive and desperately needed stand against the continuing inflationary escalation? I suggest that even the most ardent Australian Labor Party supporter must be concerned that the Commonwealth Government has failed completely in its management of the Australian economy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members should be fully aware of what they are permitted to do during Question Time. If they are not certain about this, the information can be found in the Standing Orders. I intend to implement those Standing Orders.

Dr. EASTICK: The Commonwealth Government has pursued an irresponsible course of condoning and, in fact, promoting inflation because, as everyone realizes, that Government has a financial interest in seeing salaries escalate. Last year, although wages and salaries throughout Australia increased by 15 per cent, the Commonwealth Government scored a 35 per cent increase in taxation as workers' wages kept moving into higher taxation brackets. Moreover, I point out that, because cost increases almost parallel wage increases, the only beneficiary from inflation is the Commonwealth Government. As higher unemployment, increased taxation, and quarterly cost of living adjustments will not solve the problem of inflation, I ask the Premier to use whatever influence he still has with the Prime Minister to press for an immediate freeze of prices and wages, coupled with decreased taxation, in an effort to put value back into the dollar for all Australians.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Leader never ceases to amaze me.

Mr. Gunn: You can do better than that.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member will listen for a few moments, I will be rather more explicit on that point. The Leader asks that I should suggest to the Prime Minister that he impose immediately a salaries, wages, and prices freeze. The Leader, however, knows perfectly well that there is no power in the Commonwealth Government to impose a prices freeze. Referendums having been defeated in 1948 and 1973, the Commonwealth Government was thus denied the power to impose price freezes, and the Liberal Party fought against those referendums. Therefore, the mere suggestion in this place that the Prime Minister can impose a prices freeze is a piece of utter hypocrisy. He cannot, and the Leader knows he cannot.

Dr. Eastick: The Prime Minister was offered the power.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It has not been offered to him by any of the Liberal-governed States in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Eastick: It has.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It has not.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Premier is replying to a question. Interjections are out of order; I impress that on all honourable members. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There is no power in the Commonwealth Government at present to impose a prices freeze. Honourable members know that perfectly well, regardless of whatever headline making they go in for in order to try to confuse the public on this score. What is the purpose of a question demanding that the Commonwealth Government impose a prices freeze, when every member opposite knows that that Government has no power whatever to do so?

Dr. Eastick: It has, with your help.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am willing to give the Commonwealth the help, but that help has been specifically denied by the New South Wales and Victorian Governments.

Dr. Eastick: That's not so.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes it is. On a series of occasions when I have put forward proposals to provide, through State legislation, assistance for the Commonwealth to control prices, they have been denied by Sir Robert Askin and his deputy, and by Sir Henry Bolte and his successor. The Leader then suggests that the Commonwealth has power to impose a wages and salaries freeze. Again, he must know perfectly well that it has no such

power. It sought such a power at a referendum last year and was denied it. The Leader opposed that referendum.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: As did all his colleagues.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Regarding wage control, the only areas where there is legislative power to impose such control—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the member for Davenport listened for a few moments he would do something that he did not normally do, namely, find out something about government in this State. He never does his homework.

Mr. McAnaney: Is this the open Government?

The SPEAKER: Order! If honourable members continue in that vein, I will enforce Standing Orders. I will warn honourable members accordingly and they will suffer the consequences thereafter.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The position about wage control in this country clearly is that it is possible for State Governments to pass—

Mr. McAnaney: What Government? Who's in control at Port Adelaide?

The SPEAKER: I warn the honourable member for Heysen. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is possible for State Governments to pass legislation restricting wage increases awarded by State salary tribunals.

Mr. Goldsworthy: That would be a new twist for you!

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Standing Order 169, I warn the honourable member for Kavel. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Whilst it would be possible to do that, in the present constitutional situation in Australia it would be peculiarly useless, because, in fact, it would then be possible, in any dispute, to create an interstate element and go to the Commonwealth court instead of to a State tribunal. The Commonwealth Government, under its constitutional powers, has no power whatever to instruct the Commonwealth court to restrict wage increases. As under section 109 of the Commonwealth Constitution the Commonwealth court's decisions take precedence of any decisions by State courts or provisions of State legislation, there is no way for the Commonwealth Government to impose a wage freeze. Under the Constitution, it cannot do it.

Dr. Eastick: It's surprising what mutual co-operation will do.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: All I can say to the Leader is that, until the most recent Premiers' Conference, there was not much sign of mutual co-operation, but I am pleased to say that at that Premiers' Conference there was. Consequently, the States, jointly with the Commonwealth Government, set up a working party of officers, and that party reported to the States yesterday. We expect to have a meeting of the States and, in consequence, a meeting with the Prime Minister, to discuss a whole series of specific matters that the officers' meeting has proposed to the State Governments and the Commonwealth Government. Those specific matters are related to control of inflation by joint action by State and Commonwealth Governments.

Mr. Coumbe: When is this likely to be?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I hope that we will have a meeting with the Prime Minister within three weeks. This matter must be considered in detail by the Governments concerned before final conclusions are reached, but the officers have done much work since the Premiers' meeting in Melbourne and my subsequent meeting with

the Prime Minister on their behalf. I consider that it is possible for us to achieve joint action in this way, but that is a positive action that can be taken within the present constitutional framework jointly by State and Commonwealth Governments.

Dr. Eastick: With your help?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Certainly I am helping: I am going all out to help in this respect.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The Premier was the chief agent, and the Leader is an idiot if he doesn't know that.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Standing Orders prevail for the front bench as well as for the back bench.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I, on behalf of the State Premiers, was able to put these matters to the Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Treasurer. They were pleased to provide officers immediately to co-operate with our officers in developing proposals, and those proposals can be achieved within the framework of the present Constitution. However, what the Leader has proposed cannot be achieved.

USED CAR DEALERS

Mr. WELLS: Will the Premier, as Acting Attorney-General, consider introducing legislation that will lead to the prosecution and delicensing of used car dealers who sell unroadworthy vehicles? Although most used car dealers are reputable tradespeople and business men, there are among them sharks and blood-suckers who are selling vehicles that are not roadworthy. I have on my files a recent case of a person who bought a car from a used car dealer. The car was not operative on the following day and, when the Royal Automobile Association was called in to inspect the vehicle, the R.A.A. officer forbade that man to take the car on to the road, because of the many defects disclosed. This is not an isolated case, and these people are dealers in death and must be stopped. I ask the Premier, as Acting Attorney-General, to consider clothing the South Australian Police Force with much greater power so that it may control such practices.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In fact, legislation already exists. As Acting Attorney-General, I have in the past two days authorized two prosecutions in this area and I assure the honourable member that, given the controls that now exist, it should be possible to get redress for his constituent. If the honourable member gives me the details, I shall pursue the matter.

STEEL DISPUTE

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister of Labour and Industry say what action, if any, the Government has taken to bring about a settlement of the demarcation dispute at the steel wharf at Port Adelaide? A considerable tonnage of urgently required steel has been held up on the new specially designed wharf at Port Adelaide for over three months, owing to a demarcation dispute between two unions. I am aware that, whilst one union is willing to go to a referee on the matter, the other is not. I understand further (and this is most important) that, unless this steel is released within one week from now, fellow unionists in other industries and factories are likely to be laid off, thus increasing unemployment in this State. I ask what action has been taken, apart from the Premier's statement in the press following a similar statement by me on the matter. Even though these unions are registered in the Commonwealth court, I ask what action the Government intends to take to resolve this matter, which is having such a serious effect on the work force and the future of South Australia.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member in his question did not suggest what should be done to resolve the situation.

Mr. McAnaney: Move the steel!

Dr. Eastick: What about getting Mr. Hawke to settle it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We contacted Mr. Hawke about the matter, and also Mr. Souter.

Mr. Coumbe: What about Mr. Foster, too?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We have not contacted Mr. Foster. The difficulty facing the Government is that the State has no jurisdiction whatever in the matter. In fact, under the provisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act there is no means of bringing this dispute before the Commonwealth court, nor is there any means under the rules of the Australian Council of Trade Unions or the United Trades and Labor Council of resolving the situation unless an agreement is reached that a decision made by one or other of the parties to the dispute is accepted. Consequently, at present no authority exists to enforce a decision settling the dispute constitutionally. No State Government, under any legislation (and it would not matter what legislation was passed here in South Australia), would have the power constitutionally to settle it directly.

Mr. Dean Brown: So you are powerless!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I said that the Transport Workers Union was wrong. Members opposite have often said that I and other members on this side have constantly supported trade unions in whatever they do; however, when I say that a trade union is wrong members opposite say that I am weak.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Having asked the Secretaries of the United Trades and Labor Council and the Transport Workers Union to see me, I expressed my views to the union in rather more pungent terms than appeared in the press.

Dr. Eastick: But it was weeks too late.

Mr. Coumbe: He left a doubt.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No. The honourable member can no doubt spend his time trying to be funny.

Mr. Coumbe: I'm concerned about getting the steel away from the wharf.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If that is so, I can scarcely credit the honourable member's interjection. If the honourable member has a positive suggestion for specific action that the Government should take to settle the dispute I should be grateful for his help. Anyway, at present a course of settlement is being pursued by the Government.

Mr. Coumbe: Are you suggesting you have no influence among your friends?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Having said what has been done, I have also indicated that the Transport Workers Union and the Waterside Workers Federation should accept arbitration because it is grossly wrong that people's businesses and employment should be endangered by a dispute as minor and as absurd as this one. Unfortunately, the Government does not have the constitutional or legal means of effecting a settlement. A proposal for settlement between the parties is at present being pursued by the Government to try to resolve the dispute: the Government has made every possible endeavour to settle it. The alternatives that have been put to us by industry are that we should assist in strike breaking, but that would only widen the dispute to no purpose whatever.

Mr. Nankivell: It would become a demarcation dispute then.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the member wishes to do that, let him accept the amount of industrial disorder it would produce, because other people have failed. The honourable member expressed grave concern, but, compared to the present Liberal States in Australia, the South Australian figures for time lost in industrial disputes are far lower.

Dr. Tonkin: Because the other States are bigger!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Our figures are less than half of those under Liberal Governments.

Mr. Coumbe: What figures are you taking?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The last available figures show that, although South Australia employs 9 per cent of the Australian work force, it contributes no more than 4 per cent of the time lost throughout the country.

Dr. Eastick: What about the retrenchments that don't show?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As soon as the Leader receives a reply to an interjection he changes the subject: it is his usual form. Not one interjector has made even a single suggestion as to how to achieve a settlement in the dispute, whereas the Government has pursued every conceivable avenue.

Mr. Chapman: Sack them!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I have already warned two members for infringements of Standing Order 169, and I will not hesitate to further warn members who infringe that Standing Order by interjecting.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Members opposite asked members of the present Government, when we were in Opposition, to use our good offices to settle trade union disputes, and they are now asking what the Government is doing to settle this dispute. The Government has neither the legal nor the constitutional power to settle the dispute, so I can only say that the attitude of members opposite reveals the emptiness of the Opposition's suggestions. If honourable members opposite have constructive proposals to put forward I shall certainly listen to them and be glad to have their help.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Mr. WRIGHT: Will the Premier order an investigation into the rates charged prospective employees by employment agencies when employment is sought through such agencies?

Mr. Wells: The agency proprietors are sharks.

Mr. WRIGHT: I prefer to call them thieves.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I realize today is the first day of a new session, but Standing Orders are of very long standing.

Mr. WRIGHT: A constituent who came to see me recently complained that a leading employment agency in Adelaide, Ace Employment Agency of 170 North Terrace, Adelaide (which evidently advertises that it obtains employees for employers), charged him for finding him employment. However, he believed that the employers where charged, and said that he had never been charged previously by an agency. It seems that this agency has offered him a job in Alice Springs at \$135 a week, subject to two conditions: first, he must pay the agency \$67.50; and secondly, he must pay even more if he exceeds his first week's pay. Virtually, what the agency was saying was that, irrespective of his first week's pay, that would be

its charge for finding him the job. My constituent was completely upset about this matter. He refused to take the employment, and came to me, asking me to raise this matter in the House. I think this legitimate question warrants an inquiry. I have a statutory declaration, witnessed by me as a justice of the peace certifying its correctness, and would appreciate the Premier's investigating this matter to ascertain what is going on concerning these agencies.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will have the matter investigated.

HOUSING LOANS

Mr. EVANS: Will the Premier say whether he supports an 11 per cent interest rate on housing loans made through the South Australian Superannuation Fund? This organization is different from building societies or banks, because it has a guaranteed clientele: in many cases, people are virtually compelled to join the fund. In effect, this provides the fund almost automatically with a clientele who find it convenient to borrow from an institution which does not have to compete with others and which automatically has funds coming in. There is no need for the fund to compete in the market in relation to interest rates in order to gain capital.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member will no doubt recall that last year we passed legislation which provided for the investment of moneys in the Superannuation Fund on the basis of advice from an investment committee. The committee's view is that the fund should charge the ruling rate in the community for mortgage finance in order to obtain the most effective return for the fund's contributors.

Mr. Evans: Is it for all loans or only for those granted in the last four years?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No; the adjustment is made according to the mortgage concerned. This is a position I have argued over some period, for I believe that the fund's contributors ought to obtain some concessional interest rate. However, that is not the view of some board members of the fund. Certainly there has been a constant argument that the fund ought to be able to obtain the best return it can in order to give the greatest benefits to its contributors. Therefore, the fund seeks to charge current interest rates for the money it lends. The fund's contributors would protest vigorously if they found that the money they had contributed was being used in such a way that they were not receiving the best return on their money. That is the situation with which we are faced. The decision regarding interest rates is subject to the legislation we passed last year.

BUILDERS' LICENCES

Mr. SLATER: Can the Minister of Development and Mines, in his capacity as Minister in charge of housing, say how many applications have been received by the Builders Licensing Board for general builders' licences during the period June 1, 1972 to the present; how many have been granted and how many have not been granted; and will he give the reasons why applications have not been granted?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I hope the honourable member will appreciate that they are not the kind of statistics I carry around in my head. However, I will obtain a detailed report for him.

FISHING LICENCES

Mr. BOUNDY: Can the Minister of Fisheries say when he will make public the number and names of the successful applicants for prawn-fishing licences in both gulfs?

I cite the case of a prawn fisherman who was operating a shark boat in this industry and who got into difficulties. He brought a prawn-fishing vessel from another State in about May, 1973, applied for a prawn-fishing licence, but was told to await the findings of the survey into the prawn-fishing industry. On completion of the survey, he applied for a licence over a year ago. As he has invested considerable capital in the venture, he is concerned about his future.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I shall be glad to answer the honourable member's question, and I take this opportunity to welcome him to Parliament and to express the hope that he will have a happier career than his predecessor had. Although the recommendations will come to me by way of a committee established to provide the authorities, I point out that there have been many applicants for the limited number of licences. I hope that, within the next two or four weeks, the necessary information will be provided and the authorities will be issued.

PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Mr. KENEALLY: I seek the assurance of the Minister of Development and Mines that, in the negotiations now taking place between the Government and the petro-chemical consortium on the proposed petro-chemical complex at Red Cliff Point, the interests of Port Augusta ratepayers will be adequately protected. The call on the reserves of the Port Augusta council will be enormous in order to cope with the population expansion that will take place as a result of establishing the complex. Although I am sure that contributions will be made by both the State and Australian Governments toward the cost of infrastructure, nevertheless it is essential that the consortium be rated realistically. We have had the experience in recent years in this State of other bodies involving indenture Acts, especially Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, about which my colleague the member for Whyalla has been vocal in the past (and with good reason), the interests of the local community not having been adequately protected. Although I am certain that Port Augusta will not suffer the same fate, I seek the Minister's assurance in this matter.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I can give the honourable member that assurance. The full details of this matter will be made known to members when the indenture Bill is introduced. As the Bill will be referred to a Select Committee, there will be no lack of opportunity for members to turn their attention to its provisions, including the one to which the honourable member has drawn my attention. We have not been certain hitherto about the local government authority with which we will be dealing, but the honourable member will be as aware as I am of the findings contained in the First Report of the Royal Commission into Local Government Areas and of the announcement by the Minister of Local Government that the report will be the subject of legislation. I think that this will satisfactorily clear up that area of uncertainty. The only other point I should like to make is that perhaps the honourable member should have referred to bygone days rather than recent days in mentioning other State indentures. Certainly, no such agreement has been negotiated by this Government that would fall into the sort of category that those fell into.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANT

Mr. BLACKER: Will the Minister of Local Government give some direction to local government about the advisability or otherwise of proceeding with contracts for the

purchase of new machinery or plant in this State, these decisions depending on the ultimate delineation of local government boundaries? I was contacted yesterday by three councillors who have already expressed concern that they have placed orders for machinery to the extent of about \$8 000. In view of the pending changes in local government boundary areas, they are somewhat concerned whether they should proceed with this purchase or whether they should hold off for the time being. They would like some advice from the Minister's office, if possible.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I probably cannot give the honourable member the unequivocal answer he would like, because, as I have indicated, the report of the Royal Commission will be placed before this Parliament for its approval, and it is not for me to presuppose that Parliament will endorse the recommendations of the Royal Commission. However, if Parliament denies local government the opportunity of being redefined as recommended by the Royal Commission, I hold the strong view that this Parliament will have done local government a grave disservice—but that is something in the future. For the present, if, as Minister, my opinion was sought by those three councillors, who are presumably from one council—

Mr. Blacker: From two councils.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: —I would say to them that they should, if they considered that the acquisition of certain plant was desirable and even necessary for the benefit of their district, proceed to acquire it, because I do not believe that the adoption of the Royal Commission's report will alter that situation. If the need is there now, it will still be there after the report is adopted.

What will happen, of course, is that, subject to Parliament's agreeing to the legislation that I will bring down later in this session, which is designed to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission, the Royal Commission will be required to do a number of things, one being to determine the allocation of assets and liabilities. In this instance to which the honourable member refers, it will be an asset and the Royal Commission will apportion it according to the allocation of the areas in the district concerned.

COMMONWEALTH GRANTS

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Now that the Premier has returned to the Chamber, I will address my question to him. Is the Government satisfied with the financial deal that this State is getting from the Commonwealth Government? If not, what action, if any, does he propose to take? I guess all members are aware of the treatment that South Australia received at the recent Loan Council meeting and the Premiers' Conference in June, of which the Premier complained most bitterly on his return to this State. I am thinking particularly of the comments he made in the *Advertiser* of Saturday, June 8—a historic day in the political life of this State, for several reasons, and this was one of them. This was followed by what I understand to be the annual conference of the State branch of the Australian Labor Party, at which the Premier is reported to have criticized his Commonwealth Leader very severely on the deal which was being given to this State. According to the reports, he went on to accuse his Commonwealth Leader of breaching Labor Party policy.

Mr. Nankivell: He said he would rather deal with Snedden.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes—he would rather deal with Snedden. I believe he said quite a number of things of this kind and, in the intervening weeks, he has also said that employment in South Australia is in danger because

of the policies of the Commonwealth Government. This was echoed in a very dignified way in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor which we heard just before lunch today. Finally, I refer to a report that appeared a few weeks ago of a speech by the Minister of Development and Mines in which he said that the Commonwealth Government's economic measures would cause unemployment in South Australia and severely damage the State's economy. These are the sorts of things the Government has been saying through its Ministers in the last few weeks. I listened with interest to the answer given to one of the questions from the Liberal and Country League front bench by the Leader of the Opposition—

Members interjecting:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: They do not change their spots overnight.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member is going beyond the bounds of his explanation.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I listened to the answer which the Premier gave, in which he referred to specifics in discussions or consultations between the Treasury officers of the Commonwealth and State Governments, but he did not spell out those specifics; he omitted to say what they were and whether they would help in this area. It is as much to give the Premier an opportunity to explain himself as it is to give him the opportunity to give a general answer to the question that I ask: is the Government satisfied with the deal it is getting from the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The dissatisfaction I expressed at the Labor Party conference was real, and what I had to say there was intended to give real expression to what I felt. Since then, the Prime Minister has met with the Labor Party leaders here and made an offer of help in some specific areas, which are now being discussed in some detail between the States and the Commonwealth Government, in relief of the States' Budgets in areas of labour and priority of expenditure. In consequence, as these things are still under discussion, it is not possible for me to spell them out until we reach some conclusion. The honourable member has invited me to reveal what is contained in the working party report to his Liberal and Country Party colleagues in other States. Of course, the honourable member refers to that part of liberalism which seems to hang together a little better elsewhere. All I can say is that, with the change of name of the Liberal and Country League in South Australia, it seems to me that, in South Australia, to liberalize is also to divide.

Mr. Rodda: Your 2 600 voters in Goyder contributed to that division.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member cannot surely think that Labor voters in Goyder are foolish!

Mr. Rodda: They helped, didn't they?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Where they see divisions in the Opposition they do not feel they should do other than enhance the position.

Mr. Coumbe: Are you answering this question?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Mr. Dunford is aware, through the members of his union, of the problems we have been facing which I expressed at the Labor Party conference, and some of those problems remain.

Dr. Eastick: What about Commissioner Cavanagh?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Leader has been interjecting continually this afternoon. I have been rather lenient with him because of his position, but Standing Orders apply to all members, including the honourable Leader. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have been markedly unhappy about the deal we got from the Commonwealth Government and I have expressed my dissatisfaction. I am hopeful of some redress and am in the course of pursuing it.

PRICE CONTROL

Mr. BECKER: Can the Premier say whether price control is working in South Australia, and will he say what applications for price increases are being considered currently by the Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs? Three working days after the Commonwealth election, several price increases were announced, including bread, petrol and beer. Therefore I ask the Premier whether price control is working in South Australia in the interests of the economy, and will he say what applications are being considered?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, under the terms of the Prices Act, I cannot.

WATER AND SEWERAGE RATES

Mr. DEAN BROWN: In the absence of the Minister of Works, who I understand is still overseas, my question concerning water and sewerage rates will have to be directed to the Minister of Education, as Acting Minister of Works. Can he say when the departmental report into the assessment of water and sewerage rates will be completed and published? Also, can the Minister indicate whether the Engineering and Water Supply Department will continue to issue water and sewerage accounts based on the land valuations made during 1973-74? During the past three weeks the residents of Burnside have received water and sewerage accounts which are up generally by 60 per cent, in most cases by 100 per cent and in some cases by 300 per cent. No private company within South Australia could increase its charges by more than about 5 per cent to 10 per cent without having to go to a prices justification tribunal or a prices commission, yet our South Australian Government increased charges by more than 100 per cent. Shortly after this injustice was brought to the surface, the Minister, in his usual glib manner, tried to give a sop to the residents by announcing that he would set up a departmental inquiry. I would hope that he would table a report. However, it is essential that we appreciate the limitations of such a report. It would deal only with the effects of the five-year revaluation, and it would fail to deal with the whole basis of assessing water and sewerage rates. There has already been the Sangster report, which has never been tabled in this House. I believe that the Engineering and Water Supply Department investigated that report, but the department's report has likewise never been tabled in this House.

Last Thursday evening there was a public meeting in the Burnside Town Hall attended by almost 2 000 people, and it is a shame that the Minister who is a resident of Burnside was not there, because the people strongly condemned the Government for not ensuring that it had a representative at the meeting. The people were not willing to accept the Minister's glib promise, knowing full well why he had made the promise. A correspondent in the *Advertiser* clearly indicated the reasons for the announcement. It is about time the Minister asked for a full investigation into the water rating system, and it is about time he gave an assurance that the present restricted departmental inquiry will be made public as quickly as possible. Further, it is about time the Minister withdrew the unjust accounts already sent out and ensured that no further accounts go out to any South Australian on the

basis of the new valuations. Accounts should be sent out only after the whole system has been completely revised.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The position applying in connection with water rating is governed by legislation that has been passed by this Parliament. The position has existed for many years in South Australia, and the method of valuation is a method over which, while the legislation exists, the Government does not have direct control. Valuations are carried out by the Valuer-General, who is required to value property on the basis of the capital value of that property.

Mr. Dean Brown: Don't try to put the blame on him!

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Members and the public have to put up with trash occasionally, but we should not have to tolerate it continually from a member who is not even willing to listen to any kind of reply. I ask the member to shut his mouth during my reply.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Valuer-General carries out the valuations. He has reported to me through the Engineering and Water Supply Department that the average increase in valuations in Burnside lies between 60 per cent and 70 per cent. I prefer to believe the departmental officers rather than the member for Davenport, because I am aware of his record in this House. Regarding the first part of the question, in the absence of the Minister of Works I do not intend to take any decision on the question of releasing the Sangster report, but the implementation of the Sangster report or of any system of payment for water by use would increase the average rates paid by householders in this State by between 15 per cent and 20 per cent. That arises because of the very favourable situation, on average, that householders have as a consequence of the indirect subsidy that the current system provides to them from commerce and business. The average increase in rates over the whole metropolitan area and in country urban areas for householders would be between 15 per cent and 20 per cent on what they are paying now.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Nowhere in my question or in any of my public statements have I implied or said that water should be charged for on a usage basis across the board. I have referred only to private usage.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: That is the first general point that has to be made. The position is clear: I have ordered a departmental inquiry into this matter to see whether it is possible to provide some kind of staggering of the effect of the five-yearly revaluation. We hope to be able to decide on that matter within three weeks. At this stage I am not able to comment further and I am not able to indicate whether a change may be possible. The only thing I am able to say is that the existing valuations and rate notices, until there is any alteration in Government policy, will stand and will not be withdrawn; the law as it exists will prevail and will be enforced. I hope that that will be made quite clear to the honourable member, because he is not beyond encouraging people to break the law in this matter.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I ask for a complete retraction of that statement because it is a reflection on my character. I have clearly indicated that I in no way support breaking the law.

The SPEAKER: What is the statement that is being referred to?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I said that the honourable member was not beyond encouraging people to break the law in this matter, and I do not intend to withdraw that statement. I am willing to give reasons for my statement. The honourable member has gone on record as saying that people should not pay the increased rates, and that is breaking the law.

The SPEAKER: Order! To which words does the honourable member for Davenport object?

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The Minister claims that I have encouraged people to break the law, but nowhere have I done that. Last Thursday during the television programme *This Day Tonight* I said that I would not encourage people to break the law; I urged them not to, so I ask for a complete retraction of what the Minister has said.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Davenport has taken objection to what the Minister has said. I would ask the Minister to withdraw the statement in question.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: My recollection is that the honourable member was reported in the *Advertiser* as saying that he would not be paying the increase in rates; that, as an example to his constituents, is an encouragement to others to break the law. In the circumstances, unless the honourable member can indicate that he did not make such a statement, I am not willing to withdraw. If the honourable member can say that the statement attributed to him in the *Advertiser* last week was not made by him, I shall be pleased to withdraw.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The Minister said that I was not beyond encouraging people to break the law. I make clear that I have not encouraged people to break the law.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Were you misreported!

Mr. DEAN BROWN: My rates are not due until July 31. I told a newspaper reporter that, at this stage, I would not pay the new rate, but would pay according to the old rate and then appeal to the department against the increase and complain about it. That action could not be assumed as one that would encourage people to break the law and, therefore, I ask the Minister to retract his statement.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: In explanation, I point out that, if the honourable member does not pay the increase in rates and then receives a final notice, the consequence for him as a result of breaching the law is that the water supply to his property will be restricted. The statement by the honourable member that he would not pay the increase in rates is, in my opinion, an encouragement to others in his constituency to break the law. In these circumstances I am not willing to withdraw my statement. My main point is that there have been reassessments on a five-year basis—

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Five minutes or so ago you requested the Minister to withdraw what he had said about the member for Davenport, and I respectfully concur in your request, because it was a proper one. However, the Minister has refused to withdraw the statement he made that apparently relied on a newspaper report. You, Mr. Speaker, have not withdrawn your request for him to withdraw his statement, but he is now going on to something else, hoping that you have forgotten or will ignore your request. You have asked him to withdraw his statement but he has not done so. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to direct the Minister to withdraw what was an unwarranted inference about the remarks of the member for Davenport.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw his statement.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Mr. Speaker, are you ruling that my remarks were unparliamentary?

The SPEAKER: No, but I ask the Minister to withdraw.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: In those circumstances, I will withdraw.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I ask again that the Minister withdraw his statement.

The SPEAKER: Order! I asked the Minister to withdraw the words used because they were objected to by the member for Davenport. At my request the Minister has withdrawn his words, and I accept it as such.

Dr. EASTICK: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the manner in which the Minister has withdrawn his remarks is conditional on your request. What the member for Davenport asked for, and what you asked for, was the withdrawal of the words, and not that a condition of the withdrawal was that you made the request.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Davenport, through me, asked for the words used by the Minister to be withdrawn. I made the request, as asked of me, and the Minister withdrew those words, and I accepted it as such.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I have ordered a departmental inquiry into this matter. There have always been serious difficulties in avoiding those large quinquennial adjustments in rates, because any change would need to spread the increase over a period. One has to consider that there were districts subject to a quinquennial adjustment last year, and the extent of that adjustment was in some cases as large as adjustments that have occurred in Burnside. It is not a question of adjustments for people of Burnside only but also of adjustments across the board that have affected the position of people whose rates were adjusted last year, the year before or the year before that. The matter of any adjustment is complicated, and I hope that a report will be forthcoming that will enable a decision to be made in this matter within the next three weeks. I am pleased that the matter has been resolved and that the Opposition finally supports the idea of people paying rates and observing the law as it is until it may be changed. I am grateful to the member for Davenport for clarifying the point that he will support the normal action being taken in relation to anyone who does not observe the present law.

Mr. Goldsworthy: What is the position about a moratorium?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: That position is quite clear.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Davenport asked a question, and I believe that the Minister has given a reply.

At 3.56 p.m., the bells having been rung:

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

BRIGHTON TO CHRISTIE DOWNS RAILWAY DUPLICATION AND EXTENSION BILL

Standing Orders having been suspended, the Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Transport) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for the construction of a railway line from Christie Downs to Port Noarlunga South and for the duplication of the railway line from Brighton to Christie Downs. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I thank the House for suspending Standing Orders to enable me to introduce this Bill. The urgency associated with it is to enable the work now proceeding to go to the next stage without interruption, in the hope that we will be

able to open this line in late 1975 in accordance with present proposals. This Bill provides for the extension and duplication of the railway line from Brighton to Christie Downs. The line from Hallett Cove railway station (on the Goodwood to Willunga railway line) to Port Stanvac was authorized by the Hallett Cove to Port Stanvac Railway Act, 1959. The line from Port Stanvac to Beach Road, Christie Downs, was authorized by the Hallett Cove to Port Stanvac Railway Extension Act, 1971.

The significance of this line is illustrated by the fact that this is the first railway line motivated by passenger traffic to be built this century. Since the enactment of the 1971 Act investigations of the transport planning and development implications of the railway have indicated that the termination station should be designed as part of a transport interchange (rail/bus/park-and-ride) associated with the proposed Noarlunga regional centre south of Beach Road, Christie Downs. Parliament's authorization is sought for the carrying of the railway south of Beach Road and for reservation of land for a further extension as far as Jared Road, Port Noarlunga South.

Authorization is also sought for the duplication of the line from Brighton. While single-line operation meets present service demands, it is unacceptable for rapid transit operation and the increased patronage that is expected with population growth in the area. It also makes co-ordination of feeder bus services difficult, if not impossible. Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 confers power on the Commissioner to construct the railway works and to enter into contracts for the provision of materials and services. Clause 4 makes formal financial provisions.

Mr. CUMBE secured the adjournment of the debate.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The Speaker and Messrs. Arnold, King, McRae, and Russack.

Library: The Speaker and Messrs. Chapman, Payne, and Simmons.

Printing: Messrs. Dean Brown, Crimes, Duncan, Russack, and Slater.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

That a committee consisting of Messrs. Max Bown, Groth, Slater, Wells, and the mover be appointed to prepare a draft address to His Excellency the Governor in reply to his Speech on opening Parliament, and to report tomorrow.

Motion carried.

Later:

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN brought up the following report of the committee appointed to prepare the draft Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's Speech:

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the Speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open Parliament.

2. We join in Your Excellency's expression of regret in the passing of His Royal Highness the late Duke of Gloucester.

3. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to the matters placed before us.

4. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's prayer for the Divine blessing on the proceedings of the session.

Mr. SLATER (Gilles): I move:

That the Address in Reply as read be adopted.

I wish first to express my gratitude for the opportunity that has been afforded to me to move the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech delivered

by His Excellency the Governor. His Excellency's address set out the Government's legislative programme for this session. It is, of course, a continuation of the programme already undertaken by the Labor Government since its re-election in March, 1973, or, perhaps expressed more appropriately, since the election of a Labor Government in 1970.

Before dealing with some of the matters raised in His Excellency's Speech, I pay a tribute to His Excellency for the manner in which he presented his Speech to the Parliament today. His Excellency is a distinguished South Australian, and I, along with the people of South Australia, have a great respect for him as a person of great knowledge and human understanding, and for the comments he makes from time to time on various matters affecting the welfare of the State and the nation as a whole. I believe that Sir Mark Oliphant has endeared himself to the people of South Australia, and I take this opportunity of conveying my respects to him as a person and as a world-renowned South Australian. During his speech, His Excellency drew attention to the unfortunate passing of two former members of this House: Mr. Edgar Dawes, who was the member for Sturt from 1930 to 1933, and Mr. Ernest Edwards, who was the member for Eyre from 1968 to 1970. I join with His Excellency and all members in expressing sympathy to the relatives of these deceased members.

Perhaps the most significant thing that has happened since this Parliament last met has been the double dissolution and election of both Houses of the Australian Parliament. The people of Australia on that occasion did think again (to use a slogan) and, as a consequence, the Whitlam Labor Government was returned to office. As a result of the election, the former member for Goyder in this House (Mr. Hall) was elected to the Senate. This necessitated a by-election for the Goyder District, and I now convey my congratulations to the new member for Goyder, who has been sworn in as a member of this House today, on his election. I express the wish that he will find his duties in Parliament not unduly arduous and that the new Leader of the Liberal Movement will not be unduly trying to him. Some members opposite may not share the sentiments that I have just expressed to the member for Goyder, as I understand that before and after the by-election there were many regrets and recriminations within the Liberal and Country League. Perhaps I should correct myself in this respect, because I understand that as from last night that organization is now to be called, for want of a better name, the Liberal Party of Australia. I take it that the same old conservative philosophy still applies and that it is just a change of name. It is interesting to see that the Leader of the Opposition still retains the seat that he occupied previously. Perhaps this is only a temporary situation; one does not know. Perhaps the member for Hansen can throw some more light on the subject when he speaks in the debate.

Mr. Becker: I will, and I'll lift my speech out of the gutter.

Members interjecting:

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Crimes): Order!

Mr. SLATER: This Government relies not on the weaknesses of the Opposition but on its own strengths and on its own record. This is borne out by a recent opinion poll. For the information of members opposite who obviously have not read it, this report, headed "Poll shows South Australian Government is at the top" and dated May 27, states:

Sixty-nine per cent of South Australians are satisfied with the way the State Government is running the State. This is the highest satisfaction rate of any State, shown in the latest survey by the Australian Nationwide Opinion Polls.

This is conclusive proof that the State Government is continuing with its legislative and administrative programme to the satisfaction of the citizens of this State. The Governor in his Speech referred to a new feature of the work of the South Australian Housing Trust and reminded us that the trust had engaged in purchasing and renovating older type houses within or near the city of Adelaide. So far, 500 dwellings have been acquired. This is an excellent venture because, of all the inquiries that members receive from their constituents, the most consistent inquiry, particularly from one-parent families or families experiencing social or financial difficulties, relates to housing. Many of these people have had their names on the trust's waiting list for many years. The trust has had numerous difficulties in finding sufficient housing, and it cannot accommodate these people immediately. This venture of acquiring, renovating and developing older houses for the purpose of assisting the housing situation is important.

I believe it is important to provide accommodation for people who are in difficult circumstances. Like most members, I can give several case histories of people who live in substandard accommodation, such as caravans, or who share accommodation with relatives. Others pay high rents for flats, and sometimes the only source of income is a social security payment. I make clear that I am not unduly critical of the Housing Trust, which I believe does an excellent job; it does its best. There are several reasons why it has been faced with the immense problem of providing accommodation for people on a long waiting list. One reason for the length of this list is the increased demand for housing from the trust.

Mr. McAnaney: Although we have a static population, the housing problem is greater than it has ever been.

Mr. SLATER: We do not have a static population. Over the past few years building costs have increased rapidly, with the result that many young couples have become afraid of the size of the commitment they might have to enter into in the private sector, and have therefore applied to the trust for accommodation. An even more important element is the effect of the rate of interest on the capacity of a family to pay for a house, since the weekly payments are affected significantly in this way.

Mr. McAnaney: What about the interest the Commonwealth Government wants people to pay?

Mr. SLATER: The honourable member will have an opportunity later to make a speech. I was just about to deal with that point and, if the honourable member is patient, he will hear what I have to say.

Mr. Jennings: We'll understand you, but the same can't be said about him.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Gilles is speaking in support of his motion that the Address in Reply be adopted. I do not want a cross-fire of interjections while he is making his remarks.

Mr. SLATER: When I was so rudely interrupted by the member for Heysen, I was about to say that, although interest rate increases are the result of Commonwealth Government action, from statements made in that area we can hope that we have reached the peak of interest rates. This fact may have some effect on the demand for Housing Trust accommodation. The increasing pressure on the trust to house socially disadvantaged families has had an effect on the time people must wait for houses. The

factors to which I have referred have all led to an increased demand for trust accommodation. His Excellency's Speech referred to the fact that a sum of \$5 000 000 in excess of last year's allocation would be made available under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.

Mr. McAnaney: It won't build as many homes as previously.

Mr. SLATER: I intended to deal with that. We will not be able to build from that sum as many houses as we would like to build. However, this money will help to alleviate the difficulty somewhat. With 12 000 names on the trust's waiting list, every effort must be made to relieve the pressure. In some cases, applicants are on the list for three or four years. The trust has a policy, which it exercises minimally, to give priority to cases of extreme financial or other social hardship. However, generally the trust allocates on the basis of the time a person has been on the waiting list.

Another factor involved in this housing shortage is that some people in the private sector are taking advantage of the situation by charging high rents, as well as imposing certain conditions of tenancy. Recently, a newspaper in another State published the results of the survey conducted by the Australian Council of Social Service that indicated that many landlords were harassing tenants unfairly and confiscating bond money. A report was to be submitted to the Commonwealth Government poverty inquiry committee on the day following this article, which was dated July 14. I hope some action can be taken about the high rent being charged by some people in this private sector.

I am aware of two cases in this connection. In one case, a young couple with two children who originally came from a country town are required to pay \$35 a week for the use of a caravan. In another case, a couple who have come here recently from another State cannot find flat accommodation, because they have two young children. Although they have applied in various places for flat accommodation, the agents have said that families with children are not acceptable. I think it is important that everything possible be done to provide adequate housing for all families, regardless of circumstances. After all, many of our social problems arise when families are not housed reasonably. I request the Minister of Housing and the Housing Trust to investigate every possibility of ensuring that the 12 000 applicants on the trust's waiting list are accommodated as soon as possible.

A facet of the trust's operations that is not generally appreciated is the provision of funds for industrial purposes. As Chairman of the Industries Development Committee, I point out that the committee deals with many applications by the trust for the provision of factory premises in this State. From May, 1973, to June, 1974, the committee has considered and approved Government guarantees for loans, references from the Industries Assistance Corporation, and Housing Trust applications for the erection of factory premises, totalling in all \$9 800 000. Much of this money has been for the erection of factory premises for industry in South Australia. Therefore, not only has industrial development been assisted but industry has also been diversified and additional employment opportunities created for the people of the State. I believe that the trust has an excellent record in this field, too. From the first-hand information given the committee, I am sure that my colleagues on the committee would agree with me that we have an awareness and appreciation of the trust's industrial undertakings. I pay a tribute to the officers of the trust for their work and attention to detail in preparing and presenting references to our committee for approval.

The report of the Royal Commission into Local Government Areas has been tabled in the House; this session legislation will be introduced to give effect to the report. Although the report has been tabled today, we have not had an opportunity to peruse it in detail. Basically, it recommends a reduction from 137 to 72 in the number of councils in South Australia. I agree with the Minister of Local Government that the report is a first-class one, and I am sure that the proposals contained in it are overdue. It is 40 years since we had a Royal Commission on local government boundaries, and changes are necessary to ensure the economic viability of local government in South Australia. As in any situation of change, some people no doubt will object, but in the interests of local government it is essential that changes should occur. In the 40 years since the last Royal Commission many changes have occurred in population.

I turn now to something not mentioned in the Governor's Speech; this debate gives members an opportunity to raise matters not contained in the Speech. Following a recent address by Dr. Harry Lander, a newspaper report contained the opinion that political decisions were influenced by the physical fitness of members of Parliament. Dr. Lander said that all members of Parliament should have medical or physical tests on being elected to office, and that basically we were an unfit group of people. Following Dr. Lander's statement a newspaper published an article relating to the physical fitness of members of this House, and in it we saw a photograph of the Leader of the Opposition, in a most imposing posture, doing push-ups in his office. I think the newspapers were kind to him! While I cannot agree with Dr. Lander that members of Parliament are different from any other group in the community in relation to physical fitness, some members have taken advantage of the facilities of the Institute for Fitness Research and Training. I was introduced to this programme by the member for Peake. It is a great scheme and that is why I refer to it today. Perhaps I should recommend that members in this House undertake the same programme. The institute conducts a programme of preventive reconditioning consisting of scientific training techniques designed to prevent heart trouble and to provide the participant with good general health. The medical and science writer of the *Advertiser* last year wrote an article headed, "Mr. Sedgwick's formula for making old men young". The article states:

There is a group of young 50 to 60-year-olds in Adelaide who swing and breathe as though they were under 30. Physiologically speaking, their doctors would have to say, "Son, you have the heart and lungs of a young man." Nearly all of them lead sedentary lives—long, inactive days sitting behind desks for more than 40 per cent of their time—as office workers, lawyers, architects, purchasing officers, accountants and clerks. But a couple of times a week they break free and go to gyms at the Adelaide and Sturt Colleges of Advanced Education, the University of Adelaide and the Young Men's Christian Association for "preventive reconditioning". After a few minutes of stretching to warm up, they run up and down the gym for three or four minutes, rest for one or two minutes and then run again. Their heartbeats climb to about 140-160 a minute and they gradually build up the number of runs to about four in any one hour's training session. Consciously, they are trying to dodge "the Big Pain" (a coronary heart attack) but then they become interested in their fitness and get hooked on the exercise habit. Yet they are generally unaware of the significance of their weekly exercise ritual, their attention to diet and "new" life-style.

For the more than 500 men, aged between 30 and 60 and living coronary-prone lives, who in the past three years have volunteered for physical training at the Institute for Fitness Research and Training based at the Adelaide College of Advanced Education have been taking part in

a big South Australian biological experiment. The way their hearts beat and their blood flows as they exercise flabby muscles and stretch creaky joints is giving physical education specialists and medical scientists a glimpse of the effects of physical training on the switched-off generation. Courses in "preventive reconditioning" were started three years ago by the institute's director, Mr. Tony Sedgwick, a senior lecturer in physical education. For a couple of hours of vigorous activity each week these men are now getting more out of life. Apart from improving their resistance to fatigue, their performance in their jobs and ability to take part in recreational activities, many boast greater sexual endurance. "In terms of increasing fitness, sedentary people show very good improvement for reasonably little effort," Mr. Sedgwick says.

I will not quote further from the article, although it gives more detail of the courses conducted at the institute. I have taken part in the training scheme for about 18 months. Recently the institute received a Commonwealth grant of about \$5 000, but I do not think that is sufficient; more should be done by way of preventive medicine. From the aspects of health, cost, and the general interest of the community, prevention is better than cure. I hope the South Australian Government will consider, at the first opportunity, providing financial assistance to the institute.

I turn now to a section of the community I believe to be disadvantaged in these days of what we describe as the equality of the sexes. The group consists of supporting fathers, and I understand that only recently the Supporting Fathers Association was formed in South Australia to draw attention to the problems facing fathers who may have been deserted or widowed and who must be father and mother to their children. No financial assistance is available to a male in this situation. Although supporting mothers receive cash payments and concessions for their children, supporting fathers receive no social security assistance. It would be only fair to extend benefits to all supporting parents rather than to differentiate between the sexes, and to eliminate the discrimination, not to the parents but to the children. I hope the Australian Government will consider this soon. Members may recall that about 18 months or two years ago I presented to this House a petition on the matter, and I thought then that the suggestion that the father of the child should receive assistance for looking after the child was treated humorously. However, I assure the House that I feel strongly on this matter, because it is only fair that the children should not be discriminated against and that the supporting father should have every opportunity to bring up his children in a reasonably satisfactory way.

Another matter that I have raised previously in Address in Reply debates is probably one of parochial importance to my district, but it is nevertheless important. I refer to the construction of a bridge across the Torrens River linking Darley Road, Campbelltown, and Sudholz Road, Windsor Gardens, and replacing what is known as the Darley Road ford. I am pleased that the preparatory work on the approaches to the bridge is under construction, and I understand that the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

When completed, the bridge will eliminate problems that we have had in that area for years, particularly in winter time, when traffic could not negotiate the ford and when a temporary Bailey-type bridge, which caused difficulty for traffic in that area, had to be used. I express to the Minister of Transport and the Highways Department my gratitude that they have overcome the problems regarding property acquisition and bridge design. I am pleased that work on the bridge has commenced, and I understand that it will be completed soon.

The Governor's Speech refers to some matters that have been submitted to this House in an earlier session. One such matter is the amendment of the Local Government Act, and reference is also made to amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to provide that civil action will not be available in connection with industrial disputes and to remove the penal provisions of that Act. Let us hope that on this occasion common sense will prevail (I refer particularly to another place) to ensure that the antiquated attitude that has been taken to industrial affairs will be replaced by a more realistic approach.

The Speech indicates that we will have a fairly busy and, I hope, interesting session. In conclusion, I refer to a report of the speech made by the retiring Governor-General of Australia (Sir Paul Hasluck) at a farewell dinner given him at Parliament House, Canberra. He warned that Parliamentary democracy might be threatened.

Mr. McAnaney: Who's running South Australia at present?

Mr. Langley: Not you!

Mr. McAnaney: It's not this Government.

Mr. Langley: How do you know?

Mr. McAnaney: We see it in the newspaper every day.

Mr. Langley: Do you believe all you see in the newspaper?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. SLATER: What the honourable member opposite said by interjection was not the reason why the retiring Governor-General made that statement. However, one reason that he gave was that he considered that the newspaper reporting of Parliamentary happenings was particularly unsatisfactory. He said newspapers did not report on what really happened in Parliament and that the only interest of the press was in the exciting or sensational. He also said that we did not get a straight report of what happened and that we read an observer's account of what in his opinion was newsworthy.

I heartily concur in those remarks. The normal constructive remarks made in this House are not reported in the press but the unusual remark or the odd, dramatic or gimmicky questions always will be reported. I have heard extremely good speeches in this House, but they have not rated a line in the newspaper on the following day. However, a question on something difficult and odd will be reported.

Mr. Langley: Like the colour of the Glenelg tram.

Mr. Coumbe: Or the amount of water in the reservoirs.

Mr. SLATER: I think it fair to say that the public is not being reliably informed on what is happening in this Parliament and on the functions of the Government. It is important that the public be told of what happens here, because if the people do not get a true report on that they will get a false impression. It is important, as the Governor-General of Australia has pointed out, that the press recognizes that it has a responsibility to the public to report on the constructive things that happen in the State and Commonwealth Parliaments.

Mr. GROTH (Salisbury): I second the motion that has been so ably moved by the member for Gilles. First, I congratulate you, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, on your election success this afternoon. You and I have been associated for many years and we have taken part in many election campaigns. I congratulate you heartily on your success. Of course, it was not difficult for you to win; you did not have much to beat. Nevertheless, you won.

I was sorry to learn of the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. I suppose that, as Governor-General of Australia, he earned the respect of the people

and carried out his duties to the best of his ability. I express my sympathy to the families of the former member for Sturt (Mr. Edgar Dawes) and the former member for Eyre (Mr. Ernest Edwards). I did not know either of those people, but I am positive that they served the people of the State well.

I have listened with much interest to His Excellency's Speech, and I congratulate him on the way he presented it. I was pleased to note the development that is planned for the future. When one looks at the legislative programme for this session, one sees that it will be an interesting session and that much will be done for the people of this State. I refer especially to the recent development in my district, especially that area administered by the Salisbury council. Much development has taken place during the past 12 months, particularly at St. Kilda.

Mrs. Byrne: It's a good place.

Mr. GROTH: I agree with the honourable member: it is a good place. First, it is a good place because it is in my district and, secondly, it is a good place because the member for Tea Tree Gully has a shack there.

Mr. Langley: How is the area represented?

Mr. GROTH: The area is well represented in this House as well as in the Upper House. True, we did do some work to get members there, but it was rather easy.

Mr. Rodda: How about the lady candidate?

Mr. GROTH: Mrs. Witt, who is, I believe, a member of the Liberal Movement, is especially friendly with me because she is a progressive liberal.

Mr. McAnaney: How is it that you get on so well with progressive liberals?

Mr. GROTH: I think I would be a little more progressive than the honourable member who has just interjected. When I spoke to Mrs. Witt the other day she said she would oppose the member for Victoria at the next election and, as she is a likeable sort of person, I think she would have a chance of knocking him off. However, I do not know who will be the most disliked (the member for Victoria or me) when Mrs. Witt reads the *Hansard* report of this speech. Much progress has been made in the St. Kilda area and celebrations in March this year were ably opened by the Minister of Lands, who commended the council on its initiative in reclaiming land to be developed into a future beauty spot and recreation area for the people of the northern suburbs.

Further development was undertaken as a result of funds obtained from the Australian Government through the rural grants scheme, and the benefits produced are much appreciated. I now refer to a report of a statement by the Mayor of Salisbury (Mr. Harry Bowey) concerning the development of the whole area, as follows:

Mr. Bowey, in his annual report, said despite its rapid growth council should not lose sight of the fact that everything it did was for the people. "It is people who count and for whom services and facilities are provided," he said. "We recognize how essential it is for council and its own organization to be in touch with the people no matter how large we grow." Mr. Bowey said Salisbury's rapid growth was creating some economic disadvantages. Increased population was demanding new services before council could afford them. "All our development is at inflated present day costs increasing at rates which are frightening," he said. "Interest shown by the Federal Government in providing much needed financial assistance is very heartening." Mr. Bowey said Town Clerk Mr. Jack Bormann had presented a well documented submission to the Grants Commission in support of council claims for Federal funds.

I trust that these funds will be forthcoming. The article continues:

The mayor said it had become necessary for council to consider entering more specialized fields, particularly in the area of social welfare. A decision had been made to appoint a community development officer and at a later stage a recreation officer. Consideration was also being given to the appointment of a legal officer. "The community is an exciting one," Mr. Bowey said, "And many changes may result from decisions of the Boundaries Commission and action by the Federal Government to provide much needed financial assistance to local government. It could be possible that many councils may lose their identity and may be amalgamated with others in an endeavour to provide improved services without increased costs to rate-payers." Mr. Bowey said Salisbury had gone through another year of "great development". Among the year's highlights was the approval of 1 237 applications for the building of new houses, 159 flat and home units and other buildings to the total value of \$23 214 039.

It is plain that there has been much development in the area, and I commend the council on the way it has handled the situation over the years.

Mr. Wright: Who is Mr. Bowey?

Mr. GROTH: Harry Bowey is a friend of mine. Like the member for Spence, he is one of my best friends.

Mr. Rodda: Who looked after Mrs. Witt's baby on June 8?

Mr. GROTH: All I did was to offer Mrs. Witt a chair, and I have been the best guy ever since, because the chair was an Australian Labor Party chair. The chair belonged to Mr. Howard O'Neill, a Labor Party organizer. All I did was to offer the chair, and Mrs. Witt accepted it.

Mr. Rodda: Has Mrs. Witt a problem?

Mr. GROTH: She is the honourable member's problem. It is the honourable member's hoggets that are running around in a paddock in the South-East, and it is a question of whether the wool will come off this year or not.

Mr. Evans: Have the shearers been consulted?

Mr. GROTH: I understand that meetings have been held throughout the State.

Mr. Evans: Have the shearers told you?

Mr. GROTH: I don't think the shearers have divulged any information. I refer to this dispute and to the Australian Workers Union log of claims, because I am somewhat concerned about the situation. Undoubtedly the Opposition is concerned about it, too, because many of its members have pastoral interests. To answer some of the interjections made by honourable members, I quote from a report in the *Australian Worker* dated Wednesday, July 17, which refers to meetings held throughout Australia, at which delegates were appointed to attend a meeting in Dubbo, New South Wales, in support of shearers' and pastoral workers' claims.

Mr. Rodda: I don't think Mrs. Witt will do much for the shearers.

Mr. GROTH: Possibly not. It is interesting to read the history of events that led to the present strike. The dispute will come to a head next Friday, July 26, the date by which the graziers are to make an offer on the A.W.U.'s log of claims. Although the court commenced hearing this matter today, I do not expect that it will be concluded, nor will any offer be made by the grazier organizations, by next Friday. Any Opposition member with pastoral interests and any pastoralist outside the House ought to be directing their attention to trying to get their organizations to enter into an agreement with the A.W.U. and to make an offer so the dispute can be settled. The report states:

He made special reference to the pastoral workers conference held in Dubbo in April, which he said set the pace of pay rises, improved conditions and the strike move. He carefully explained the executive council's resolution concerning the national strike. Mr. Oliver took the meeting back to 1906 when the pastoral industry award was first made.

The following quote from the report is especially interesting:

And, it is nearly the same today, as it was 68 years ago. So, other than variations of rates of pay in the award, nothing has changed in 68 years. Stationhands still work a 44-hour week.

Mr. McAnaney: Farmers work longer hours.

Mr. GROTH: If farmers are as badly off as members opposite would have us believe, I am surprised to hear that they work at all. The article continues:

He told the big meeting they had a "responsibility to be informed because the dispute will be won right here in New South Wales". He explained why it had become so pressingly important that the workers' demands in the pastoral industry must be won. He dealt exhaustively with the effects of inflation which was simply making the rich richer and the workers poorer. He compared, for the meeting, wage increases which the branch had won for members in other industries, and existing rates in the pastoral industry. Shop assistants receive a minimum wage of \$100 a week because they quite rightly threatened strike action unless they were paid a living wage.

Even though the log of claims has been filed in the Industrial Court in Sydney, it is not expected to lead to wage justice, because of the system of arbitration. The report

states that the arbitration commission system is the most outdated and cumbersome system existing in Australia today, with no justice to the workers. So, I advise the Opposition, particularly those members with pastoral interests, to contact their organizations and try to influence them to reach an agreement with the union and to make an offer.

In conclusion, I refer to a situation which, I believe, is becoming most dangerous and about which I hope something will be done to improve it. At the junction of Port Wakefield Road and Salisbury Highway, because of the bottleneck on the single-lane highway on the bridge over the railway line at Cavan, a bank-up of traffic occurs almost every morning. This bank-up of traffic back towards Parafield Gardens stretches for about eight kilometres. Drivers who want to take advantage of other drivers who are held up proceed along the wrong side of the road for a kilometre or more into head-on traffic so that they can cut across a vacant allotment, get on to the Port Wakefield Road, and then have right of way. It is a dangerous situation. A constituent of mine, who has written a full-page letter to me on the matter, has asked me to take it up with the Minister of Transport and also mention it in this House.

Dr. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.2 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, July 24, at 2 p.m.