

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, August 13, 1974

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

**HOUSING LOANS REDEMPTION FUND ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

STATE LOTTERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the Bill.

PETITION: COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

Mr. NANKIVELL presented a petition from 317 rate-payers of the District Council of Peake, stating that they were dissatisfied with the first report of the Royal Commission into Local Government Areas, and praying that the House of Assembly would reject any legislation that would be introduced to implement any recommendations of the Commission concerning the District Council of Peake.

Petition received.

QUESTIONS

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

LAND VALUATION

In reply to Mr. RODDA (July 30).

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As from July 1, 1974, all landowners' returns issued to landlords are being accompanied by explanatory notes. The landowners' returns issued to landholders in the Tatiara area were posted out in May and June before the Valuer-General received the printed explanatory notes from the Government Printer, and they were unable to be included with the returns. However, when the Chairman and members of the Tatiara District Council visited the Valuer-General on July 29, they were handed a bundle of the explanatory notes to hand out to inquirers at the district council office on their return. Mr. Rodda telephoned me concerning this matter on August 1, and appropriate publicity explaining the reason for the returns and how to fill them out is to be provided in the local newspapers.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

In reply to Mr. BECKER (July 31).

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Provision has been made for the expenditure of \$1 250 000 on renovations at Parliament House during the 1974-75 financial year.

PORT LINCOLN HARBOR

In reply to Mr. BLACKER (August 7).

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The new berthing facilities at Port Lincoln will not be completed until September, 1975, and the bulk-grain loading facilities will not be available for the coming harvest.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

In reply to Mr. ARNOLD (August 1).

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The balance of the grant from the Schools Commission funds for the 1972-74 secondary schools' libraries programme was distributed to schools early in 1974. In June, 1974, schools were noti-

fied that a credit balance had been established for each, for library books and audio-visual equipment. The balance left in each school's account will be determined in the third term of 1974, and schools will be informed of the amount. It is expected that the total grant will be expended during late 1974 or early 1975. Three schemes of grants from Schools Commission funds will operate for primary schools. These were approved in Cabinet on July 15, 1974, as follows:

1. Per capita: each school will receive a per capita grant. Selection lists are being prepared for distribution to schools.
2. Special needs: schools in need of special funding because of poor quality or number of resources are being determined. A final assessment will be made shortly.
3. Regional packages: small schools in country regions will, in addition, be served by quantities of print and non-print materials and equipment housed at regional centres and distributed as occasion demands. Lists for these materials are at present being prepared.

Orders for these three schemes will be collated, and it is expected they will be placed in November. Distribution to schools should commence early in 1975. Departmental policy on school maintenance grants has not changed. Grants of \$25 a hectare are made on the basis of the total area of the school grounds, plus 30c a pupil enrolled at the school, less any area used for agricultural purposes at schools having agriculture as a curriculum subject. Schools are required to submit claims for payment of the grant setting out details of the previous year's expenditure from their grant. The schools are then reimbursed the amount expended with any adjustments for alterations in area or enrolments. Most claims submitted by schools have been paid and late claims will be paid as soon as practicable.

BANKSIA PARK HIGH SCHOOL

In reply to Mrs. BYRNE (July 31).

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is true that notice of acquisition was served on the owner and tenant of the required land in November last. Subsequent claims were considered by the Land Board to be excessive and were disputed. Negotiations have been proceeding since the dispute of the claims in an endeavour to reach agreement on the amount of compensation to be paid. As the Secondary Division of the Education Department has indicated that there is no immediate requirement for use of the land, the action required under the Land Acquisition Act to obtain possession has not been taken, and the Land Board will continue with its negotiations with a view to resolving the transaction.

RESERVE USE

In reply to Mrs. BYRNE (July 30).

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The Public Buildings Department was requested to erect a fence in January, 1974. The department completed the fence location survey in June, and tenders are about to be let, but a shortage of fencing material has not enabled the department to expedite the matter. At this stage no arrangements have been made to provide for the employment of rangers to patrol undeveloped State Planning Authority land (of which there are more than 20 parcels in the metropolitan area). This makes it difficult to keep out stray motor-bike and game-shooting intruders. I have drawn the honourable member's question to the attention of the Commissioner of Police with a request that he provide additional surveillance of the area.

WATER STORAGEES

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. What is the present state of metropolitan water storages?
2. Is the present total storage up to the yearly average level for this time of the year?
3. Is it intended to provide a free tap-washer replacement service for dripping taps this summer in order to conserve water?
4. What other measures will be taken to conserve water during the summer?
5. What is the estimated total of new rebatable water quotas as calculated on rates payable on the basis of new valuations so far throughout the State?
6. Is it estimated that metropolitan water storages will contain enough water to meet these quotas, plus any excess?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

1. Holdings are 84 per cent of full capacity of metropolitan storages.
2. Yes. Present storage is 158 000 Ml compared to 111 086 Ml at equivalent time last year.
3. No.
4. Publicity and consumer education. School projects centred on water conservation.
5. 243 890 Ml.
6. No. The stored water must be supplemented with natural intake and water pumped from the Murray River.

DENTAL DEPARTMENT

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. How many waiting lists for dental attention are there in the Dental Department of Royal Adelaide Hospital?
2. What are the headings under which each list is kept?
3. What are the numbers of people on each of these waiting lists as at June 30, 1974?
4. What is the longest period, in each case, that persons have been waiting for attention on each list?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The replies are as follows:

1. Eleven.
2.
 - Prosthetic (urgent)
 - Prosthetic (general)
 - Orthodontic (for treatment)
 - Orthodontic (for assessment)
 - Oral surgery
 - Restorative (general)
 - Restorative (postgraduate)
 - Undergraduate—Pedodontic
 - Undergraduate—Prosthetic
 - Undergraduate—Conservative
 - Undergraduate—Periodontic
- 3.

700
6 048
581
463
18
1 474
59
187
122
77
Nil

4. The waiting periods are a consequence of the dental hospital being basically a training institution and not a treatment centre.

10 months
nine years
26 months

All under assessment
two months
nine months
20 months
12 months
12 months
12 months
Nil

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. What are the terms of reference of the investigation into the Dental Department announced by the Minister of Health in Parliament on March 20, 1974?
2. Who is the consultant who has been appointed to undertake this investigation and when was he appointed?
3. What progressive recommendations for the improvement of services have been made during the course of the investigation?
4. Which of these recommendations, if any, have been implemented?
5. When will the full report be available?
6. What action, if any, does the Government intend taking to implement the recommendations of the final report?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The replies are as follows:

1. To improve the working of the department and to provide a brief for architects in connection with any additional accommodation requirements.
2. John Clements Proprietary Limited, working in association with PA Management Consultants Proprietary Limited, October 22, 1973.
3. (a) The objectives of the department have been clarified.
- (b) A revised organization structure has been recommended.
- (c) Acceleration of dentist recruitment has been recommended.
- (d) A survey has been conducted amongst dentists in South Australia to determine their interest in employment in the department. A significant degree of interest was shown.
- (e) A career path structure for dentists has been recommended.
- (f) Proposals for more effective day-to-day working in clinics and laboratories are being developed.

4. (a) The objectives of the department are being quantified progressively, with staff participation, to establish future manpower and facility needs.

(b) Implementation of the revised organization structure is being pursued. An upgraded position of Dental Superintendent is being advertised, and a position of Laboratory Manager is being sought.

(c) A recruitment programme for dentists is being evolved relative to the budgetary position.

(d) Implementation of the proposed career path structure for dentists is being pursued.

(e) Operating improvements have been introduced into some clinical areas with some initial success, and the concept of staff participation in day-to-day management is being fostered.

5. At the end of 1974.

6. It is not possible for the Government to determine its action until the final report has been received.

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. What are the numbers of persons, respectively, now employed in the Dental Department as—

- (a) graduate dentists;
- (b) dental students;
- (c) technicians;
- (d) nurses;
- (e) other ancillary dental staff; and
- (f) clerical and other lay staff?

2. How many dental students are now undergoing practical training in the department, and in what years of study are they?

3. What is the average daily number of patient attendances at the department?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The replies are as follows:

- 1. (a) The equivalent of 30 full time,
- (b) Nil (dental students are in attendance, but not as employees),
- (c) 35 including apprentices,
- (d) 111 including trainees,
- (e) five,
- (f) 27.
- 2. Second year—75,
Third year—52,
Fourth year—39,
Fifth year—40.
- 3. 476.

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. What measures will be taken to overcome the excessively long waiting list for dentures at the Dental Department of Royal Adelaide Hospital?

2. Is it intended to increase the number of members of staff involved in denture making?

3. Will private dental practitioners be asked to participate in a programme aimed at reducing the denture waiting list?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The replies are as follows:

- 1. This is one of the matters being considered by the consultants employed to investigate Dental Department services.
- 2. Not unless and until additional laboratory accommodation becomes available.
- 3. Proposals along these lines are now being examined.

OLD BELAIR ROAD

Mr. EVANS (on notice): In the upgrading of Old Belair Road from Torrens Park to Belair—

- 1. How many traffic lanes will be provided?
- 2. Will a weight limit be placed on this road?
- 3. How many trees in excess of 3 metres in height will be removed or physically affected by the upgrading of Old Belair Road and adjoining roads?
- 4. Will the upgraded road follow the existing line, wherever practical, so as to preserve the character of the hills face zone?
- 5. What is the present traffic flow on this road?
- 6. What is the predicted traffic flow on this road when it becomes part of the upgraded main Goolwa Road?
- 7. What is the total estimated cost of upgrading this road?

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

- 1. Two traffic lanes, one in each direction, will be provided in the upgrading of Old Belair Road from Blythewood Road (Torrens Park) to Belair.
- 2. The imposition of a weight limit is the prerogative of the city of Mitcham.
- 3. It is estimated that about 350 trees will be removed as a result of upgrading Old Belair Road and adjoining

roads. A landscaping scheme for planting of trees will be prepared, and is subject to a survey now in progress. It is expected that more than 1 000 new trees will be planted.

- 4. Yes.
- 5. 7 400 vehicles a day.

6. This section of road does not form part of a "main Goolwa Road". It serves commuter traffic between the Blackwood and Belair area and the metropolitan area, and this traffic is expected to double by 1986.

7. The total estimated cost of upgrading the section of Old Belair Road from Blythewood Road (Torrens Park) to Florence Terrace (Belair) is \$400 000.

GOOLWA ROAD

Mr. EVANS (on notice): When is it planned to complete upgrading the section of the main Goolwa Road from Torrens Park to Blacks Road, Coromandel Valley, and what width carriageway is planned?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Consideration is now being given to widening the road, to provide for four moving lanes of traffic between Lower Mitcham and Springbank Road, with a transition to two lanes south of that point. Construction is now planned to commence in 1978, subject to availability of funds. There are no present proposals to upgrade Belair Road beyond the Dogs Rescue Home.

BELAIR—BLACKWOOD ROAD

Mr. EVANS (on notice): In the widening of the Belair to Blackwood main road—

1. What properties have been acquired, and what is the cost of each parcel of land acquired?

2. What is estimated total cost of widening this road?

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

Section 2206			
1. Allot.	\$	Allot.	\$
1	120	10	50
1	100	12	1 165
Pt. 2 & 3	90	13	1 055
3	525	14	820
Pt. 3	50	15	1 075
Pt. 4	370	57	1 860
Pt. 4	120	59	150
Pt. 5	44	60	520
Pt. 5	110	61	512
546	1 765	61 & 2	500
6	60	62	120
7	180	Pt. 11	740
7	60	Pt. 72	12 500
8	150		

Section 878			
Allot.	\$	Allot.	\$
3	300	13	90
8	100	14	48
9	100	15	180
10	150	16	60
11	50	21	40

Sections 936 and 938			
Allot.	\$	Allot.	\$
49	335	53	210
50	1 500	54	610
52	395	63	1 750
53	656	64	875
51	1 500		

Section 874			
Allot.	\$	Allot.	\$
3 & 4	520	24	64
5 & 6	72	25	30
6 & 7	835	26	1 027
19	1 450	26	1 300
20	285	27/8	475
21	36	29/30	1 850
22	44	Pt. 874	170
23	432		

Section 1124			
Allot.	\$	Allot.	\$
Pt. 1	2 025	Pt. 1124	100
Pt. 1	570	Pt. 1124	160
Pt. 1124	650	Pt. 1124	140
35	400	Pt. 1124	150
Pt. 1124	230	Pt. 1124	200
Pt. 1124	2 650		

Section 1144			
Allot.	\$	Allot.	\$
1 & 2	456	Pt. 1144	7 250
27	80	Pt. 1144	3 585
28	80	Pt. 1144	150
29	130	Pt. 1144	106
30/1	120		

Section 2205			
Allot.	\$	Allot.	\$
1 & 2	4 500	11	390
3	790	12 & 11	1 015
3	60	13	600
4	900	14	680
4	815	15	605
5	885	16	860
6	258	17	890
7	90	18	100
8	885	18, 19	100
9	2 280	19	100
10	80	21	70
11	1 860	22	150

2. A preliminary estimate of the total cost of this project is \$1 500 000.

SCENIC ROAD

Mr. EVANS (on notice):

1. When is a decision going to be made on the exact route of the scenic road, particularly that section from Crafers in the west-south-west direction through Upper Sturt to Cherry Gardens?

2. Has it been decided that the scenic road definitely will not proceed past the Mitcham council boundary along Upper Sturt Road?

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

1. The designation of roads as scenic routes is primarily the responsibility of the State Planning Authority. The section referred to is now under review by that authority in consultation with the Highways Department.

2. Some possible roads for future designation as scenic routes have not yet been developed to a sufficient standard for that purpose, and no early decision is expected to be made.

SHEOAK HILL ROAD

Mr. EVANS (on notice): When Sheoak Hill Road, Belair, is developed as a main road to Crafers will Belair Recreation Park be tangibly affected and is a diversion planned to avoid the present steep gradient that exists in the fire track on this road?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There are no present proposals to develop an arterial road on the Sheoak Road alignment. This is one of a number of alternative routes that will be studied for a possible additional link between southern suburban areas and the South-Eastern Freeway.

Mr. EVANS (on notice): What properties have been acquired for any future work on Sheoak Hill Road, from Waverley Ridge Road to Russell Street, Belair, and what is the cost and area of each acquisition?

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

Properties hundred of Adelaide	Area Hectares	Cost \$
Lot 2, section 966	} 2117	3 490
Lot 5, section 499		
Lot 3, section 966 . . . . .	.1159	1 700
Lot 4, section 966 . . . . .	.1159	1 400
Lot 5, section 966 . . . . .	.1159	1 400
Lots 6 and 7, section 966 . . . . .	.2318	4 200
Lot 8, section 966 . . . . .	.1280	1 600
Part section 941 . . . . .	.1462	1 500
Part section 941 . . . . .	.1462	1 800
Part section 1097 . . . . .	.1506	15 550

GLOUCESTER AVENUE

Mr. EVANS (on notice): In the upgrading of Gloucester Avenue from Belair to Panorama—

1. How many traffic lanes will be provided?
2. What areas of land have been acquired, and what is the cost and area of each property acquired?
3. What is the expected total cost of the upgrading?
4. When is work expected to begin?
5. What is the expected completion date?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There are no present proposals to upgrade Gloucester Avenue. It is part of one of several alternatives that will be studied for an additional link between the southern suburbs and the South-Eastern Freeway. Neither physical details nor possible construction date of such a link have yet been considered. In order to prevent development that might prejudice investigations, however, about 6.25 hectares of vacant land have been acquired by the department at a cost of \$446 300. Of this, 4 ha costing \$378 500 comprise allotments of a single subdivision, which will be readily disposable if development of a road on this route does not proceed.

MITCHAM HILLS ROADS

Mr. EVANS (on notice):

1. Will an environmental study be undertaken concerning likely effects upon the environment of road works proposed in the Mitcham Hills area?

2. If a study is to be made, will other than Highways Department personnel be employed to carry it out and, if so, what are the names and occupations of these persons?

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

1. In the design of planned roadworks on Old Belair Road and Main Road, Belair, all aspects of environmental impact, including access to properties and tree preservation, have been taken into account.

2. In planning for any new arterial facility between the southern suburbs and the South-Eastern Freeway, full environmental studies will be made to ensure that all physical, sociological, ecological, and amenity factors are considered. When the study is undertaken the best available advice will be obtained either from South Australian Government personnel, or consultants if necessary.

Mr. EVANS (on notice): Is the purpose of the proposed road development in the Mitcham Hills area to serve the local community, or is its main function to encourage more through traffic from the pleasure resorts in the south and a regional development near the Stirling District Council area and Monarto, including heavy transport from southern industry?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Roadworks now planned on Old Belair Road and Main Road, Belair, are being designed solely to cater for local traffic within the Belair-Blackwood area and between that area and the Adelaide Plain.

BELAIR ROAD

Mr. EVANS (on notice): When is it intended to commence construction of passing lanes to allow heavy vehicles to move to their left and give a free-flow passage for faster moving vehicles on that section of Belair Road between the Mitcham Dogs Home and Gloucester Avenue, Belair?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There are no present proposals to construct passing lanes on Belair Road between the Dogs Rescue Home and Gloucester Avenue, Belair. Such provision would involve considerable expense and environmental impact, which could not be justified by the marginal benefits to motorists at present.

UPPER STURT ROAD

Mr. EVANS (on notice): What are the future plans and expected dates of commencement of any work on the Lindsay Terrace and Upper Sturt Road developments?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: There are no present proposals affecting Upper Sturt Road. This is one of several alternatives that will be studied for an additional link between the southern suburbs and the South-Eastern Freeway.

BUSINESS AGENTS

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. What number of applications have been received for registration as licensed business agents pursuant to section 51 of the Land and Business Agents Act, 1973?

2. How many applications have been rejected?

3. For what reasons have rejections been made?

4. What opportunity exists for those persons so rejected to appeal against such rejection?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The replies are as follows:

1. One.

2. None. The application has not yet been considered by the board.

3. Not applicable.

4. There is a right of appeal to the Supreme Court against any decision or order of the board. Persons who were licensed under the repealed Land Agents Act immediately before the commencement of the new Land and Business Agents Act automatically became licensed agents under the new legislation. It was not necessary for them to apply for a new licence. Similarly, persons who had been granted business agents' licences under the repealed Business Agents Act before May 1, 1973, and whose licences were in force immediately before the commencement of the new Act, were also deemed to be licensed under the new Act, and had no need to lodge a new application.

FREE MILK SCHEME

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What use will be made of freezers used to store milk formerly supplied under the free milk scheme?

2. What use will be made of buildings erected for the distribution of milk under this scheme?

3. Who provided the finance for the buildings and freezers?

4. How many buildings were erected and where?

5. How many special freezers were supplied to schools and where?

6. What was the total cost of buildings and freezers?

7. Was there a contract to supply freezers and has this contract had to be broken, and was compensation paid to the supplier?

8. What compensation will the department receive for the cancellation of the scheme?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The replies are as follows:

1. Refrigeration units are owned by the Wholesale Milk Buyers and Distributors Association. At present, the units are still at schools pending the outcome of a claim for compensation from the Australian Government.

2. Buildings erected for the distribution of milk are used as desired by the head of the school.

3. The cost of the Government buildings was shared equally between the Australian and South Australian Governments in connection with conversion costs in existing school buildings. Where separate housing for the refrigerators was required, the then Australian Government would not accept debit, and the full cost was borne by the South Australian Government. The freezer units were rented from the manufacturers by the milk distributors and supplied to schools at the distributors' expense.

4. Seven metal-clad and three brick free-standing buildings were erected at schools in the metropolitan area.

5. A total of 250 refrigeration units were supplied to schools in metropolitan and country areas: 42 of these were supplied to independent schools.

6. The cost of providing the 10 buildings referred to in 4 above was about \$7 300. Refrigerator units were supplied by the milk distributors and the cost is not known.

7. There was no contract to supply freezers. The Wholesale Milk Buyers and Distributors Association has advised that a claim for compensation for losses incurred by the discontinuance of the free milk scheme has been forwarded to the Australian Government.

8. The Education Department has not made any claim for compensation, because the accommodation provided at schools may be used for other storage purposes.

SCHOOL DESKS

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Is there a shortage of desks in schools in this State?

2. Have old desks been recalled from salvage to be used in schools?

3. How many desks were involved and which schools were supplied?

4. When will these desks be replaced?

5. Are there any other shortages of essential school equipment and, if so, what is being done to rectify this position?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The replies are as follows:

1. No school is known to have been without an essential supply of desks at any time, though it has not been possible to replace older type furniture with more modern desks in every case where a request has been submitted.

2. No desks have been recalled from salvage and issued to schools excepting a small number of kindergarten tables, which were issued in isolated cases to meet the demand caused by mid-year intake of pupils.

3. *Vide* 2.

4. *Vide* 1.

5. In general, schools are better supplied with equipment than at any stage in our history. However, there are still many improvements that are necessary. The rate of such improvement is subject to financial limitation and, apart from that, to some shortages in the availability of certain items.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Mr. COUMBE (on notice):

1. Which Parliamentary committees, previously housed in Parliament House, are occupying rental accommodation in Adelaide?

2. What was the cost of alterations to provide suitable committee accommodation?

3. What is the annual cost of renting these facilities?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

1. The Public Accounts Committee, Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation, and Public Works Standing Committee.

2. The estimated final cost is \$23 000, of which \$21 354 has already been spent.

3. \$12 965.

SHACKS

Mr. COUMBE (on notice):

1. When will the report be available of the committee established by the Government to investigate the future of shacks on beach and river frontages?

2. Will the committee take into consideration the numerous protests made by shack owners to the Government's proposals?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

1. Because of the complex nature of the investigations being carried out by the Shack Site Review Committee, it is not possible to give a precise date when the committee will be in a position to report to the Government.

2. The committee has been considering, and will continue to consider, representations made by shack owners.

FESTIVAL CENTRE PLAZA

Mr. COUMBE (on notice): What is the planned time table for—

(a) the demolition of the old Government Printing Office; and

(b) the construction of the Festival Centre Plaza up to the rear of Parliament House?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

(a) The demolition of the old Government Printing Office is in progress and completion is expected by early October.

(b) Tenders for the construction of the southern plaza are expected to be received before the end of 1974, with construction commencing then, or early 1975. Construction time is expected to be 15 to 18 months.

ELIZABETH AREA HOSPITAL

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (on notice): Is a new Government hospital intended for the Elizabeth area and, if so, has any decision been made on a site for such a hospital?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The matter is now being considered.

TOD MAIN

Mr. BLACKER (on notice): Has the old Tod main on Eyre Peninsula been sold and, if so—

(a) who was the purchaser;

(b) what length of pipe was involved; and

(c) what was the price received a metre for this piping?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The pipes from the old Tod trunk main have not yet been sold.

MILK

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): Will the Government take action to ensure that milk which has been bottled for more than four days is not distributed to consumers by milk vendors?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The milk industry within the metropolitan area is organized to have milk delivered to the householders either the day after it is bottled or

the following day. Because of the fluctuations in demand from day to day, the milk companies bottle each day about 10 per cent in excess of the calculated requirements for the following day. As a consequence about 90 per cent of bottle milk is delivered to the householders the day after it is bottled, and the balance the following day. The Government is satisfied that the present system is satisfactory.

DAY LABOUR

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. How many persons were employed on a day-labour basis by the Government on July 1, in each of the years 1970 to 1974 inclusive?

2. What were the totals of salaries paid to day-labourers by the Government during each of the financial years 1970-71 to 1973-74 inclusive?

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

1. The Public Service Board does not have all the details of the number of weekly-paid employees employed at the dates as sought by the honourable member. The number of weekly-paid employees as at September 30, 1970, was 17 013. At August 30, 1972, the number was 17 631. The board is now obtaining statistics from departments of the number of weekly-paid employees employed in the Public Service, but this information will not be available until September.

2. The board is unable to supply details of wages paid to weekly-paid employees.

MONARTO

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): Which of the six demands put to the Premier by the Public Service Association on July 24, 1974, relating to the transfer of public servants from Adelaide to Monarto has been, or will be, accepted?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am not aware that demands were made regarding the transfer of public servants from Adelaide to Monarto. Several topics were discussed, and amicable accord was reached.

ANDAMOOKA RESERVOIR

Mr. GUNN (on notice):

1. When will work commence on the construction of the new reservoir to supply Andamooka?

2. Have tenders been called for this project?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

1. Providing equipment is available, April 1975.

2. Yes. No tenders were received, and it is intended to undertake the work by departmental labour.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. What progress has been made towards the provision of controlled pedestrian crossing facilities at the junction of Grant Avenue with Fullarton Road?

2. When is it expected that the present dangerous situation will be relieved, and crossing facilities in operation?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Plans have been completed for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Fullarton Road near Grant Avenue. These plans were submitted to the city of Burnside on July 25, 1974, seeking council's agreement to contribute one-third of the cost of installation, as required in terms of section 19 (1) of the Road Traffic Act (1961-74), and the cost of additional street lighting. If council is in agreement and is able to meet the cost involved, arrangements will be made to implement the

installation. The date of installation is dependent upon other commitments of high priority and the availability of signal equipment and skilled labour. It is expected that the crossing can be installed early in the 1975-76 financial year.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. Why are the new operating theatres and other facilities at Queen Elizabeth Hospital not yet in use?
2. What actions are being taken to rectify this situation?
3. When is it expected these facilities will be fully in operation?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The replies are as follows:

1. Because of adjustments necessary to equipment, modifications requested by the professional staff, and delays in delivery of building and other materials. It should be noted that when new theatres are constructed, the necessity for such modifications and adjustments are not unusual.
2. It is expected that all adjustments necessary will have been completed within the next two weeks.
3. The new theatres will be ready for use as stated in 2 above.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. Is the present staff position (medical, nursing, and other) in Government hospitals sufficient to meet the requirements for the full and efficient functioning of these establishments?
2. Has an embargo been placed on the creation or filling of certain staff vacancies, not in existence or filled on June 30, 1974, and, if so, why?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The replies are as follows:

1. Yes.
2. No—but the rate at which additional staff can be employed is subject to the availability of funds.

CALLAGHAN REPORT

Mr. GUNN (on notice):

1. Does the Government intend to implement the recommendations of the Callaghan report?
2. If so, how long is it expected that it will take to put the recommendations into effect?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

1. Yes—in principle.
2. Having regard to the far-reaching nature of many of the recommendations in the report, it is expected that implementation will be effected over several years.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Mr. GUNN (on notice): When the Agriculture Department is moved to Monarto—

- (a) what facilities will be available in Adelaide for the benefit of the rural industries to seek information on any matters related to their particular industries; and
- (b) will all the current facilities at Northfield be maintained?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The replies are as follows:

- (a) The department has recommended to the Public Service Relocation Committee that essential regulatory and advisory services be provided in the Adelaide area in the event of the headquarters transferring to Monarto.

- (b) Decisions on which departmental functions now undertaken at Northfield will be transferred eventually to Monarto are subject to further consultations between the Director of Agriculture and the Public Service Relocation Committee.

EXPORTS

Mr. GUNN (on notice): What quantities of export goods were shipped from Port Lincoln and Thevenard, respectively, during 1973-74?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Exports from Port Lincoln for 1973-74 totalled 482 000 tonnes, and from Thevenard for 1973-74, the total was 975 000 tonnes.

MATRICULATION

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): With the abolition of the present external public examinations after 1975, what format will the Matriculation examinations take?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The only public examination to be abolished after the end of this year is the Leaving examination. The format of the Matriculation examination is under the control of the Public Examinations Board on which tertiary institutions, the Education Department, and independent schools are represented. Any changes in format will require some measure of effective agreement among those organizations that have representatives on the Public Examinations Board.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Did delay occur on the evening of Friday, July 19, 1974, in treating persons with injuries brought to the Casualty Department at Royal Adelaide Hospital and, if so, what was the reason for the delay?

The Hon. L. J. KING: Forty-three patients attended the Casualty Department at Royal Adelaide Hospital between 6 p.m. and midnight on Friday, July 19, 1974. Of these 20 had to be admitted for in-patient treatment. Included in the 43 were 13 patients injured in vehicular accidents, and of these, nine had to be admitted. This could be classed as a busy period. All patients attending casualty are treated in order of clinical priority. Because of this, it is probable that the immediate treatment necessary for the more seriously injured or ill patients may have caused delay in the treatment of those with medically assessed non-urgent conditions. It would be necessary to be provided with the names of patients who claimed to have experienced delay in order to provide the reasons therefor.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What is the usual delay, if any, in treating persons with injuries brought to the Casualty Department at Royal Adelaide Hospital?
2. Is action to be taken to reduce any such delay and, if so, what action?
3. If necessary, when will such action be taken?
4. If no such action is to be taken, why not?

The Hon. L. J. KING: The replies are as follows:

1. Seriously ill or injured patients attending Casualty Department at Royal Adelaide Hospital are treated immediately, and all other patients are treated in order of their clinical priority after having been medically assessed. For this reason patients with non-urgent conditions may experience delay in receiving treatment.

2. No immediate action is contemplated, but the organization in casualty is under constant review. The casualty service at Royal Adelaide Hospital is acknowledged to

compare very favourably with similar services in other States.

3. If any action could be taken to improve the casualty service, it would be implemented without delay.

4. See 2 above.

LIBERAL MOVEMENT

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Is it intended to give a written reply to the request for additional staff for Parliamentary members of the Liberal Movement as set out in my letter of July 9, and, if so, when?

2. If it is not intended to grant this request, why not, and why has a reply not yet been given?

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

1. Yes—a letter was sent today.
2. Not applicable in view of 1.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Are motor vehicle registration numbers issued in strict alphabetical order and, if not, upon what system are they issued?

2. Is it intended to issue numbers with the combination of letters S E X, and, if so, when?

3. If this combination is not to be used, why not?

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

1. No. The alphabetical number plates are divided into blocks and several blocks might be issued each day but not in strict alphabetical order.

2. and 3. It is policy not to issue registration plate numbers that may cause objections from the public, and it is likely that plates with the combination of letters S E X will not be issued.

BELAIR ROADS

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What plans, if any, are there for a roadway between Belair and Crafers?

2. Has any opposition been expressed to any such roadway and, if so, by whom and what account is to be taken of such opposition?

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

1. There are no present Highways Department proposals for an arterial road between Belair and Crafers. The possible upgrading of Sheoak Road on the northern side of Belair National Park will be examined as one of several possibilities for an arterial link between the southern suburbs and the South-Eastern Freeway.

2. Opposition to the upgrading of Sheoak Road has been expressed by both Mitcham and Stirling councils, the Mount Lofty Ranges Association, and a body known as the Hills Road Committee. The views of these and any other objectors will be considered when assessing the environmental impact of any possible roadworks, and similar considerations will apply to alternatives also to be investigated.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What plans, if any, are there for improving—
 - (a) the road between what is known as "The Triangle" at Belair and Blackwood;
 - (b) Old Belair Road; and
 - (c) Russell Street, Belair?

2. If there are such plans, when will they each, respectively, be acted upon, and at what cost, respectively?

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

1. Planning is in hand to improve these roads as follows:

(a) Drawings are nearly complete, and subject to the availability of funds construction could commence in mid-1975.

(b) Drawings are nearly complete and subject to the availability of funds construction could commence in late 1976.

(c) As for (a)

2. Detailed cost estimates have not yet been prepared for any of the three projects.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: WATER AND SEWERAGE RATES

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This statement concerns increases in assessed values and the resulting increases in water and sewerage rates which have been experienced in those areas of the State reassessed by the Valuer-General in 1973-74. Under the Waterworks and Sewerage Acts, water and sewerage rates are based on a rate in the dollar on the assessed annual value for which a full sewerage service and a water allowance in proportion to the water rate is provided. Additional water used in excess of that allowance is paid for at a price set from year to year by the Government. This is not a unique system of charging for water supply and sewerage services: it has been used in many places here and overseas and has been a tried, proven and satisfactory method over past years. Even at this time it is probably the most equitable method in the long term. However, Australia, together with most other countries, is experiencing an exceptional inflationary situation, and this is the fundamental cause of the rating problem we now face.

The Valuer-General provides quinquennial reassessments (and it would be unreasonably costly to reduce this period significantly), so that the increased cost of maintaining and extending water and sewerage services each year (about 12 per cent) is borne to some extent by natural increases in all areas and, in the main, by increased rates received from areas which have been reassessed during the previous year.

In the present severe inflationary situation a wide gap has developed between valuations (and consequently in associated water and sewerage rates) in areas reassessed in 1973-74 and valuations in those areas reassessed previously. The Government, recognizing this as a problem, is anxious to solve it at the earliest possible moment. The solution is, of course, not easy. Many alternative systems of charging for water and sewerage services (particularly the former) have been examined from time to time, and invariably they have been shown to introduce more inequities or problems than shown by the principle based on property values under which South Australia now operates. The Government is satisfied that it is not the principle which is in question but the method of applying that principle in the present inflationary environment. One solution is to reassess the entire State annually, but this is neither a practical nor an economic proposition. In any case, qualified manpower is simply not available. The Director and Engineer-in-Chief has already carried out a considerable amount of exploratory work in an endeavour to find a realistic and equitable means of leveling out charges for water and sewerage services.

On the surface, the most promising system to date is a method in use in New Zealand. Therefore, at my direction the Valuer-General (Mr. J. P. Petherick) and the Director, Administration and Finance, Engineering and Water Supply Department (Mr. M. W. Maxwell) have gone to New Zealand to assess its relevance and any problems involved in its application in South Australia. These officers are scheduled to return to Adelaide at the end of this week and will make their report within about three weeks. It would be premature and improper of me to attempt to predict what their reports and recommendations will be. In addition, the Director and Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. K. W. Lewis) has been invited by the Australian Government to be a delegate at a conference of the International Hydrological Decade to be held in Paris soon. I have requested him to study water and sewerage rating in France and the United Kingdom and report to me. I can assure the House that the Government is determined to find a system which will spread the increased costs for water and sewerage services more evenly across the State. It would appear, however, that such a system is likely to involve the declaration of five or more different rates each year.

I want to deal briefly with some misconceptions that certain members of the House (notably, I think, the member for Davenport) have tried to implant in the minds of the people. The member for Davenport made great play about why the Sangster report had not been tabled in this House. He seeks to imply that we are trying to hide something by keeping the report secret. That is utter rubbish! On March 22, 1973, the Leader was informed by letter that the Sangster report was available at my office for perusal by him or any other member of Parliament. In fact, some Opposition members examined the report. Furthermore, the report was made available to the press and, on March 22, 1973, the *News* carried a lengthy summary. There was only one copy of the report originally, and I am having that photostated. I will make copies available to the Parliamentary Library, where any member who wants to see the report may do so. I did not table the report in the House, because at the time (and I still believe this) I thought it would have resulted in unwarranted cost in having it printed, and I say the cost would have been unwarranted, having regard to the ultimate public benefit to be derived from that printing. As this was a technical report, if it were to be of use to the public it would have needed comprehensive evaluation by people experienced in this field.

I point out to members opposite who propound the pay-for-water-used system that the Sangster report recommends a charge made up of two components: a charge for service availability and payment for actual water used. This system, if adopted, would result in the average householder paying about 26 per cent more than he is now required to pay. Of course, this would be unacceptable to any Government. The member for Davenport has said in this House that the Government is making a profit from supplying water to the metropolitan area. This is something he has taken in isolation. In fact, to supply water throughout the State the Government loses more than \$6 000 000 annually. Will the honourable member suggest to the House that we should charge the people in the country more? Of course he will not. It has also been implied that the increased water rate accounts were sent out to Burnside first for political reasons. Nothing could be further from the truth. The timing of the Burnside accounts was strictly in line with both the routine order of sending out accounts and the law, and

was certainly not influenced in any way by the Government or anyone else. Other reassessed areas have received or will get their accounts in the routine order.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is imputing to me statements that I did not make or imply at any stage.

The SPEAKER: Order! I cannot uphold the point of order. The honourable Minister is making a Ministerial statement as a result of a report having been requested.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: If the impression has been given that I have implied that the member for Davenport imputed that the issuing of notices of assessment in Burnside was done for political reasons, I say that that is not so. I said that it had been implied.

To clear up the points that I have just made, I will now state the areas to which rate accounts have already been sent. On July 4 accounts were sent to Burnside and on July 11 to Muddla Wirra, Bute, Port Wakefield, Clinton, Kingscote, Lacepede (which is in my district), Riverton, and Tanunda. Accounts were sent to Robertstown on July 18 and to Henley and Grange and to Lameroo on August 1.

I will now state the areas to which rate accounts will be sent soon. On August 15 accounts will be sent to Glenelg, Stirling, Crystal Brook, Meningie, Robe, and Gladstone. On August 22 accounts will be sent to Meadows, Blyth, and Munno Para. On August 29 accounts will be sent to Mount Gambier (corporation and district council areas) and Encounter Bay.

Those accounts will be sent in the normal way and the department will proceed in the normal way until I receive the report and recommendations of the two officers who are now in New Zealand. The Government views this matter extremely seriously and will do what it possibly can to rectify a situation that obviously has been caused by the factor that I have mentioned already, namely, the effect of inflationary pressure on the system that has been used. I hope that in about three weeks time I shall be able to bring down a report on what is being done.

QUESTIONS RESUMED

RAILWAY BRIDGES

Mr. ALLEN: Will the Minister of Transport assure the House and the public that the railway bridges in the Mannahill area are safe for passenger traffic, and will he say whether the Government intends, as reported in this morning's newspaper, to appoint a Royal Commission? Most members of this House doubtless are aware of the report in this morning's newspaper, and I consider that the people not only of South Australia but of the whole of Australia need to be reassured about the condition of these bridges. Several derailments have occurred on this railway line in the past few years since it was completed. In fact, only last Friday a derailment occurred at Gladstone, and I went there to inspect the scene. I think that most people who have inspected the scene of a derailment of this kind realize the cost to the State in repairs. I understand that the total cost of repairs after a derailment north of Jamestown two years ago was about \$200 000, and I am sure that members of the public generally need to be reassured on this matter. Fortunately, no passenger trains have been involved in these accidents and no loss of life has occurred.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The honourable member may rest assured that I did not wait for the House to meet to give the assurance he seeks. This morning I issued the following statement:

The whole of the State's rail system was regularly checked for safety. This included the bridges and tracks of the standard gauge line between Mannahill and Methuen which had been under criticism from an Adelaide consulting engineer. The standard line between Broken Hill and Port Pirie opened for traffic in January, 1970. Since that time thousands of passengers and more than 15 000 000 tonnes of freight have travelled over the line. All bridges on this section of the line, as is the case in other parts of the State, are inspected at regular intervals and any work necessary to keep them in a safe condition is attended to without delay. This is in accordance with safety measures exercised throughout the South Australian Railways, other railways of Australia, and, indeed, throughout the world.

I gave a further assurance that the line was safe for both passenger and freight rail traffic. Members of the public can be assured that their safety is of paramount importance and, if there were even a slight hint of danger, the section of line involved would be closed or its operation restricted. I also said that litigation had been proceeding for over eight years and that the matter was still before the court. I declined, obviously, to comment on a matter currently the subject of litigation.

The derailment on Friday occurred nowhere near the area referred to in the press report this morning: in fact, it was many kilometres away from that area. It had no connection with the subject of the question and should not have been referred to by the honourable member without his making plain that it had no relationship. The Government has not received a request for a Royal Commission.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Will the Minister deny that the South Australian Railways ordered the completion of construction work on railway bridges between Methuen and Mannahill on top of concrete foundations that did not pass the South Australian Railways specified strength tests, and will he also deny that structural cracks have since appeared in those bridges? On or about January 11, 1965, tests were carried out on concrete that had been poured, as follows: 78.6 cubic metres class C and 52.1 cubic metres class B. These tests were carried out by the S.A.R. The certified date for the tests was January 5, 1965, and the tests reached only 25 per cent of the required strength. In other words, the tests showed a strength of 3 445 kilopascals. In about the middle of April, 1966, further tests were carried out on concrete. This concrete had been used in the decking of two bridges and these tests showed that only 75 per cent of the specified strength of 34 450 kPa was actually achieved. The test samples were taken from bridge decks, piers, and foundations. Further tests produced only 80 per cent of the required strength of 27 560 kPa. Furthermore, Mr. Harrison has now reported (and these facts have come from Mr. Harrison) bad vertical cracks at the top of pier No. 2 under the girders. Further, in two of the bridges, there is bad failure of the wingwall to abutments because of insufficient wingwall bolts. On one bridge at Mannahill, two abutments and footing were previously condemned by the S.A.R. but are still being used. Therefore, I ask the Minister whether he will deny that the bridges have been constructed on top of faulty concrete that has not reached the specified strength.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am called on to decide now whether I should accept the unsubstantiated tripe of a lawyer, repeated in this House by the juvenile member for Davenport, or the qualified, competent reports of S.A.R. officers. It is not a very difficult decision to make. Anyone who accepted the opinion of the honourable member for Davenport and rejected the certificate that was presented to this House is nothing short of an idiot. What the honourable member has failed to acknowledge is that eight years ago the S.A.R. closed up on the contract

for Egan, and so we get this character Harrison trying to bleed the State, and the member for Davenport is willing to support him. This shows how irresponsible Opposition members can be.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I was going to ask a question of another Minister, but I direct this question to the Minister of Transport because of the reply he has just given. Do I understand the Minister's reply to imply that the report in this morning's daily press is completely inaccurate as to the facts contained therein?

The SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable member cares to look at several instructions I have issued during the previous 12 months as to what questions are admissible and what are inadmissible, he will see that asking a Minister to deny or confirm the accuracy of a press report is considered to be inadmissible.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! At this stage I have ruled that the question is inadmissible. Later, the honourable member may ask another question and he can rephrase it then.

DUCK SHOOTING

Mr. PAYNE: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say whether the Government intends to reduce the next open season for duck shooting in this State by about 50 per cent? A constituent who is interested in this sport has asked me whether a statement supposed to have been along the lines of the question and made by the Director of Parks and Wildlife at a recent seminar represents the Government's intention in this matter.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: No, it does not. At a recent meeting of Ministers of Environment it was suggested that uniform opening and closing dates for the duck shooting season should apply throughout Australia. That proposal was accepted on the basis that it would be used as a guideline by States. It has been the practice in South Australia to declare the duck season opening and closing dates by proclamation and we will continue to adopt the normal practice of making assessments of the duck season in relation to weather conditions and other conditions affecting the habitat of ducks.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Labour and Industry explain how he will contain unemployment in South Australia, whereas his Commonwealth colleagues, the Minister for Labor and Immigration and the visiting Caucus member (Mr. Hawke), acknowledge that growing unemployment is a fact of life? Last evening, on television and in press statements, Mr. Cameron acknowledged that unemployment was a fact of life, that it was increasing, and that it could conceivably increase to 200 000 by the end of the year. Mr. Hawke, in today's newspaper, indicates that the figure of over 93 000 is greater than he would like, that it will be over 100 000 by the end of August, and that it could be over 200 000 by the end of the year. At the same time, the South Australian Minister said yesterday that there was no problem of any consequence in South Australia and that we would not be seriously affected by unemployment. I ask the Minister my question, having special regard to the particularly vulnerable position in which the State finds itself regarding the consumer durable industry, the motor car industry, and the electronics industry. I have regard also to the already serious effect brought about by tariff cuts on leather and textiles, as well as a deterioration of the buoyancy in the building industry.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I agree that the Leader and his colleagues would like me to get up in a state of panic—

Dr. Eastick: Tell us the truth!

The Hon. D. H. McKEE:—and say that there will be full-scale unemployment. That is what the Leader would like me to do. We have been getting this from the Opposition, because it now thinks it is getting on to something. I hope the Leader will not be disappointed, because I am not going to panic or predict that there will be great hordes of unemployed in this State. I do not think that that will occur. The Premiers of all States are at present together, trying to bring about some kind of solution that will prevent such an occurrence. If they come down with an agreement to hand over wage and price controls to the Australian Government, it will probably—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: The Liberal Party spent hundreds of thousands of dollars campaigning against the wages and prices referendum at the last election. After that, however, the Opposition says we ought to have such controls. That is what the Leaders of the States are trying to achieve today and, if their results are successful, and if the Australian Government is given power to control wages and prices, I am sure that the situation will probably resolve itself.

Dr. Eastick: Wages, too?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I hope that the Leader—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: The Leader does not want to hear the reply to his question. He continues to get up and knock the State as much as he can, but that will not achieve much for him politically or in any other way.

Mr. COUMBE: Will the Minister answer my question and not evade it as he evaded the Leader's question? I ask the Minister specifically whether he agrees with the reported statement of the Commonwealth Minister for Labor and Immigration (Mr. Cameron) that unemployment in Australia will worsen, specifically in South Australia, and whether he believes that the much publicized retraining scheme for displaced persons in industry will operate to help those in the work force who are, regrettably, now being laid off. I also ask whether the Minister can do this in co-operation with his department.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Minister of Labour and Industry.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: The Deputy Leader has asked two questions. The first is whether I agree with the statement made by the Australian Minister last evening that there will be growing unemployment. Is that what the honourable member said?

Mr. Coumbe: I asked whether it would get worse.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I do not know whether that was the statement made by the Australian Minister or by the Deputy Leader. Did the honourable member make a statement? If he did, I do not agree with him. I never made that statement. There will be no worsening of the situation if Opposition members adopt a responsible role and co-operate with the Government and the people of the nation instead of being provocative by giving false impressions to people that there could be this or that. I believe that the role of the Opposition, as a responsible Opposition, is to co-operate and assist. Regarding the retrenchment scheme, I received a letter from the Australian

Minister only today. There are areas of technological change in which people need to be trained (possibly because of retrenchments). We are going ahead with the scheme, and it is hoped that the first pilot scheme will be established at Port Pirie soon.

Mr. GUNN: What surveys has the Minister carried out in South Australia to find out which industries will be affected by the prophesied large-scale unemployment in this State? What recommendations has he made to the Commonwealth Government to alleviate the serious situation? I ask this question in view of Mr. Hawke's predictions that unemployment could rise to 200 000 persons soon.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: No survey has been carried out in this State. We do not think such a survey will be necessary. As a result of the Premiers' Conference, I am sure the Australian Government will take into account any likelihood of an upturn in unemployment when it brings down its Budget, and will make provisions which, I am very happy to say, will disappoint members opposite.

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Minister say whether, in his answer to my earlier question, he was supporting a fixed wage policy? The Minister clearly indicated that he was in support of a freeze on wages. Did I hear him correctly?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I suggest that the honourable Leader may have some wax in one ear, because my statement apparently did not get right through to him. I have indicated that I support the policy put forward in the referendum campaign prior to the recent Commonwealth election, and he knows what policy that is because he and his supporters tried to defeat it. He now turns around and wants us to do what he did not want us to do earlier.

RAILWAY FINANCES

Mr. OLSON: Can the Minister of Transport say what is the position regarding railway revenue to the end of last financial year and whether earnings have been up to expectation?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The figures now available, after certain calculations and adjustments from the various systems have been completed, show that the South Australian Railways last year achieved a record revenue of about \$4 500 000 more than in the previous year. Great credit is due to those officers and members of the S.A.R. for having achieved this target. Undoubtedly, there has been a tremendous effort in selling rail freight, and this is directly reflected in the fact that earnings are up by about \$4 500 000.

Mr. McANANEY: We have heard with delight that the South Australian Railways has received increased revenue this year. Will the Minister say what percentage of the increase was due to increased charges and whether the deficit on the running expenses of the railways did not increase by \$3 000 000 or \$4 000 000 this year?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I cannot reply to either of the two questions the honourable member has asked, as I have not that information. I do not recall any significant increases in freight revenues last year, but I will check this and bring down the information for the honourable member.

Mr. McAnaney: I mean total revenue.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Regarding running expenses, the figures for 1973-74 have not yet been given to me. As soon as I have them, I shall also be pleased to make them available to the honourable member.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Transport anything to report regarding a private bus service which transports children from the Tea Tree Gully district to Birdwood High School, and which operates under licence from the Transport Control Board? The Minister will be aware that, on July 8, the parents of students who use the bus service held a public meeting, which decided that a petition be drawn up and that I be requested to present copies to him and to the Minister of Education. The petitions were duly presented by me on July 16 and, at that time, I asked that all the points raised be investigated.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: This matter is still being investigated. In addition to the points the honourable member has raised, I point out that the proprietor of the bus service and his wife saw me last week, and we further discussed their problem. Arising from the discussion, one or two other matters need to be pursued. I cannot give the honourable member a final answer, other than to assure her that the matter is being pursued.

OPEN-SPACE UNITS

Mr. VENNING: Can the Minister of Education say whether it is still the policy of the Education Department to have open-space units incorporated in some schools? It has come to my notice that open-space units have been discontinued overseas. I think it is fair to say that, in the first place, open-space units were introduced in South Australia because of developments overseas.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It has always been the case that open-space units or schools have worked satisfactorily only where attention has been paid to providing sufficient space for each student to enable the method suitable to an open-space system of education to work effectively, and where attention has also been paid to providing suitable acoustic treatment to walls, ceilings and floors so that the noise problem is not too great. Moreover, these units have been fully successful only where there has been an opportunity for flexible arrangements to apply. I do not know how it has come to the honourable member's notice that open-space units are being discontinued overseas, because I know that in several places overseas developments similar to those in South Australia are still continuing. If the honourable member cares to give me more detailed information, I shall be pleased to check the matter further.

The buildings we have provided in South Australia are flexible in the sense that, if we were required at any stage to put in partitioning or provide arrangements whereby flexibly the areas could be converted into smaller areas, this could be done at little expense. In fact at secondary level the open-space areas almost invariably are dividable through the use of lead curtains that can be pulled across without any effort whatever. The people using those areas in South Australia sometimes use them with the curtain across and sometimes with it open: the space is being used flexibly. I think that the honourable member should be asked to give more detailed information; he should not come out with a general statement about what has come to his notice, because in several places overseas this type of development is continuing successfully indeed.

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister arrange for the provision of sheltered storage for students' belonging in open-space units? During visits to schools with open-space units in my district, I noticed no provisions for storage of students' belongings. In most cases the equipment is stored near the entrance to the open-space unit and against the wall that is sheltered partly by the cantilever. In winter the rain beats in and the belongings get wet. In some schools students are required to take off their shoes to protect the

carpet on the floor of the open-space unit. Has the department any plans for providing sheltered storage to protect students' belongings?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is normal practice to provide in the covered outdoor area a mobile unit that provides the necessary storage space for students' belongings. This ensures in normal circumstances that the belongings are not using up permanent space within the building, because such space is costly to provide. These mobile trolleys, which are the normal fittings used for cloaks, etc., work effectively. There may be instances where an area has been converted, but where this unit is not available. If the honourable member knows of any instance where that is the case, I shall be pleased to have it investigated.

SOOT NUISANCE

Mr. GROTH: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation investigate complaints about soot being discharged from a factory at Frost Road, Salisbury? Last Sunday morning I received from constituents who live near the Uniroyal Tyre Division on Frost Road telephone calls alleging that, when the factory blows its boilers, soot discharges through the chimney stack, and thence on to house roofs and motor cars, and ruins washing hanging on clotheslines. Naturally, this is causing my constituents much anxiety.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: I shall be pleased to have the matter examined and see what can be done to prevent a recurrence of this nuisance.

PORT LINCOLN WETHERS

Mr. BLACKER: Is the Minister of Labour and Industry aware of the impending critical situation concerning the loading of live wethers at Port Lincoln for the Kuwait market and, if he is, will he ascertain the true facts and have them published before those involved in the dispute are subjected to public ridicule? Members of producer organizations have been alerted about an intended picket on the weekend to prevent the loading at Port Lincoln of 19 000 live wethers, bound for the Kuwait market. This picket is reported to be organized as a retaliatory action against Metro Meat Limited for its involvement in a dispute elsewhere. It has been said that the dispute is in the interests of the housewife in an endeavour to lower the price of meat to the consumer, and that the export of live sheep affects the breeding potential of the Australian meat supply. Both of these statements are totally inaccurate. First, the Australian consumer will not buy wether mutton that is five to six years old, and secondly, wethers do not constitute the nucleus of a breeding flock. If the proposed action goes ahead, it will not only place in jeopardy a market for otherwise unsaleable meat but it will also jeopardize the future employment of many people involved, particularly those concerned with the hay supply and the shearing and handling of the wethers. Although the dispute is aimed at Metro Meat Limited, it will probably have less effect on that company than it will have on the community at large. Will the Minister ascertain the true facts and have them publicized in an effort to maintain a market for meat which, as it is not sought by the Australian consumer, is therefore surplus to requirements?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: Although I have no knowledge of the action expected to take place at Port Lincoln at the weekend regarding the shipment of wethers, if the honourable member has any further information that he can give me I shall be pleased to take up the matter and have it investigated as soon as possible.

CARRIBIE WATER BASIN

Mr. BOUNDY: Will the Minister of Works make public the maps and proposals approved for a pilot scheme to test the Carribie water basin, in the area of the Warooka council, with regard to its feasibility as a suitable water supply for parts of southern Yorke Peninsula? Yesterday, when I spoke to representatives of the Warooka council, I was told that it had received a letter from the Minister's department stating that such a pilot scheme would be implemented when funds became available. The council is interested to know the extent of this pilot scheme, as certain areas of Carribie and the adjoining town of Corny Point are not presently serviced by a water supply. The council would like to know the extent of the scheme and where the main will go, as this information will assist in its long-term planning and will be of use to local rural producers.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I cannot see why the department should not make the information available to the honourable member so that he, in turn, can inform the council and his constituents about it. Although offhand I cannot give details, I will obtain a report from the department and bring down the information, if it is available, as soon as possible.

STEEL DISPUTE

Mr. RODDA: In view of the newspaper report last evening of the crystal-ball gazing by the Minister of Labour and Industry in relation to the steel dispute, can the Minister give an assurance that he has settled the demarcation dispute that is causing steel to remain on the wharves at Port Adelaide? Considering all the disagreement involving the Australian Government, the Minister's statement must have reassured people in this State that all will be well, and that the steel will be delivered to the South Australian industries that need it.

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: Doubtless, the honourable member was here last week when the Premier gave a long report after a meeting had been held in Adelaide last Monday. As a result of that meeting, written submissions were forwarded to the Commonwealth Secretary of the Transport Workers Union. On inquiring yesterday of the Deputy President of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission (Judge Williams), I was told that Mr. Harris had not received all the correspondence. However, I understand that the last of the correspondence arrived today by air express, and it is expected that Mr. Harris, after considering the proposals that have been put to him, will be able to reply to us at the end of the week. We are awaiting his reply, and it would be useless for me to suggest at this stage that something else would take place, because I do not know what Mr. Harris has in mind.

Dr. Eastick: So, you're not sure about it?

The Hon. D. H. McKEE: I think that by the end of the week we shall be able to give members a report that will be more definite.

EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY DUTIES

Mr. DUNCAN: Will the Leader of the Opposition say whether he supports the member for Hanson in that honourable member's proposal to prohibit members of Parliament from undertaking work other than their Parliamentary duties? Today's *News*, on page 10, contains a report headed "M.P.s with jobs attacked", and the member for Hanson is reported as saying that he is considering introducing legislation to amend the Electoral Act to make it illegal for members of Parliament to undertake any work

apart from their Parliamentary duties. As all but three members opposite have outside activities, doubtless the House will be most interested to hear whether the Leader will support this legislation if the honourable member introduces it.

The SPEAKER: In calling on the honourable Leader of the Opposition, I point out to him that he does not have to reply to the question if he does not want to do so. The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Dr. EASTICK: I am certain that the member for Hanson will follow the course that is practised in my Party of bringing this matter to the attention of his colleagues in the Party room and that he will present to his colleagues factual background information regarding the measure that is referred to in his name. I make the point that members on this side have the opportunity to make their views known publicly before they get the *imprimatur* in the Caucus room, and the honourable member has merely indicated what he believes to be a method of improving Parliamentary services to the community. Whether the honourable member has the support of his colleagues will depend entirely on the case that he puts forward.

TRUCK OPERATORS

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister of Labour and Industry say whether a trade union official, under the direction of his union leader, can legally refuse to allow trucks owned and driven by owner-drivers to enter a building site and, if they have entered it, order them not to be loaded? This action is taking away the livelihood of the people involved—

The SPEAKER: Order! As I understand the question, the honourable member is asking the Minister for a legal interpretation and, as such, that is considered inadmissible.

RIVER SPEEDS

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Minister of Marine indicate when the speed restriction imposed on craft using the Murray River will be lifted? As I understand the situation, the speed restriction was initially imposed to safeguard levee banks and to dampen the wash that affected all inundated shacks. I ask the Minister to consider the upper part of the river in South Australia (the Riverland district) upstream from Morgan, because most of the shacks that have been inundated are situated downstream from Morgan. It has been pointed out to me that this speed restriction has had a serious effect on the tourist industry in the Renmark, Berri, and Barmera areas. As there are no flooded banks or many shacks inundated by floodwaters in that locality, I ask the Minister to consider whether this regulation should continue for localities upstream from Morgan.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will ascertain whether it is possible to revoke the regulation that provides for an eight-knot speed limit during a period of flooding. The river level has dropped considerably, but another peak, expected in November, may be almost as high as the one that has just been experienced. However, as the point concerning the regulation not applying upstream from Morgan seems logical, I will ask the Director of Marine and Harbours to examine the proposal, so that, if the restriction is lifted and then has to be reimposed, the honourable member's proposition will be considered.

BUS SERVICES

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister of Transport say what action the Government will take to ensure that bus services to inner country areas do not deteriorate further? Recently,

some outer metropolitan bus services have been, or are being, acquired by the Municipal Tramways Trust. Some of these companies had entered into a contract with the Adelaide City Council or its agent to operate from the Franklin Street Passenger and Parcel Depot for 10 years at a cost of \$180 000. Some private contractors operating services have expressed the fear that the M.T.T. and the newly-acquired services will not continue to use this depot, so that a heavy burden will be placed on private bus operators who wish to continue to use the depot. Several of these services (especially the service to Meadows via Coromandel Valley, the one to Mylor, and another to Lobethal) are struggling to make ends meet to such a degree that they are tending to reduce services to these areas. As the situation is serious, I understand that the Minister's department is investigating this matter. Can the Minister indicate how these services can be saved from total collapse?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I think it is a simple question of private enterprise not being capable of operating these sorts of service.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Goldsworthy: How would the M.T.T. go without your subsidy?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I know of no services purchased by the M.T.T. that were operating from the Franklin Street depot.

Mr. Evans: Choat's is one.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: If that is the only one involved, I shall be pleased to consider that aspect.

Mr. Evans: There is another.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: As far as I am aware, of the 12 services that came under M.T.T. control as from February this year, most of them (and I thought all of them) operated from their own depots and did not use the depot in Franklin Street. However, had the honourable member sought information on this matter I could have told him that, when the Adelaide City Council was considering building the Franklin Street depot, the Government assured the council that, as a result of any implementation of transport policy having a detrimental effect on the viability of the depot, we should be happy to consider any problems that might arise. What I said at the beginning of my reply in relation to the general problem of bus services is the case. It is as simple as that. At the beginning of this year the proprietors of metropolitan bus services found they could not run at a profit for their shareholders and this situation is now extending into the outer metropolitan area. It is being studied, but there seems to be only one answer: if transport is to be provided, it will have to be provided by the Government and, when it is provided by the Government, it is a vicious circle because we then get comments from the Opposition criticizing the Government for running the services at a loss. It is a case of the dog chasing its own tale.

M.V. TROUBRIDGE

Mr. CHAPMAN: Will the Minister of Transport consider retaining the m.v. *Troubridge* passenger and freight concession rate on the Kangaroo Island service for the month of September? Increased freight rates and a significant reduction in the concession period are both reported in a recent advertisement issued by the Transport Department. They are to apply to the m.v. *Troubridge* operations while serving Kangaroo Island from August 1 this year. Yesterday, members of the Kangaroo Island Transport Committee, while acting as district councillors,

expressed concern on behalf of those who may wish to use the service and enjoy the previously available concession rate during the coming school holidays. Due recognition was paid to the Minister and his department for their efforts to try to reduce the losses on that operation and no criticism was directed towards the Minister in his efforts generally in this direction. However, it seems that, although the effort has been made, it has destroyed the whole objective in relation to encouraging traffic to use the Government-owned vessel. The concession rate applied previously from May 1 until November inclusive, but it has now been reduced drastically to apply only in the months of June, July and August. The specific request is that the Minister consider not re-introducing the previous concession period but, in fact, retaining the concession period for the month of September in particular.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I assure members that I was unaware that this question was to be asked and there is no suggestion of its being a Dorothy Dixier. Cabinet having dealt with this matter yesterday on a recommendation I put forward, the concession date has been extended to September 15 so that there will not be two fare structures applying during the school holiday period. The honourable member says that we have recognized the school holiday period. Not only have we extended it to provide for the public school holidays: in our usual benevolent way we have extended the concession so that all private schools will benefit as well.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from August 8. Page 379.)

Dr. EASTICK (Leader of the Opposition): At the outset, I would call the Bill a document of despair. Although it should give some clear indication of the State's future development, it is shot through with statements which indicate that there is no clear indication that the various programmes will be carried out or that the funds expected to carry out the programmes will be available from the source from which it is intended to obtain them; indeed, conceivably, many of the programmes will be curtailed. The other basic issue I must consider is the very blunt statement (a statement of fact, no doubt) that the Australian Government has seen fit to make only 10 per cent more funds available, against a back-drop of inflation progressing at the acknowledged rate of at least 17 per cent, and in the building and construction industry the rate is much closer to 40 per cent.

It does not require a mathematician to work out that, with a 10 per cent increase in these circumstances, it is impossible to continue at the rate of progress that has prevailed hitherto. It would be all right if the Government was willing to accept that it slow down, and is being forced to slow down. However, the Government is trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the public in general, suggesting that progress is continuing as in the past, and that, come hell or high water, it will see that progress continues at the rate we have enjoyed in recent times.

Why will the Treasurer not say that there is a major inflationary problem; that it is having a marked effect on the State's projects; and that it is recognized that, in the best interests of the community as a whole, it is necessary that there be a slowing down in the progress of some projects? Indeed, why does he not say here that

some Government projects have no priority at a time when funds are limited? The Opposition believes that the Treasurer's second reading explanation on this occasion tries to gloss over the situation and to present a facade; this document has little credibility. I make that statement as a charge against the Government, but in no way is it a reflection on the public servants responsible for preparing the document's background detail. The Opposition has the greatest regard for the work of Mr. Carey, Mr. Barnes and other Treasury officials, who have to carry the brunt of the criticism publicly for the failure of direction and leadership by the Government. This is a most unfortunate position for these officers to be in and a situation that I will not accept.

I believe that these Estimates have been prepared in a state of confusion that has been forced on the Government by its Commonwealth colleagues. We have many statements that do not relate to other public statements made by either the Treasurer or the Prime Minister. The explanation indicates that \$1 200 000 is to be made available for pre-schools, but the Australian Government has already indicated that this whole project has been deferred. Therefore, the statement regarding grants of about \$20 800 000 expected to be received from the Australian Government during 1974-75 (comprising \$1 200 000 for pre-schools, about \$14 200 000 for primary and secondary school buildings, and \$5 400 000 for further education projects) is, when compared to other statements that have been made, a complete falsity. We cannot have a situation whereby the House is called on to consider detail of this nature when, in fact, the detail which has been provided is already outdated as a result of statements made by the Australian Government.

In his second reading explanation, the Treasurer indicated clearly that there were many plus and minus calculations in the State's financial affairs during any 12-month period. The Treasurer chronicled several of those variations, and this has allowed a different set of figures to be presented on this occasion from that presented a year ago. The explanation indicates that, for other Government buildings, the excess of estimated payments was \$3 318 000, due in part to faster progress than had been foreseen in the provisions included in the Loan Estimates and partly to increasing price levels. I will analyse that statement for a moment. We acknowledge that it is impossible to get down to the exact dollar that will be spent on major works programmes. However, at least we expect that, when a statement such as that is made to Parliament, it should be more precisely outlined than the airy-fairness of the one to which I have referred. I accept the Treasurer's statement regarding faster progress. However, climatic conditions and the availability of resources (both physical and material) can make a great difference, whereas the Treasurer said "due partly to increasing price levels".

What has happened in the building industry? Bearing in mind statements by Opposition members, by the Housing Industry Association, by the Master Builders Association, and by people in the community who are closely identified with the industry, along with Government denials (it would not know what it was talking about, and the inflation rate the Government talks about is not real), we find it acknowledged, even if not at Government level that, during 1973-74, there was a 38.7 per cent inflation rate in the building industry. The Treasurer tried to pass the matter off by saying "due partly to increasing price levels". Obviously, the cost of projects completed by the Government in recent times is markedly more than the sum made available for them and the sum authorized

by the Public Works Committee. Those major increases have been brought about by the overall inflationary spiral as it affects the building industry. When compared with other statements by the Treasurer in his explanation, that statement bears much attention.

We are told that, in the housing area, because of its record, South Australia is to receive about 17 per cent of the total Commonwealth funds allocated for housing. This is an excellent increase in the allocation for South Australia; I do not deny that we can use it. However, that 17 per cent increase must be measured against an increase of 38.7 per cent in the costs associated with the housing industry. Before December, 1972, the Commonwealth Government said that the cost of housing would be kept in check and that interest rates would be kept low. However, the situation today is completely different, with interest rates being greater than ever before. Until recently, there had never been a greater shortage of manpower and materials in this industry. The present unemployment situation is now showing its effect in the building industry. Despite the denial this afternoon by the Minister of Labour and Industry in this respect, evidence of unemployment is becoming more marked as the days go by. It does not surprise me that our Minister seems to know less about the South Australian scene than does his Commonwealth counterpart.

Unfortunately, the 17 per cent increase in funds available through the Housing Trust and other instrumentalities will not afford any real relief, in view of the inflationary increase in the industry of 38.7 per cent to which I have referred. Cost escalation can be seen in the case of Government office buildings, hospitals, primary and secondary school buildings, and so on. Throughout the Loan Estimates, wherever building work is a major part of a project, we can see a marked reduction in the Government's ability to supply the services that it has claimed it will make available. I am concerned about the Treasurer's assessment of the current financial affairs of the State. In his explanation, the Treasurer states:

Because of the necessity to look at the State's overall financial position and to have regard to the magnitude of revenue deficits when considering whether and to what extent Loan funds should be held in reserve, it has been the practice for the Treasurer to give a brief review of the two accounts for the past year and of the prospects for Revenue Account in the year ahead before dealing with the details of Loan Account as proposed in the Loan Estimates.

I cannot argue with that statement. However, in referring to the Revenue Budget, the Treasurer states:

The Government introduced a Revenue Budget for 1973-74 which forecast a small deficit of \$1 254 000 at current wage rates, made provision for costs as high as \$10 000 000 to flow from new wage and salary awards becoming effective in 1973-74, and saw the possibility of an overall deficit of \$11 254 000.

Of course, the absurdity of that statement was borne out in the case of wages and salaries, where the cost to the Government has been considerably more than \$10 000 000. However, in this explanation, which claims to assess the financial situation in South Australia, there is no indication of what the increase will be. The Treasurer continues:

Half way through the year it seemed that the deficit could be greater than that, but eventually, because of improvements which I shall explain fully in the Budget speech at the end of this month, the deficit for the year was held down to \$3 401 000.

Dr. Tonkin: There's an awful lot to explain in the Budget speech.

Dr. EASTICK: Yes. In this case, the Treasurer's explanation of Government spending is materially deficient. In several areas, he has indicated variations in revenue

and Loan spending. He has spoken about major alterations taking place in the latter half of 1973-74. He has dangled this in front of us like a carrot in front of a donkey, saying that information, which is vital if the whole situation is to be appreciated properly, will be withheld until a statement is made about Revenue Accounts. This lack of detail may explain why so many members opposite are not in the Chamber at present. I should have thought that the Loan Estimates were important enough to require the attention of more than the four members who are sitting on the benches opposite. However, I am not drawing attention to the state of the House, because I have the support of concerned members of my Party. On these vital matters we have been kept in the dark. In accepting this explanation at face value (and what a poor face value it is), I point out that it will be necessary to review these matters in the light of information that will be supplied on August 29.

I believe that statements made then will clearly indicate that the people of South Australia have been bled by severe taxes that have produced far more income than the Treasurer was willing to acknowledge when he introduced them. We will see that this Government, like its Commonwealth counterpart, has been able to feed on inflation to its own financial advantage and to the disadvantage of the people of the State. We will soon pay pay-roll tax at the rate of 5 per cent for a total income to the State of between \$63 000 000 and \$65 000 000 a year, whereas in 1971, when the State took over the pay-roll tax from the Commonwealth, the rate was 2½ per cent and the total income was only \$20 000 000. That is a clear indication of the effect of inflation and of the fact that the Government is trading on inflation to maintain its services. I am not suggesting that we do not want community services to be available to the people, but I return to the point that, regarding capital works, it is extremely important to get the priorities right and put the matter in true perspective. The Treasurer has shown a confidence in the Australian Government that I cannot share, and I shall refer to several of his comments. In dealing with the prospects for the Revenue Budget, he stated:

I have announced some firm decisions already and have indicated other areas in which we may yet have to move. However, since then, we have made strong representations to the Australian Government for additional general purpose grants, and I am confident that our submissions will be successful.

One cannot be confident at all in dealing with the present Australian Government, because that Government will pull the rug from under one's feet at every opportunity. The Minister of Local Government has found that regarding road grants and the Minister of Works found it out regarding a non-repayable grant for sewerage that turned out to be a loan repayable in a short time at 8½ per cent interest.

It is interesting to note from the second reading explanation that, for official purposes, the Treasurer has acknowledged that, instead of getting \$2 000 000 as a non-repayable special grant, the Government received \$1 600 000 on special terms, and the way the terms are tied up concerns members on this side. The Treasurer's confidence has not been borne out by events in another place today. The Prime Minister is reported as saying that he knows what he wants and is out to get it, and a report in the *Financial Review* regarding the events states:

Tomorrow's Premiers' Conference in Canberra looks like being a fizzer despite the anxiety of politicians to be seen to be doing something about the economy . . . The easiest outcome for the Government from the conference will be if the States refuse to hand over any significant powers to

Canberra or if they make the price of any such transfer clearly exorbitant. For all the PR problems of the conference appearing to be "all talk and no action," the Whitlam Government is not really keen to get, for example, the States' powers over prices.

The Whitlam Government would not want the States' powers over prices, particularly if they were tied to the need for power over wages and with a clear indication by the States that price control would have to be undertaken concurrently with wage control.

Mr. Mathwin: Mrs. Whitlam reckons it's all hoo-ha!

Dr. EASTICK: Yes, and she tends to blame the press for statements about inflation. If she asked people in the street, particularly the housewife, what inflation was, she would find that the word was well known and not a figment of the imagination of the press. I refer again to the Treasurer's confidence, when he said:

If so, we may be able to avoid such distasteful measures as a consumption or retail sales tax. Despite all the uncertainties, I believe I should say, at this stage, that we propose to budget in a way which will keep the 1974-75 deficit within manageable bounds and which should avoid the creation of serious problems for 1975-76.

I am sorry, but I am not confident that the Treasurer will be able to so control matters that serious problems will be avoided in 1975-76, because since June, 1970, a gradual deterioration of the purchasing power of people in South Australia has occurred as a result of the raid on their purse by members opposite. I have referred to the housing industry, and I know that other members also will deal with that. I should highlight another area of the Treasurer's confidence. He said:

This year, I am very concerned as to whether or not the funds may be available from banks, insurance companies and other traditional lenders in the volume necessary for semi-government borrowing programmes to be filled.

Why is there a doubt in the mind of anyone, least of all in that of the Treasurer, that the semi-government borrowing programme will be able to be filled? It is because of the attack by the Australian Government on legitimate fund organizations, and the increased tax that has been applied to insurance companies, which is an area that has always provided much of the borrowings available not only to semi-government bodies but also to Governments. It will also be associated with the pressures that have been applied to savings banks and trading banks by Government action, preventing them from carrying out their normal support for the community and putting on their activities strictures that have destroyed the ability of the banks to provide resources to industry and commerce in the way normally expected.

I should like to give more attention to the funding of both the Land Commission and the Monarto project. State Planning Authority funds were not used for the Land Commission last financial year, because the structuring of the Land Commission was able to proceed much earlier than had been expected. The Treasurer has said that a large increase in funds was available to the State for land purchased in the Monarto area, as a result of increased funds being received from the Australian Government. I have said previously that the increase South Australia received for 1973-74 would be a charge against the amount available to it for 1974-75, because much of the increased amount made available by the Australian Government will go, as a prior commitment, to the Albury-Wodonga area.

I question seriously the expenditure of more money in the Monarto area. I believe that this House gave the Government the opportunity to continue with a new town

development, recognizing there was a need to review future urbanization with a controlled population in Adelaide. When the Bill was considered, we emphasized that we did not believe that the Murray New Town concept was decentralization as it should be; that the nearness of the Monarto area to the Adelaide metropolitan area would cause it to be a commuter town or a dormitory development for Adelaide; and that we had grave doubts that the environmental features at Monarto would provide for a satisfactory development of a proper urban area.

We supported the Government in passing those Bills against that background of doubt, but we obtained from the Government an indication that there would be a full and proper environmental study and that our doubts would be considered before the Government continued with the development of Monarto. We have heard several statements from Ministers concerning Monarto that almost sounded like a lift-out from a tourist guide for Disneyland. The Minister of Development and Mines told us about a telephone system containing an in-built vision screen by which we would be able to dial a number and see the person answering at the other end.

Mr. Coumbe: They can't get telephones at West Beach!

Dr. EASTICK: The Minister of Transport referred to a special form of transport. Opposition members have said consistently that they believe in progress for this State and in making funds available to investigate projects, and we agreed to funds being made available to the Minister of Transport's department to investigate forward-looking transport proposals, even though dial-a-bus went astray before it got off the ground, and even though monorail or types of electrically-operated buses have not eventuated.

Dr. Tonkin: Would you like me to examine the Minister's replies to questions on these matters in the previous 12 months?

Dr. EASTICK: I am sure that we would find many airy-fairy announcements in that period. Several recent Ministerial announcements about Monarto must be considered most seriously. I challenge the Government to indicate that there will be no further expenditure on Monarto development until environmental and other feasibility studies show that Monarto will be a financial proposition. At present it does not have an industrial base, and there is to be forced tenancy for members of the Lands Department, the Agriculture Department, and the Environment and Conservation Department. We are fully aware of the pressure on officers of those departments, especially when they are presented with incomplete details about the transfers. A third university was to have been built at Smithfield, but suddenly the locality is to be Monarto, without any regard to whether population density there will provide the best location for the third university. Grave doubts have been expressed about the effluent disposal system at Monarto being able to guarantee that the vital Murray River supply will not be polluted.

I refer to the urgent need to make funds available for the Redcliff project. We have indicated that, subject to the environmental studies showing that there will be no danger to the fishing industry and to the population by establishing the petro-chemical industry and other ancillary services, the project should continue, because it provides a known industry base for the State, will supply raw products that will benefit industry, and will give an overall benefit to the finances of the State, particularly when that material is exported. We know that

it will be necessary to house people associated with that project and to provide roads, schools, hospitals, and other public buildings, in order to provide a proper development in the area, and the Loan Estimates refer to specific amounts that will be available for housing.

However, I doubt whether South Australia can sustain two major population projects of this nature at the same time, particularly when we must have a continued commitment to the Adelaide metropolitan area and to upgrade services that are still being denied to people living in the older established areas of Adelaide. At Monarto no less than 2 000 temporary houses will have to be constructed to accommodate the workers who are to construct the town, and I question whether the expenditure of such funds will be in the best interests of this State. I cannot find anywhere in the Loan Estimates a clear indication of the Government's priorities or of its reasoning in using funds in so many areas at the one time, especially against the background of an industrial undertaking such as the Redcliff project, as opposed to a questionable project involving a dormitory town called Monarto. I hope that during the debate, or when the Treasurer replies in closing the debate, we will be given a clear indication from the Government of its intentions and of how we can expect to sustain the way of life of people in areas already developed and those areas where development will be vitally associated with industry.

Mr. Mathwin: Are we going to hear anything from Government members?

Dr. EASTICK: I doubt it. I am afraid they will be gagged, as they always are, for fear they give us information important to the House in making vital decisions.

Mr. Goldsworthy: I doubt that they have read anything in the Bill.

Dr. EASTICK: That is possible. They would not know what was in it. However, perhaps we will hear from some of them. The Treasurer's comment in relation to harbors accommodation is rather farcical. He states:

Loan expenditure on harbor facilities and buildings in 1973-74 totalled \$6 000 000. The more important works completed last year included the new passenger terminal at Outer Harbor and the special berth for handling steel at Port Adelaide.

Having spent money on a facility important to the industrial future of South Australia, we now find ourselves being blackmailed and prevented from using it. That will be always a damnation on the Government. I fully appreciate the difficulties arising in demarcation disputes, and I recognize that the *Moore v. Doyle* situation is causing tremendous concern to Governments as well as to the union hierarchy throughout Australia. I acknowledge the Australian Government's action in making available the services of Mr. Justice Sweeney to look into the implications of the *Moore v. Doyle* problem. In producing his report, Mr. Justice Sweeney has indicated a course of action that would solve many of the problems associated with the situation, but he has found that the solution is not acceptable to all the Parliaments of Australia. It is conceivable, therefore, that such problems will continue to revolve around the argument of whether a union is in the Commonwealth or a State sphere. Although we have completed for the benefit of industry a facility for the handling of steel, not one bar of steel has been permitted to be moved.

I question the ability of the Commonwealth Government to assist in the fulfilment of many of the aspirations the Treasurer has outlined. For example, the Treasurer has stated that loans from the Australian Government of

about \$3 500 000 for sewerage works are expected. We expected \$2 000 000 last year and we received only \$1 600 000 on terms quite unacceptable when compared to the original proposal for an untied grant. We have been told that representations have been made to the Australian Government for a specific grant for a water treatment plant and for the overall filtration of the metropolitan water supply. The Treasurer has said he is confident that the submission will be successful. Many times he has gone to Canberra with confidence and come back with anything but confidence.

Mr. Mathwin: With his tail between his legs!

Dr. EASTICK: Yes, as my colleague says, and making serious allegations about the Prime Minister. Let me conclude by saying that, instead of looking at Loan Estimates, unfortunately we are looking at Loan "guesstimates". From start to finish, they contain such a series of qualifications that no member in this House can have any confidence that the projects we are being asked to ratify can be completed or indeed undertaken. Admittedly, it is a formal sort of ratification we give such documents. Although the Commonwealth Government is receiving a massive increase in funds by way of higher income tax levied on wages and salaries throughout Australia, it is making use of those funds within its own organization. It has voiced the approach of centralism, with funds being made available only within restricted areas and on conditions tied to its own directives.

Although there can be no argument about the merit of the concept, the Australian Assistance Programme will take away the voluntary involvement in organizations such as Meals on Wheels, boys clubs, local community projects, and so on. It is clear that every person within a given area will virtually have a value placed on his head as a result of which funds will be made available by the Commonwealth Government on a per capita basis and the requirements of the Commonwealth Government will become more important than local involvement or decisions.

Mr. Payne: The Australian Government's policy allows for local co-operation.

Dr. EASTICK: I am pleased the member for Mitchell refers to "co-operation", because in the Commonwealth sphere that word has an entirely different connotation from that which I understand it has.

Mr. Payne: That's your opinion.

Dr. EASTICK: True, but it can be borne out and sustained, if one examines recent events. Indeed, I can remember sitting on certain benches in another Parliament of this Commonwealth with the member for Mitchell, listening to State Premiers telling the Prime Minister that they were willing to co-operate with him in attacking inflation.

Mr. Payne: I remember one bloke who walked out.

Dr. EASTICK: Not from a conference.

Mr. Payne: It was that night.

Dr. EASTICK: I am referring to the pronouncements that were made during the Australian Constitution Convention.

Mr. Payne: Mr. Bjelke-Petersen said he'd go home.

Dr. EASTICK: No, that is not correct, as the member for Mitchell well knows. Co-operation was available to fight inflation, but it was refused. Indeed, the Prime Minister was then given advice on the matters that he said we should subject to a referendum, but that advice

went out the window! Having proceeded with the referendums, the Prime Minister was soundly defeated, not only in December, 1973, but also in May, 1974. He was not willing to accept that co-operation meant there would be communication between and a degree of compromise by both sides. We have seen constantly that Commonwealth co-operation means, "Accept on my terms, or do not accept at all."

I now return to the subject with which I was dealing when the member for Mitchell interjected. I hope that in relation to the Australian Assistance Plan, which is destined initially to apply to one area only, that is, the western suburbs, the word "co-operation" will truly mean that an opportunity will exist for both points of view to be considered and for a compromise solution to be found. If the Commonwealth is going to dictate exactly how the money will be spent, it will completely destroy the important voluntary ingredient of community activity, and as soon as that happens we will finish up with another octopus or a bureaucratically-controlled organization that completely fails the people that it set out to assist.

Opposition members have no cause for cheer when addressing themselves to the Loan Estimates, as they are unable clearly to see what the end result of the Government's programmes will be. They are afraid that many of the pronouncements regarding the Government's intention will not be able to be fulfilled and, as pessimistic as that statement may seem to be, I make the point that Opposition members definitely want an improved community provision for the people of this State, and they believe that this can best be supplied by a rapid return to a Liberal-Country Party coalition Government in Canberra.

Mr. COURCE (Torrens): The Loan Estimates document is indeed an "ifs and buts" one, despite its being one of the most serious matters that comes before members during the Parliamentary session. It is one of the most indefinite and vague documents that I have ever examined. Throughout it one finds references to grants that have been received from the Commonwealth Government. Some of these grants have been received; some have only been received in part; and some either have not been received at all or are what the Government hopes eventually to receive. If members study the document, they will see that this is so. To make matters worse, some of the interest-free grants that were to be made to the States have now been turned into loans attracting interest. Indeed, the grant to enable the States to upgrade sewerage facilities has turned into a loan attracting interest, and the principal has been renewed. That is, therefore, the first of the many broken promises that the Commonwealth Government has made. That was followed by the announcement a few weeks ago by the Commonwealth Treasurer, Mr. Crean (whether he will be superseded as Treasurer soon, I do not know), who knocked out the Commonwealth Government's promise regarding pre-school education grants.

The Loan Estimates document is studded with contingencies: many things are contingent upon funds being received from the Commonwealth Government or the Grants Commission. Obviously, this leaves members in an extremely confusing position, as it is impossible for them, because of these contingencies, to analyse and debate these important Estimates accurately. This is completely unsatisfactory. This House is expected to consider and agree to a net expenditure of about \$180 685 000. That in itself is an inflated figure; and it is a record Loan expenditure.

In those circumstances we are asked seriously to consider this matter. I come now to the nub of the matter. I do not believe that Government members have awakened to this important facet (at least we have not heard them on it). I refer to the present parlous and serious state of the Loan Account. What we are examining today is a document that runs down the Loan Account by about \$4 000 000. To substantiate what I am saying I will quote from the official figures prepared and delivered by the Treasurer of this State.

The balance on hand at June 30, 1971, was \$14 811 000. I recall the previous Administration's being criticized severely by members opposite for keeping that Loan Account at a good and healthy figure for a rainy day. The deficit in 1971-72 was about \$4 400 000, and the balance on hand at June 30 had dropped to about \$10 382 000. Turning to the Loan Estimates for 1973-74 we pick up the opening balance of \$10 382 000. There was a deficit in the 1972-73 Loan Account of about \$1 859 000, so the balance on hand at June 30, 1973, was about \$8 523 000.

I turn now to the Loan Estimates for 1974-75, where we see that opening figure of about \$8 523 000. The deficit for 1973-74 was about \$4 026 000, so that the balance on hand at June 30, 1974, was about \$4 496 000. In a couple of years under the present Labor Administration we have seen the State's Loan Account run down from about \$14 800 000 to about \$4 500 000. In three years of operation it has reduced the Loan Account by about \$10 000 000, and that is not a bad effort.

Mr. Mathwin: The Government makes records all right!

Mr. Jennings: You're only talking about money. The other day you were telling us that money does not have the value it used to have.

Mr. COUNBE: That is the attitude I would expect from the member for Ross Smith. If he knew anything about the Loan Account and its relevance to the Loan Estimates he would see the terrible position this State could soon be reaching. What does the Treasurer intend doing this year? He intends to leave that sum in the Loan Account and to have a nominal deficit in 1974-75 of \$185 000. On his best possible educated guess, he estimates that the proposed balance on hand in Loan Account at June 30, 1975, would be about \$4 311 000. He reckoned that this will be enough. I refer members to previous statements by the present Treasurer in which he said, only two years ago, that to help the Revenue Account he wanted to keep a healthy Loan Account balance for a rainy day. The Treasurer repeated some of those remarks only last year in his explanation of the Loan Estimates. That is the Government's record in this regard. How much longer can the Government afford to run down the Loan Account? As the Treasurer, in his second reading explanation, referred to the Revenue Account, I, too, will refer to it. A Premiers' Conference is being held today.

Mr. Mathwin: Do you think the Treasurer will get teasy again, as he did last time?

Mr. COUNBE: Possibly, just like the way he has his hair teased up. Apparently, in the past, the Treasurer has had plenty of faith and hope in the Commonwealth Government, and the Leader referred to this matter earlier today. However, I have news for the Treasurer: many South Australians and other Australians have lost complete faith in the Commonwealth Government, because of its broken promises and the fiscal measures it is implementing. Many people have become completely disillusioned with the Commonwealth Government. How remarkably the scene has changed in the few short months since the May 18 election!

There was no indication, prior to that election, of the position we would be in today involving impositions, promises broken by the Government, and some grants to the States being reduced. There was not a word about that. Combine all this with the industrial problems we are now facing, and we are in a fine pickle! Yet, the Treasurer still has faith in the Commonwealth Government. The Treasurer used to be a buddy of the Prime Minister, who he said was a great friend.

Mr. Mathwin: The Treasurer came back from overseas to help him.

Mr. COUNBE: True; what more could any man do for his brother? The Treasurer's explanation especially concerns me in one or two aspects. The net increase in the Loan Estimates this year is about 14 per cent compared to last year; yet, the current inflation rate is between 14 per cent and 17 per cent. Obviously we will get to the position before the end of the financial year that the figures now before us—

Mr. Keneally: What are the inflation rates in the major trading nations?

Mr. COUNBE: Let us not get on to that. I am talking about the Treasurer's second reading explanation. The honourable member is setting out to side-track me. On my calculations, we are considering an almost 14 per cent increase over last year's figure. We already know that the inflation rate in Australia will exceed that 14 per cent. This means that the Treasurer's second reading explanation will soon be out of date and, therefore, the proposed deficit of about \$185 000 on Loan Account will have to be exceeded. There is no other way out of it.

Mr. Becker: It's a nice old juggle.

Mr. COUNBE: It is a mathematician's nightmare to understand this document. We have the problem of inflation. One will see that the sums that have been allowed for here will not cover the increased wages likely to be made in awards or the inflated cost of materials that will come about during the remainder of the financial year. This is a matter of real concern not only to me but to all members. Schools and hospitals must be built. I doubt (and I regret having to say this) in some instances whether the moneys that have been allocated to the various departments for capital works can actually be spent this financial year. Take, for instance, the number of schools, houses and hospitals set out in detail in these Estimates. As regards the housing situation, despite the increased grant of 17 per cent (which we all laud), we already have the effects of the cement and transport strikes. Tied up with this is the non-delivery of bricks and timber to many sites—

Mr. Mathwin: Don't mention steel!

Mr. COUNBE: That is yet another strike. It is impossible in Adelaide to buy reinforcing rods for foundations. One cannot get them unless one sends to Melbourne and pays extra. Some builders on whom the Government relies regarding its housing programme and its ordinary governmental building programme are facing financial problems as a result of some of these disputes and shortages, and these problems have been added to and compounded by the effects of the new workmen's compensation provisions on subcontractors. His Excellency the Governor's recent Opening Speech, dealing with school buildings, states:

Unfortunately, the rapid escalation in building costs has somewhat diminished the impact of increased expenditure on buildings, and in that area the Schools Commission funds that have been made available have done nothing more than offset some of the effects of inflation.

We are taking one step forward and two steps backward. Regarding housing, there is a 17 per cent increase in allocation, which I laud and welcome, but there is an expected inflation rate in the housing industry of about 35 per cent. Regrettably, this will affect many projects that we all wish to see proceed. Much of the increased allocation for housing will be spent on the Redcliff project. Possibly the member for Stuart knows more about when work on that project will start than any other member knows, but so far it is anyone's guess when it will start. We are now in the middle of August; when will this work commence and all this money be spent?

Mr. Keneally: You'll know when the Bill comes in.

Mr. COURCEL: I see. Will this expenditure of money on housing for the Redcliff project (and I doubt whether the money can actually be spent in a year) be to the detriment of housing in metropolitan and other country areas? I hope that it will not.

Mr. Langley: Are you opposing the Redcliff project?

Mr. COURCEL: I did not say that. How will the Housing Trust cope with the increased number of housing applications it is receiving? The fact that only 30 per cent of the allocation for the Housing Trust can be spent on dwellings that may be purchased will mean that many young people will be doomed for the rest of their lives to pay rent for their houses. I support welfare housing. What I regret is that not more than 30 per cent is available for family dwellings that may be sold.

The Treasurer's explanation is difficult to get through. I do not envy the job of Treasury officers, who have been fooled around by the Commonwealth, with some grants not being made and with other grants being changed to loans and vice versa. A variation of 1 per cent in an estimate can make a great difference in preparing the Loan Accounts. The problem has been exacerbated by the effects of inflation, the rate of which no-one can accurately determine. Although I have spoken about great increases in respect of the housing allocation for the Redcliff project, the sum provided for country waterworks is exactly the same as that provided last year. In addition, there has been no increase in the grant for metropolitan sewerage. The sum of extra money that was promised has been reduced, with the grant being changed to a loan on which interest will have to be paid. I ask honourable members to compare the increased allocation expected to be made available for housing with the allocations for country waterworks and sewerage, those latter allocations being the same as the sums provided last year. How can one item be related to the other? If more houses are to be built, more sewerage and waterworks will be necessary.

A most impressive programme is set out for school buildings (in this case, too, I doubt whether the money can actually be spent this year). It is interesting to note that, whereas last year the actual payment was about \$13 000 000, this year the sum provided is \$21 000 000. The explanation of these Loan Estimates is most unsatisfactory. Apart from the vagueness of the explanation and the broken promises, we have the problem of inflation, which will have a big impact this year. I will not deal with that matter again, as we debated it in the House only a couple of weeks ago. I do not believe that the Treasurer will be able to contain the deficit to the level he has forecast. In addition, I am concerned about the run-down on the Loan Account on capital works in this State, the Labor Government having succeeded in reducing it by about \$10 000 000 in three years.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I think that two matters stand out clearly from the Treasurer's explanation. First, we have had a lousy deal from the Australian Government in its allocation of Loan funds, and secondly, the State is becoming more and more dependent on receiving from the Commonwealth funds for special projects. The State Government is finding that it cannot rely on the Commonwealth for these funds. The State has become dependent on the massive infusion of Commonwealth funds in relation to the activities of the Land Commission, the water filtration project, and the operations of the Highways Department. There are many unanswered questions associated with the operations of the Highways Department at present. In addition, the Commonwealth has intervened in relation to sewer extensions. If one looks through this explanation, it becomes abundantly clear that, in areas that would normally be reserved exclusively for State Government decision (with the Cabinet, under the guidance of the Treasurer, making firm decisions about programmes to be undertaken for the benefit of the people), the position has changed. In almost all areas covered in the explanation, confusion has arisen and doubt persists because the Australian Government has not indicated to the State what help it can expect. The level of help and the grants to be expected are in doubt; in fact, some grants have been denied.

The Treasurer acknowledges that the Loan Accounts do not give a very accurate picture of what has transpired in the past 12 months. It is equally apparent that the position for the coming 12 months is less clear, because the State Government does not know where it stands in relation to special purpose grants from the Australian Government. There appears to be no likelihood of a clear indication being given at the appropriate time, or indeed fairly soon. We hear much about what is commonly and popularly known as centralism, and about where decision-making will lie, and we have heard over the years repeated cries for the infusion of funds from the Commonwealth Treasury into State Government projects. Now we are seeing how this theory works and, instead of the State Government being able to make firm decisions and chart clearly the course the State will take for the next 12 months, we are faced with this sort of vague document where, in just about every activity, we depend upon some decision of the central Government.

Two things are abundantly clear. The first is the parsimony of the Australian Government, which is highlighted by the Treasurer when he says that the Commonwealth will not budge from the 10 per cent overall increase that applies to all the States. It is clearly stated that the increase of 10 per cent is "common to all States". The Treasurer continues:

Needless to say, all States made strong submissions to show that an increase of only 10 per cent would not even cover the cost of price rises

It is obvious to every member of this Chamber that a paltry 10 per cent increase in the present economic climate means there will be a rapid down-turn in Government Loan projects, across the board. In other words, we must wind down activity in terms of grants from the Commonwealth Government, which will not even keep pace with the present level of State activities. When inflation is running, conservatively, at 17 per cent and is likely to be more than 20 per cent next year, it is obvious we are in for a massive down-turn in Government activities, and it follows clearly that there will be a considerable rise in unemployment, not only in the private but also in the Government sector.

The other point I make is that the programme is vague, because we have to wait for decisions from the Australian Government, which, in the main, have not come, and those that have come have been adverse. They have thrown doubt on what the Government had, in good faith, expected to be firm programmes, since the Treasurer states in his explanation:

I intend to have a table prepared to indicate to members the main areas of financial support from the Australian Government, including tertiary education, and this will probably be attached to the Budget papers.

When we read that, it is obvious that in so many areas we are awaiting decisions of the Commonwealth Government, and works cannot progress in the areas I have mentioned. For instance, it was announced confidently by the Government some time ago that it would be embarking on water filtration for the State, but that project seems to depend entirely on the infusion of Commonwealth funds. The Land Commission will require the vast bulk of its funds to come from the Australian Government, but it seems that probably the most pressing area at present is decisions in relation to the activities of the Highways Department.

Brief reference is made to that department in the Treasurer's statement, but it is clear that this is leading to a serious difficulty not only in the Highways Department but also right down to the level of local government. The Treasurer states:

The prospects now are that the remaining work on the Eyre Highway will be financed under the proposed National Highways Bill. However, until necessary legislation is effected, funds may be required to continue work . . . That is true not only of that project but also of all the activities of the Highways Department in its road-works programme in this State. I do not think there is anything we can get excited about from reading this statement, but we can be apprehensive about where we, in South Australia, shall finish up as long as we have an Australian Government acting in the unpredictable way it is at the moment.

Housing comes in for rather lengthy mention. It is, of course, an important area of Government activity. The record of this Government in public housing is disgraceful. In the past 12 months the Housing Trust has erected about half the number of dwellings it was erecting some 10 to 12 years ago. The added funds this year over and above last year's allocation appear to be directed to the Redcliff project, which will absorb many of the Housing Trust's resources. I cannot foresee any improvement in the housing situation, in what used to be referred to as low-cost housing. In fact, I confidently expect a decline in the availability of what used to be called low-cost housing. There is really none now because of the ravages of inflation and the high building costs in this State. I believe the situation will decline in South Australia, but I hope we shall not reach the situation where, for the sake of expediency, we shall start erecting multi-storey blocks of flats, like the Housing Commission flats in Melbourne and those flats that are proliferating overseas to a greater extent.

Dr. Tonkin: We will put them up if the Commonwealth Government says we must put them up.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I know. We have known for some time that we were fast losing our decision-making powers in many areas in this State (and housing is one of them) because of the depredations of the Australian Government. One of the big promotions of the Treasurer before he went overseas was to the effect that he was going to investigate

low-cost housing, but I have been unable to see any tangible results of that part of his overseas investigations. That was to be one of the big aspects of the trip, I was led to understand from the press releases from his department prior to his leaving. I hope we shall not embark on the sort of housing schemes that have had to be embarked on in the larger cities overseas where space is a problem. We used to hear the Treasurer and other Ministers refer to the metropolitan sprawl and to cottage development in a derogatory manner. Actually, I would prefer a metropolitan sprawl to the high-rise, high-density housing that we see in other countries, particularly for young families. Such housing leads to all sorts of problem in schools, as the Minister of Education (who seems to be showing some interest in what I am saying) would know. In London and other big cities all sorts of behavioural problem arise, and I would be loath to see that sort of situation developing here.

I am not at all confident that we will see an amelioration of the problems that young couples face in seeking to own their own homes. High interest rates make it impossible for young couples to embark on achieving what used to be one of the major ambitions of young couples in this country—owning their own home. This is one of the ambitions which my Party, in Government, would seek to promote. The maximum loan from the State Bank has been increased to \$15 000; I applaud that provision, although the rate of cost escalation in the building industry is well above the average inflation rate. The sum of \$15 000 would not go a long way toward providing a moderate new house in South Australia at present. Our housing record has been better than that of the other States, despite the fact that the Treasurer, when in Opposition, criticized the efforts of successive Liberal Governments in this State. We were a low-cost State in those days, but unfortunately that situation no longer applies.

Some of the loans to producers will go to wineries and distilleries, partly because the Australian Government has struck a couple of pretty savage blows at the wine industry of this State. A couple of small family wineries in my district are in difficulty because of the increases in excise applied by the Australian Government and because of the variation in taxation measures applying to winery stocks. No doubt the member for Chaffey is also aware of the effects of the Australian Government's decision in this connection. I only hope that the wineries can remain profitable, despite the savage imposts applied by the Australian Government.

I have already referred to the indecision that is rampant in the Highways Department. We are aware of the difficulty in which the Minister of Transport finds himself and, frankly, we feel some sympathy for him. Some Government members are finding that their dealings with the Australian Labor Government are certainly not all beer and skittles. Even the Attorney-General has acknowledged that there seems to be some overlapping of welfare activity in his area. The Highways Department's pressing problem will have to be solved soon, and I expect that the solution will be far from satisfactory if the legislation currently before the Australian Parliament is passed without amendment; it will mean that the tentacles of the Australian Government and the Canberra bureaucracy will extend right down the line to the smallest back road in a rural district. This situation is completely ridiculous. Public statements of the Minister of Transport show that he is certainly not happy about the situation and that, if he had his way, what I have

described would not occur. So much for the honeymoon that was supposed to occur when we got a State Labor Government and an Australian Labor Government!

The Treasurer also referred to afforestation and timber milling. The Government is fairly heavily involved in this connection. The member for Torrens said that shortages were occurring in almost every area of building activity. I point out that farmers are finding it very difficult to get pine fencing posts. At the beginning of the year I was told that there was a waiting period of five months for such posts; last time I inquired I was told that the waiting period was eight months. This is alarming, particularly for a country that ought to be self-sufficient in such materials. The member for Torrens has referred to shortages of other building materials, and we know that those shortages have resulted from the activities of sections of the community that inhibit the proper supply of materials.

One sees evidence of the work going on at Hope Valley in connection with water filtration. Here again we are heavily dependent for the completion of this fairly expensive scheme on the infusion of funds from the Australian Government, and heaven knows when they will be forthcoming. A disturbing feature of the Loan Estimates is that, to a greater and greater extent, decisions are being made from Canberra. In view of the unreliability of the Government there and the financial straits in which it finds itself, it is becoming impossible to plan the future of this State. The Treasurer also states:

As mentioned before, the Australian Government is expected to assist substantially in the financing of sewerage projects.

In almost every area, we are waiting for these funds. I am inclined to agree with the statement made by the member for Torrens about the building programme. Taken at face value, it seems that the Government is undertaking a fairly massive programme in 1974-75. It is pleasing that the Government is pressing on to a limited extent with the pre-school programme. Of course, we know that the Australian Government made a firm commitment to the electors (and it was repeated during the double dissolution election campaign) regarding expenditure in pre-school education. However, that has been repudiated and the programme delayed, but this State Government is willing to press on with expenditure of more than \$1 000 000 this year on this matter. I hope that this work can be accelerated and extended to some country areas where the facilities are desired and desirable. The Government is also moving into the further education area, for which there is a large provision.

Parliament House is mentioned in the Treasurer's explanation, and an expenditure of a further \$1 250 000 is being provided to upgrade the building. I hope that, when all this work has been done, it will be for the convenience of members and the public and we will be able to work in congenial conditions in this House. Much money is being spent to upgrade the facilities, and I understand that the Minister of Works has undertaken this against the advice of the Public Works Committee, but we will not debate that matter now.

The Electricity Trust has been one of the success stories of this State. A loan of \$2 000 000 will be made available to the trust, which finances most of its own projects and which is a big undertaking. I consider that two aspects of Government activity have contributed more than anything else to the development of South Australia. One is the reticulation of water throughout the State, a scheme that is unique by world standards, and the other

is the reticulation of electricity throughout the town and rural areas. I deplore the Government's decision to lean on the trust merely because it has been successful and to tax it to boost State revenue. The Government seeks to tax success, not only in corporate life but also in private life. If an individual has been successful, the Government leans on him and taxes him.

Mr. Coumbe: Now it's getting stuck into the Gas Company.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Yes. This sort of activity inevitably increases charges to the people and, certainly, the burden does not fall on the tall poppies. The Government's action makes industry less efficient. I have applauded the trust's activities over the years, and I deplore the Government's action in leaning on it. One important decision made by the trust was that regarding a uniform tariff throughout the State. We pay lip-service to decentralization but we have an Australian Government that does its darndest to differentiate in costs between urban and rural areas. We get such decisions as the *ad hoc* decision that will increase the price of fuel. These actions will drive more people to the metropolitan area.

The success of the Leigh Creek coalfield is due to the wise planning of former Liberal-Country Party Governments, and I am pleased that the Treasurer has mentioned the coalfield. The Government's decision to take over private buses led to the Municipal Tramways Trust's being one area that caused last year's Loan Estimates to be inaccurate. The Land Commission is the brainchild of this Government, but the subsidy needed from the Commonwealth Government is on a \$20 for \$1 basis. I consider the document before us disturbing, for two reasons: the first is that we have had a lousy deal from the Commonwealth Government and the second is that we cannot take action without that Government's approving anything that we want to do.

Mr. EVANS (Fisher): I express the same doubts as my colleagues have expressed about the Loan Estimates. Nothing is certain, and we are waiting to find out what the Commonwealth Government will offer and whether it will honour its obligation or do as it did last year, when it let us down in the final analysis.

Before dealing further with that matter, I will refer first to the Electricity Trust, and I endorse most of the remarks that the member for Kavel has made about that organization. It has been efficient, and I understand that it supplies power more cheaply than does any other electricity authority in Australia, but this State Government has leaned on the trust by taxing it. When a Government starts to move into this field, it breeds inefficiency, because the organization asks what is the good of showing a profit, when that profit will be bled from it.

Mr. Coumbe: All the incentive has gone then.

Mr. EVANS: All the incentive to be efficient is taken away, and the community at large suffers. Two things that we in this community lack more than anything else are efficiency and work effort. We have not got either in sufficient quantity to do our economy any good. In my opinion, the Electricity Trust has fallen down in one respect. Earlier this week we read the announcement that the trust intended to build another power station near Port Augusta. The member for Stuart seems pleased that he will have another power station in his district. I am pleased that that honourable member can tell his electors that he wants another power station there, because he is showing enthusiasm.

I consider it a pity that the Electricity Trust has only considered the cost in supplying power in this State. Cost benefits also should be considered. We have transmission lines leaping from hilltop to hilltop in the Adelaide Hills, carrying power from Torrens Island power station to the southern part of the metropolitan area and to the southern part of the State. If ever we needed to rethink the positioning of power stations it would be now, when we should be recognizing the need for a power station south of Adelaide. It should be south of the area likely to be developed as a residential area, so that there will be no interference with the quality of life, and near the sea so that cooling facilities will be available. South of the metropolitan area a power station could be built and fed from Torrens Island by a gas main under the sea. However, although we already have two sets of pylons across the Hills, we are providing money to construct two more sets, which are to be erected through an area in which the quality of life and the natural beauty should be preserved, according to the Minister of Environment and Conservation and the Premier. We are to advertise this area overseas as a tourist attraction, but all we are doing is erecting transmission lines like a spider web through it in order to take power south of the city.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: That's all in the *News*.

Mr. EVANS: Whether or not it is, it will be in *Hansard* now. It is disgraceful that the trust has taken this approach, but the Minister of Works, who is responsible for the operations of the trust, seems quite happy that these transmission lines will be erected in the Hills area. They are a blight on this area, and it is a disgrace that the Government should allow them to be erected. If private enterprise wanted to build powerlines through this area to serve its enterprises in the south, every Government member would condemn the project and suggest that it be stopped, but, apparently, because it is a semi-government organization, it is acceptable as it does not affect Australian Labor Party districts. These lines will traverse areas served by Liberal Party members only, so it does not matter whether they affect the quality of life in the area. Apparently, there is nothing wrong with erecting these powerlines if the power will serve the area represented by the Minister of Development and Mines, who is Minister in charge of housing.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Why don't you get out of the gutter?

Mr. Goldsworthy: If he is in the gutter, you are mostly in the sewer.

Mr. EVANS: When it was first mooted that the powerlines would go through the Hills area, people living in the communities affected condemned the idea, but at present the Government is paying for easements for two more lines at the rate of about \$2 500 a kilometre. This will mean a further loss of revenue in the local communities because of the loss of rates, as has happened in relation to other projects.

I am sure that no Government member can be proud of the Government's housing record during the past 12 months. If we consider the money being made available this financial year for housing, there is a great need for Government members and Ministers to duck for cover. Undoubtedly, we will need a publicity campaign to suggest to people living in flats and young single people living in houses away from their parents to return to the houses of their parents, so that those in need of shelter will be able to obtain it in the next 12 months to two years by taking up these vacancies. Not enough money has been made available to continue the rate of building that applied

last year. In 1973-74 more than \$15 000 000 was made available to the Housing Trust, and this year the proposed allocation has been increased to \$20 340 000, an increase of a little more than \$5 000 000 or about 33½ per cent. However, the inflation rate in the house-building industry during that time has been almost 40 per cent, so that we have gone backwards.

The money being made available will not have the same purchasing power as had the money made available last year, and the trust's record last year was its worst since 1949. How can the Government proclaim that it will overcome the housing situation for low-income groups and those in need, when it makes available that sort of money? It has not kept up with the inflation rate. In 1973-74 the State Bank made individual loans to a total of about \$16 200 000, and in 1974-75 the loans are to amount to about \$17 000 000, an increase of only \$800 000, which is less than a 5 per cent increase. That percentage is 33 per cent less than the inflation rate for the past 12 months, and all indications suggest that the inflation rate this year in the building trade will be at least 25 per cent. Therefore, the real purchasing power of that money will be reduced by about 50 per cent compared to what it was in 1972-73. This illustrates how disastrous the situation is for the housing industry. In spite of this, the Treasurer states in his explanation of the Loan Estimates that Redcliff will be the main project.

What will happen to young people who wish to have a house in the city if the Housing Trust is directed to build houses for the Redcliff project? Apparently, we are to encourage an industry whose effects on the environment are still being studied, by asking the trust to apply itself in that area. If the Government wishes to solve some of its housing problems, it should begin a publicity campaign in which it asks young people who are honest, genuine, and understand the problem to return to their parents' houses, so that those who are in need and who have families will have the chance to move into the houses vacated by the young people. A publicity campaign to induce young people to return to the houses of their parents, offering their flats for those in need, would solve many of our housing problems. I do not deny young people the right to live in flats if they wish, to be nearer their place of employment or their place of education, but when our State faces such a crisis we need positive action. At present, more than 12 000 families are waiting for houses, and we must ask young people to vacate their flats until this Government (or one of the opposite political persuasion) has an opportunity, with the right approach in economic matters, to solve the housing problem.

I refer now to the Redcliff and Monarto projects. What business man would venture into such an area of doubt with the country facing the economic crisis recognized by every honest politician in Australia? Both projects must be subsidized by taxpayers' money. We cannot supply economic rail transport to meet the needs of the community, nor can we supply Municipal Tramways Trust bus services without sustaining losses. The Minister of Transport has admitted today that private bus services are in danger of collapse because the Government will not subsidize their operations the same as it subsidizes the operations of the M.T.T. The whole range of our public services is struggling for money, yet we are willing to squander money at Monarto and at Red Cliff Point.

The Minister in charge of housing has said that no-one will be permitted to move to Monarto until 1 000 houses have been built there. This will involve the labour content

of 999 houses, together with the monetary resources and all associated services, with no-one living there. Suddenly when 1 001 homes have been built, everyone can move in! That is not a policy of sound judgment; it is ridiculous for the Minister even to suggest it. If his Cabinet colleagues had been aware of that, he should have been asked to retract the statement to put the minds of the public at ease.

When the Treasurer says that he is in charge of the biggest business in the State, how can the Monarto project proceed while the State is short of money? The Minister of Education admits that he cannot build sufficient schools, so how can we justify this insane approach to development projects simply for the sake of development, before carrying out sufficient environmental studies, before we can be sure of the effect of the projects on the environment? If it is possible for us to exercise control over only one line in these Estimates, there is every need to vote against the Monarto project. We should get out of it and wait until we can balance our economy. We should supply houses for the people in need in the metropolitan area and we should build enough schools to provide our pre-school children with preliminary education, as well as schools for primary and secondary students, because we have not got those facilities. Every member in this place is waiting for schools to be built in his district.

Mr. Keneally: It's hard to catch up.

Mr. EVANS: The member says we never will. We are in the worst situation we have ever been in, and if the member for Stuart thinks we are not going to improve that situation the Government should admit that it cannot manage the State, because that is what he is saying. For many years, great difficulty was experienced in getting sufficient people to take up apprenticeships in the building trades, but in the past 12 months greater interest has been shown, with a consequently increased intake of apprentices in bricklaying, as well as in other trades. However, there is doubt now about the buoyancy of the industry and many young people who took up the challenge, when asked by the Minister of Labour and Industry or by the school authorities to take an interest, now find their future in doubt.

Mr. Keneally: If you didn't have time to watch T.D.]T. you would not be able to make a speech.

Mr. EVANS: Members opposite may laugh, but the member for Stuart knows that I have been concerned for a long time about the building industry. I can quote as an example the case of a person who came from Tasmania only the day before yesterday. He was offered a job by a building company, but it was found he was not a union member. The building company asked him to pay his union dues, but when he went to the union office he was told that the fee was \$25. When he said he did not have that kind of money he was told to come back when he had it. The builder could not employ the man because the rest of his employees would take him to task, yet the union office would not allow the man to work for a fortnight and then pay his dues. Perhaps that matter can be better taken up by way of a question to the Minister at some other time.

Although a considerable sum is to be made available to the M.T.T., I must refer to the passenger and parcel depot for country bus services at the Franklin Street terminal. This afternoon I have asked the Minister of Transport a question about this matter. A group of private bus operators had agreed to pay the Adelaide City Council

over 10 years the sum of \$180 000, but those operators who are left to meet the commitment now fear that the M.T.T. may not honour the agreement entered into by the companies it has taken over. The remaining operators are most dissatisfied, as are their drivers. Either the Minister will have to find more money to take over all the bus operations or he will have to offer a subsidy. I do not think private bus operations are less efficient than the M.T.T. operations, but the trust is subsidized by the taxpayers' money. I am sure private operators do not want anywhere near the same subsidy as the M.T.T. is getting to continue in existence. Why should we be involved in a capital expenditure of \$22 500 000 when, by granting a subsidy, the Minister could be divorced from the capital expenditure and all the associated problems, at the same time maintaining a service satisfactory to the travelling public?

A satisfactory public transport system has not been provided for the outer fringe areas, including Blackwood, Bellevue Heights, Eden Hills, Coromandel Valley, and Aberfoyle Park. There is only a morning and an evening bus service through Coromandel Valley each day. Surely the Municipal Tramways Trust, which has taken over the responsibility for the services in most of the areas to which I have referred, could provide a better service than that which is being given today. What is the difference between the citizens at Coromandel Valley and those at Elizabeth or at Christies Beach, to which there is to be an electrified rail service? Are the people of Coromandel Valley, who live closer to the General Post Office than do those at Christies Beach or Elizabeth, regarded as second-grade citizens? Why is it not considered worth while to have a decent service at Blackwood while it is considered worth while to have one elsewhere? The member for Stuart has a smile on his face. If I told him the reasons why, the Minister of Education would say, "That is not fair comment."

It has been stated that it is intended to spend money in established areas that have not been provided with a sewerage service. Last year, although South Australia applied for, and expected, a \$2 000 000 interest-free Commonwealth grant, it received only \$1 580 000, which was the lowest allocation per capita of any State. This year, South Australia has applied for a \$3 500 000 Commonwealth grant, but how much will it get? It will be not a grant but a loan and, considering that we had to pay back \$5 000 000 on the \$1 580 000 that we received from the Commonwealth Government last year, we will, if we receive the \$3 500 000 for which we have applied, this year (if the same rate of interest and repayment period apply) have to pay back over \$11 000 000.

What sort of a Commonwealth Government do we have that promises grants, but makes loans with a rate of interest and a repayment period that make borrowing almost prohibitive, so much so that our State Minister had no alternative but to accept reluctantly the offer made by the Commonwealth Government? That is the sort of Commonwealth Government which this country has and which Government members ask people of this State to support. Indeed, the Premier even returned from overseas to try to gain that support. Although the people accepted that Government, they now realize the folly of their ways.

Although Blackwood, Hawthorndene, Belair, Glenalta, parts of Eden Hills, and Coromandel Valley are all old suburbs, many other more recently developed areas have been provided with sewerage facilities. However, the Mitcham Hills area has been left out. This is unfair, and I believe the people there have been treated unjustly,

because the Government has made no move to upgrade the priority of this district. Although this has happened in relation to the Morphett Vale, Reynella, Tea Tree Gully and Christies Beach areas, not once has the Blackwood sewerage scheme been upgraded.

Associated with this matter is the enterprise of the Monalta group, which has employed its own engineers and told the Mitcham council that, if it receives the backing of the council and that of the Government for \$300 000, it will pay interest on the money and, under the supervision of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, have private contractors install a scheme. This could happen if the Government was willing to meet the capital expenditure when money became available in future. What better offer could be made by a community group? These people are not asking the Government to drop any of its priorities regarding Blackwood or any other scheme: they are merely asking the Government to back up a loan of \$300 000 so that, when the money is available from Government sources, the capital can be repaid. In the meantime, the community would meet the interest commitments.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: What do you think would happen regarding the Financial Agreement?

Mr. EVANS: This would only mean that the Monalta group would have sewerage installed at a lower cost, because it would be keeping pace with inflation.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: What about the Financial Agreement?

Mr. EVANS: It has nothing to do with that. In this case, the Mitcham council can guarantee the money against rates, provided the State Government accepts the responsibility of paying for the capital expenditure when money is available.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The Mitcham council would be classified as borrowing.

Mr. EVANS: If the State Government and the Commonwealth Government are genuine in their desire to help people, this project could be proceeded with without embarrassment being caused to either Government.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You explain—

Mr. EVANS: The Minister knows this full well, despite his continual interjections. I participate in this debate with reluctance, being disgusted at the Government's housing policy and its lack of achievement.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Dr. TONKIN (Bragg): The member for Kavel said at the outset of his speech that two main points needed to be made: first, that South Australia was being given a lousy deal; and secondly, that the financial management of this State was being taken out of the hands of the South Australian Government. Although I agree with both of those statements, I believe they are one and the same point. South Australia is getting a lousy deal because it is not receiving enough money to spend, and it is being controlled financially by the Commonwealth Government, which has very little interest in its well-being. One could be forgiven, when reading the Treasurer's second reading explanation, for thinking that it might have been something to do with the Australian Government, because the term "Australian Government" is referred to 46 times in its 19 pages. It is a recurring theme. We do not see therein "Commonwealth Government" or "Federal Government": it is always "Australian

Government", and in almost every paragraph, and certainly on every page, there is a reference to the Australian Government.

I believe that the whole process of submitting the Loan Estimates (which, as the Leader said, are purely "guesstimates") is a farce. It is impossible to decide accurately what will be done with the money, so someone has an intelligent guess. When one comes later to examine the statements of expenditure, one looks at the Auditor-General's Report and finds that frequently the guesses have not been accurate. Sometimes they are, but frequently they are not. This farce, of presenting the books of the State and its budgetary requirements both in relation to the Loan Estimates and general revenue, has been compounded by the farce that has been introduced by the concept of special grants. We are now getting special loans. I know that it is Australian Labor Party policy, as stated in its book, to say that, as the Australian Government is providing most of the money, it should have most of the say as to what shall be done with the money.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Are you going to get a copy of the new book?

Dr. TONKIN: The wording of that paragraph is in the book, and I suggest that the Minister read it. It is most imprecise and does not really make sense. I suggest that the Minister take it to a drafting committee so that it may say exactly what it means to say, namely, that the Commonwealth Government wants to have all the say. The drafting of that paragraph is appalling. The point is that the A.L.P.'s idea is that it should raise all the money and therefore have all the say; that is simply one other plank in this part of the platform.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You criticize our platform, yet you use it as the basis for an argument.

Dr. TONKIN: I am surprised at the Minister, although I have heard him do this sort of thing before. He is hoping that he will be able to get me to talk out my time before 6 o'clock. Perhaps he wants me to continue talking until 6 o'clock.

Dr. Eastick: They call him "the braying Minister". He's the hee-haw type.

Dr. TONKIN: Yes, he could be related to Mrs. Whitlam. He haws or hoo-hahs. I am not going to set up the Minister as any form of aunt sally, but I suggest that he read his own Party's policy statement.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: I have read it.

Dr. TONKIN: Then the Minister should know what he is talking about. I do not agree that, because the Commonwealth Labor Government raises most of the revenue in Australia, it should have the entire say as to how the money shall be spent, yet that is exactly what the Treasurer's second reading explanation states. The document states that, in effect, without in any way trying to hide the fact (and the Minister knows this full well), the Australian Government is aiming to take over the financial running of this State. Whether or not we like it (and many do not like it, and many others do not know about it, and they would not like it if they did know about it), our finance is totally controlled by the Commonwealth Government. Regarding tertiary education the explanation states:

I have decided that the tertiary education transactions which are now being financed entirely by the Australian Government should be handled through a trust account as authorized by the Public Service Act . . . In future years I do not expect tertiary education activities to appear in our accounts other than through the trust account.

That is the first complete take-over. The Treasurer's explanation continues:

I intend to have a table prepared to indicate to members the main areas of financial support from the Australian Government and this will probably be attached to the Budget papers.

I look forward to seeing that document. Indeed, I am interested in knowing why we do not have it before us now. Why must we wait for the Budget document? I think it will be interesting reading. The understatement of the year is that part of the Treasurer's explanation which states:

In the event there were some quite large variations from the original proposals.

And how! The explanation continues:

Recoveries and repayments at \$46 774 000 were \$3 894 000 above the original estimate. For Public Buildings Department alone, the excess was \$2 211 000 primarily because of additional grants from the Australian Government corresponding to additional expenditures on education and health facilities. For tertiary education buildings the grants received were \$1 396 000 above estimate. On the other hand, an expected grant of \$2 000 000 towards the sewerage programmes of the Engineering and Water Supply Department was not forthcoming.

When the grant was forthcoming, as the member for Fisher has explained, it was given to us by way of a special loan, not a special grant. The Treasurer's explanation continues:

Originally, we had expected grants of about \$2 000 000 towards urban transport projects.

However, the grants were not received, because the relevant legislation was not enacted by the Australian Government. The Treasurer's explanation continues:

. . . there were excesses of \$1 237 000 in the recoveries from the forestry undertaking.

The Treasurer's explanation states that there were variations as a result of changes in grants from the Australian Government; that sounds like something new. There were excesses of \$1 237 000 in the recoveries from the forestry undertaking, and the State received an unexpected repayment of \$928 000 from the River Murray Commission. The explanation almost sounds as though the Treasurer was somewhat surprised—almost as though he had won a prize in the lottery. The whole point of this exercise and the Treasurer's explanation is that it shows that we are now totally dependent on the Commonwealth Government. The explanation continues:

The largest excess was in respect of activities of the Land Commission and the Monarto Development Commission . . . It was expected that most of the funds required would be provided by the Australian Government . . . Delays in finalizing agreements and administrative procedures led to late payment of the special advances by the Australian Government and the State had to arrange large temporary advances of funds.

I wonder how much that cost. The explanation continues:

The actual payments of State funds totalled \$7 625 000 instead of only \$1 500 000 as expected last August.

The Treasurer's explanation refers to funds for the Eyre Highway and urban transport projects. The Treasurer's explanation continues:

. . . the Government finds it harder than ever before to forecast how the year's results could turn out.

That statement does not really surprise me, nor do I think the Government is surprised. The Treasurer's explanation continues:

Following the recent Premiers' Conference, I indicated that we could need as much as \$20 000 000 of additional revenues from new or increased taxes and charges.

We have certainly seen the effects of that desire. The Treasurer's explanation continues:

However, since then, we have made strong representations to the Australian Government for additional general purpose grants, and I am confident that our submissions will be successful.

I want to know why on earth the Treasurer is confident that his submissions will be successful this time because, after all, he has had no luck before. I am convinced that he has no hope of any luck, and I am sure that he does not expect to get what he is going to ask for at any time from the Commonwealth Government. We cannot do anything about this situation; at least, I do not think we can. We find ourselves having to defer activities that have been planned and to defer works we have decided are high on the list of priorities, because agreements are not signed and because the Commonwealth Government is not willing to make moneys available at a time when we need them. We cannot proceed with those works, because the Australian Government is calling the tune. It seems impossible for the Commonwealth Government to admit that we might know what is best for South Australia. Regarding the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, the Treasurer's explanation states:

The Australian Government is willing to consider submissions for increased funds if they can be used effectively in this area of high priority and I have written to the Prime Minister to show that South Australia could use additional funds to very good effect.

Why on earth should the Premier and Treasurer of this State have to write to the Australian Government begging for money to spend on housing or anything else? What right has the Commonwealth Government to tell us how we shall spend our money? This certainly suits the current aims of the Australian Commonwealth Government, but I shall not go too deeply into the theme of centralism, which was well covered by the member for Kavel. However, there is no doubt that the Loan Council and the recognized ways of raising funds are being short-circuited over and over again by the making of special grants and special loans. This document is a list providing detailed evidence of this:

. . . special advances to the States under a new Housing Agreement and outside the programmes determined by Loan Council.

At least, the Treasurer was honest and said this. I am not criticizing the purposes for which the moneys are being allocated, but I am certainly criticizing the ways in which they are allocated, the strings attached to them, and the blackmail basically being used. This State is virtually being told that, unless it agrees to use money for Loan purposes in the way the Commonwealth Government says it must use it, it will get no further grants. Although it is not actually spelt out in so many words, the meaning and inference are basically clear. There is no doubt that the Commonwealth Government controls the purse strings of this State, that the Treasurer is nothing more than a puppet, that he does what he is told and so do his Ministers. They say "Yes, please" every time the Commonwealth Government offers them special grants. I notice as we go through this document that the primary producer is hit again.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: Which page are you up to now?

Dr. TONKIN: I should have thought that the Minister and other members opposite would be interested in following this through. Apparently, the Minister of Environment and Conservation has not even read the document (not that I am saying it is worth reading: personally, I do not think it is). Nevertheless, the Minister should have done his Leader, the Treasurer, the courtesy of looking at it. The primary producer is being hit again, because he is getting

very few additional funds from Loan Account: advances to wineries and distilleries, fish handling enterprises, processing of dairy products, fruit canning co-operatives, cold stores and packing houses.

Mr. Millhouse: I thought you were a Liberal.

Dr. TONKIN: How good it is to see the member for Mitcham in the Chamber! I do welcome him. I am more than happy, as a Liberal, to inform him that I am concerned for everyone in the community. I am not sectionally interested, as he is and as his colleague the member for Flinders may be considered to be.

The section of the explanation relating to south-western suburbs drainage, other urban drainage, irrigation and reclamation of swamp lands, and Renmark Irrigation Trust contains no references to the Australian Government. We go through almost a page without any reference to special grants or special assistance from the Australian Government. Then, suddenly, we find under the heading "Afforestation and Timber Milling" a reference to "\$200 000 from Softwood Agreement funds advanced by the Australian Government". Is there anything in which that Government has not dabbled its sticky fingers? Is there anything that this State Labor Government is not prepared to give up to the Commonwealth Government? I doubt very much whether there is.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Would you—

Dr. TONKIN: I wish the State Government would give up the Minister of Education to the Commonwealth Government, although what that Government would do with him I do not know! All the interjections in the world would in no way change these special agreements taking away from this State Government the responsibility for setting priorities for spending. It is totally wrong that that should be so. The Australian Government is mentioned again under "Waterworks and Sewers" with reference to metropolitan waterworks and the Tod trunk main. The Treasurer's explanation states:

As mentioned before, the Australian Government is expected to assist substantially in the financing of sewerage projects.

By "financing" does the Treasurer mean there will be a special grant or special assistance, or is this to be another special loan at interest rates?

Mr. Millhouse: May I ask the honourable member one question?

Dr. TONKIN: Not at present.

Mr. Millhouse: Are you still in favour of splitting the Liberal and the Country Parties?

Dr. TONKIN: I thought it would be a question like that. I am pleased to see that money is to be spent this year on hospital buildings. The building of the Flinders Medical Centre is running behind schedule, no doubt because of industrial unrest. Nevertheless, it is good to see that planning is here for the third phase of the project. Glenside and Hillcrest Hospitals desperately need help. I only hope that money will be available to complete those projects. We have no guarantee, because I seem to remember a similar project being mentioned in a similar document 12 months ago, and no action was taken.

Mr. Coumbe: There is no mention here of the Northfield wards.

Dr. TONKIN: Presumably they have been completed. The Public Health Department is to be encouraged in its entry into more dental therapy. The explanation states:

A sum of \$2 000 000 is planned for expenditure on the new Principal School of Dental Therapy at North Terrace, \$773 000 for continuation of work on the Dental Therapy Training Clinic at Somerton Park and \$430 000 for the completion of 13 dental clinics already under construction.

We are optimistic because "Australian Government grants are expected for these works". I only hope that it has the money and that it will release the money to the State. I hope it does not change its mind and make the grants repayable loans. It is a woolly document in every respect except one: it is one more step along the way to handing over control of our financial affairs to the Commonwealth Government. We cannot make our own priorities or decisions; basically, it is a sad state of affairs. The Treasurer's explanation states:

We are uncertain of the extent to which the Australian Government will provide financial assistance this year.

As regards a statement made about the Land Commission, if the Government is so hopeful in one respect why is it so uncertain of the extent to which the Australian Government will provide financial assistance this year in another respect—the Land Commission?

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

Dr. TONKIN: The Loan Estimates are a declaration of abject failure; that is all that they are. In one section the Treasurer says he does not know whether he will get money from the Commonwealth Government and in another section he claims he is confident that he will get money from the Commonwealth. He does not know whether he is coming or going. Actually, from what I heard in a news service during the dinner break, the Treasurer is coming home with no money at all.

Mr. Arnold: He's been wiped off again.

Dr. TONKIN: Yes. It does not say anything for the Government of this State when it produces Loan Estimates like these. We are no longer masters of our own fate in this State, and it is not a laughing matter; it is nothing to be proud of. The Treasurer should be ashamed to submit these Loan Estimates. He is content to hand over the running of this State to the Commonwealth Government, which is calling the tune.

I recognize that the Treasurer is in something of a dilemma. He should be taking steps to find out what can be done to get over the system of special grants. Perhaps some legal remedy can be taken; I do not know. We should never have handed over this State's taxing powers to the Commonwealth Government in the first instance. Having handed them over, we should never have allowed them to stay with the Commonwealth Government. The States should have stood up for their rights at the proper time. As a result of that previous inactivity, we are now placed in this intolerable situation where we cannot spend any money unless the Commonwealth Government tells us how we should spend it and when we should spend it.

Mr. Gunn: The Commonwealth Government should not tie strings to the funds.

Dr. TONKIN: I thank the honourable member for that cogent interjection. The Australian Labor Party aims to abolish State Governments, and it is undertaking this course by economic measures, not legislative measures. I presume that the Treasurer, in the dilemma that he is in, approves of what the Commonwealth Government is doing, because it is a means to the ultimate end. He must feel totally inadequate and ashamed that he is forced to introduce measures such as this.

Mr. Arnold: He was almost apologetic.

Dr. TONKIN: I do not think he has been apologetic. He is doing this because he has been told to do it by his Commonwealth colleagues, who are members of a

Government that is rapidly being taken over by left-wing militants of the Labor movement, and he does not like it.

Members interjecting:

Dr. TONKIN: It does not matter how much Government members try to obscure the facts: that is the situation. It is high time that South Australians woke up to what is happening. The Loan Estimates are one more piece of evidence to prove it. I sincerely hope that the people will wake up soon. The State Labor Government is willing to give away South Australia in the interests of the overall Labor Party plan.

Mr. Becker: Would they get much for it?

Dr. TONKIN: Not at present, but we on this side could make something of this State. The A.L.P. is willing to give away South Australia in the interests of long-term, radical, Socialist philosophy; that is the Labor Party's aim. The people of this State can prevent it if they will.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: You do a great deal to destroy South Australia whenever you get a chance—you and the member for Hanson and a few others.

Dr. TONKIN: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not think you called the Minister of Transport.

The SPEAKER: I was going to warn the honourable Minister that his name is not on the list as the next speaker.

Mr. Jennings: Neither is the member for Hanson, but he's—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Ross Smith knows what is required of him—the same as is required of everyone else.

Mr. Jennings: I do, Sir.

Mr. DEAN BROWN (Davenport): Mr. Speaker—

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink!

Mr. DEAN BROWN: It is very strange that the question of water should be raised, because very shortly I shall be touching on that subject. When I read the Loan Estimates I was particularly disturbed to find in the first paragraph that the South Australian Government in the coming 12 months intends to increase its expenditure by 18 per cent. In a period of rapid inflation it is the Government's prime responsibility to ensure that expenditure is cut back, or at least held, in as many areas as possible, because other sectors of the economy are pushing inflation higher and higher. It is therefore important that the Government should take its stand in stopping the increase in the inflation rate, yet the State Government, which claims to be a responsible Government concerned about inflation, has come out with Loan Estimates providing for an 18 per cent increase in expenditure. This will add yet another stimulus to the rate of inflation in South Australia, which already has the highest rate of inflation of any State. Our inflation rate is currently running at just over 16 per cent a year, yet the Government has come forward with a policy of increasing that rate even further.

No doubt later in this financial year there will be subsequent Estimates which will further increase expenditure. So, although the Government is setting out with an increase of 18 per cent, by the end of the year it is bound to be higher still. For that reason, I am disappointed in and disturbed at the South Australian Government. I shall deal now with the provision in the Loan Estimates for expenditure on waterworks and sewers.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: That's the one you get in most!

Mr. DEAN BROWN: That is another inane comment by the Minister. I am particularly disturbed at the expenditure of \$1 600 000 on reservoirs, because I consider that

the Government's present policy of having water quotas merely encourages the wasting of water in the State. South Australia is the driest State in the driest continent in the world and, therefore, it is essential that we conserve as much water as possible, yet we have heard today that the Government is trying to further a policy that adheres to quotas. Water quotas (and these are frightfully unrealistic, because they are set on an unjust and inequitable basis) encourage people to use the amount of water for which they pay. Of course, people in my district, under their new quotas, have little hope of using half that water responsibly. Some have suggested that they should turn on a tap and let the water run down the street.

Mr. Langley: That's how irresponsible they are!

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I would disagree with their attitude and ask them not to do that, because we in South Australia could not afford to waste water like that. I relate this matter back to the Questions on Notice asked by the member for Bragg today, and I was interested to know that the total water storage capacity in this State is 158 000 megalitres. The total quota of water usage in the State is 243 000 Ml, which means that there is a short-fall of nearly 100 000 Ml. Therefore, people cannot afford to use the total quota of water, yet the State Government has adopted a water rating system that is encouraging people to waste water.

It is apparent that the Government is selling water that it does not even hold in storage. It should immediately change the present system of water and sewerage rating from a quota system to a water usage system for private houses. It has been claimed falsely that I have suggested that a water usage basis should be adopted throughout the State: I have claimed that it should be adopted for private houses only. The Minister of Works has claimed in a Ministerial statement today that on a usage basis, as advocated in the Sangster report, the price of water would increase by 26 per cent, but I am not advocating that, and there need be no increase in price. If a usage basis was adopted, the people of Burnside would be paying less for their water than they are paying now. At present they are paying far more a unit than is anyone else in the metropolitan area.

At present we face one of the biggest crises in housing in Australia, particularly in South Australia, since the Second World War. A report in the *Advertiser* of February 16, 1964, refers to remarks by the President of the Housing Industry Association and states:

Housing Industry Facing Crisis. An urgent plea has been made for closer consultation and effective—not token—co-operation between Governments and the housing industry. He said that, like the Housing Industry Association, the housing industry as a whole should devote more resources to research to form a sound, long-term policy for housing, and do more to inform the community and Governments of the deteriorating housing situation. His comments came in a statement in which he warned that Australia faced a housing crisis unparalleled since the immediate post-war period of shortages.

To appreciate how serious the crisis is, we should consider the number of applications now before the Housing Trust. In reply to a question on March 28 this year, the Minister of Development and Mines stated that the trust had 10 400 applications before it and in reply to another question on July 30, about four months later, the Minister stated that the trust had 18 200 applications before it. In that period, we have had that increase. Perhaps the Minister of Transport would like to hear the figures.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: They will be completely unreliable, and probably untrue as well.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I am quoting from the statement by the Minister in charge of housing. If it is untrue, I suggest that the Minister of Transport speak to his colleague on the front bench. I am amazed that the Minister should make that accusation about figures that his colleague has supplied.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: I am accusing you of not being able to read or understand.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: In a period of four months, the number of applications before the trust has increased by almost 8 000 and, if that is not a housing crisis, I am not sure what would be a crisis. The position is critical, yet in the financial year 1973-74 the trust built fewer houses than it has built in any other year since 1949, as the member for Fisher earlier pointed out so ably. Obviously, this is a continuing trend by the present Government. In 1970-71 a total of 2 327 houses was built; in 1971-72 the total was 1 201, and in 1972-73 it was 1 623. As I said, in the financial year 1973-74, the Housing Trust built the lowest number of houses since 1949. It has been claimed that fewer houses have been built because insufficient land is available, but that is not the situation. In his reply on March 28, the Minister stated:

The Housing Trust estimates that it takes about 132 weeks to turn raw land into usable blocks. However, it should be pointed out that the Housing Trust believes that this process is no slower in South Australia than it is in any other State, and some New Zealand housing officers recently in Adelaide stated that in their country the time span was three years to five years.

I emphasize that it is taking 132 weeks to turn raw land into usable blocks. However, the trust condemns the State Government for its new planning policies, and points out that these policies are holding up the building of houses in South Australia. Another reason given by the Minister for the fewer number of houses is a shortage of labour and materials. We have established that there is a housing shortage in this State and that applications to the trust have almost doubled, and we should consider the reasons for this shortage. The first reason to which I refer is the tight liquidity now apparent in Australia.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Is that your view, or has someone given it to you?

Mr. DEAN BROWN: It is one that anyone with common sense would appreciate, as the Minister knows. This situation has been created because of the ridiculous economic policies of the Commonwealth Government, members of which are the colleagues of Government members here. The present housing crisis will not be overcome until the Commonwealth Government makes adequate finance available and reverses its present liquidity policy by making more money available for housing at a low interest rate. Furthermore, the Commonwealth Government has adopted an inflationary policy that has forced up the interest rate. Therefore, young couples cannot afford to build houses, because they are unable to afford the interest rates they would have to pay if they could find the money. Invariably, they cannot find the money. The third reason for the shortage of houses is the incredible increase in the cost of building a house.

It has been estimated that in the past 12 months the cost of building a house in the Adelaide metropolitan area has risen by 38.46 per cent, in a period in which the inflationary rate is 14.5 per cent. Obviously, this is one of the major reasons for the housing crisis. It has been a fundamental policy of the Labor Government in this State that has forced this increase, because those gentlemen introduced a new workmen's compensation law, which

increased the price of a house by between \$700 and \$1 500. Yet Government members accuse so-called Capitalists of trying to increase the cost of a house, whereas it has been the Government's policies that have accounted for these increases. An article in the *News* states that the cost of building a new house today is increasing at the rate of \$109 a week or \$5 665 a year, and that is for a house estimated to cost about \$20 000. Obviously, it is the policies of the State and Commonwealth Labor Governments that have created our present housing crisis.

My point is that, because we have a housing crisis, we should ensure that money is available to build houses where most houses can be built. The Government has indicated that it will continue to develop Monarto, but, before it builds houses in that area, it will have to spend about \$150 000 000 on the infra-structure. This money should be spent on houses. The most economical place in which to build houses is the Adelaide metropolitan area, and that is the location in which the Government should be spending its money. I appreciate the fact that, if the Redcliff project proceeds, the Government has obvious commitments to build houses in that area, but houses should be built in Adelaide before they are built in Monarto.

The explanation of the Loan Estimates states that it is estimated that \$1 000 000 will be required this year for the Monarto Development Commission, but a statement in the explanation clearly suggests that the Australian Government will not meet its present commitments to allow Monarto to proceed. I suspect that this is the first warning given by the Government that Monarto will not proceed at the rate that has been suggested previously. The explanation states:

As with the Land Commission, it is essential that the Monarto programme be planned on a long-term basis by both Governments and an early conference is required. In the meantime we are uncertain of the extent to which the Australian Government will provide financial assistance this year.

Quite obviously, from that statement, the State Government has not consulted with the Commonwealth Government because it is asking for a conference, and the Australian Government has not committed finance to the Monarto project. The statement continues:

The Loan Estimates propose an allocation of \$1 000 000 of State funds and this may be supplemented by \$1 500 000 to be raised under semi-government borrowing arrangements. This is a rough measure of the amount which the Government believes can be set aside to support Monarto. The planned development can proceed only with the full and continued support of the Australian Government.

I think the suggestion in that statement is that we may not be getting the full and continued support of the Australian Government. The explanation continues:

In the event that this support is not forthcoming to the extent necessary to finance this programme the Government will have no alternative but to require the commission to drastically curtail its operations.

If that is not an admission by the South Australian Government that Monarto will not proceed as planned and that the Australian Government will not come forward with the money, I am not sure what it would be. Obviously, the Government has seen the writing on the wall; it can see that Monarto might not proceed.

Only last Wednesday in this Chamber I made such a prediction and the Minister of Education abused me across the House for making it, yet I think the Government has come forward within a week and made exactly the same claim. On that occasion I said that the Australian Government had priorities far higher than Monarto. If Monarto is to proceed, the South Australian

Government is expecting from the Australian Government about \$30 000 000 a year for the next five years. It is quite obvious that the Australian Government will not have such finance available. The Minister of Education would rather have it spend money on Monarto than on child care centres; even though he purports to be the Minister of Education, I am staggered. He cannot have it both ways.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You're talking nonsense.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Does not the Minister claim that Monarto should proceed ahead of other programmes? I have also said that the abolition of the means test for age pensions must be given a higher priority than Monarto. For this reason I said last week that the money would not be available for Monarto to proceed.

Mr. Nankivell: And a good thing, too.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I know it will be. If that is the case, we should appreciate the fact now, before we waste further funds on the development and planning of Monarto. Last week I stated:

From the evidence I have given it is apparent that the further development of Monarto should cease immediately until the necessary guarantee of adequate finance for the town is given by the Australian Government.

We know now that that guarantee will not be given. Furthermore, we see in this Bill the allocation of \$4 000 000 this year for the acquisition of land at Monarto. I have outlined some of the faults of the land, yet we are to spend \$4 000 000 in acquiring land basically unsuitable for housing, or at least unsuitable for the new town of Monarto. The bedrock is far too close to the surface; over 40 per cent of it is within 1 metre of the surface. The soil is highly susceptible to wind and water erosion. Furthermore, the climate of the area is unsuitable, and I am amazed that the Government is willing to spend \$4 000 000 to acquire land unsuitable for a new city and at the same time, in a period of rapid inflation, tax the poor people on fixed incomes and pensions out of their houses. That is what the Government is doing by increasing State taxes and rates. The people of Burnside have seen this in connection with increased water and sewerage rates. The Government is willing to sit back and accept increases of up to 100 per cent in water and sewerage rates.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: If you were a little man I would say you were a poisonous little man.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I could say the same about the Minister. The Government is prepared to tax people out of their houses so that the extravagance of Monarto and other pipe-dreams can proceed. It is time the South Australian Government came back to earth, time it stopped this inflationary expenditure, time it faced reality, and time the further development of Monarto ceased immediately.

Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg): The figures given by the Treasurer lead me to the conclusion that he and the Government have completely lost their priorities. I am reminded of an old English game, played many years ago, where the participants spun a wheel. When the wheel stopped, the players either put in or took out. The game was called "Put and take", and that is exactly the game the Commonwealth Government is playing with the State Government. We have been given masses of figures that mean nothing at all. I agree entirely with the remarks of the member for Torrens; the Government would find it most difficult to spend this money. We in this State are now puppets, being dangled at the end of the string and manipulated by the Commonwealth Government. The money offered by the Commonwealth Government (if we get it, of course) is tied up in such a way that the

Commonwealth Government can dictate how and where it will be spent.

Before the recent election, the Treasurer travelled many thousands of kilometres to return to Australia to assist his Commonwealth colleagues. What kind of treatment did he get in return? When he went to Canberra he was sore at the treatment he received. After all his help to get the Labor Government back into office he got nothing at all, and he came away from his first meeting with the new Prime Minister saying that Snedden had given him a better deal. They are not my words; they are the words of the Treasurer of this State.

The member for Unley, who has unfortunately left the Chamber, has clearly shown that he hates subcontractors. He came up through the ranks of a certain aspect of the building trade and, indeed, he was once a subcontractor. How on earth he can stab subcontractors in the back in the way he does amazes me. I was in the building trade for many years. Indeed, I came up through the subcontracting scheme, and that started me.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: You could have fooled me.

Mr. MATHWIN: I probably could have, as the Minister no doubt would have been too lousy to pay a subcontractor to do jobs for him.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the member for Glenelg should not reflect on another member. He referred to another member (I do not want to say to whom) as being "too lousy". Standing Orders clearly provide that it is an offence to reflect on any other member in that way.

The SPEAKER: Order! I did not hear the honourable member for Glenelg reflecting on another honourable member. However, I call on the honourable member to speak to the Loan Estimates.

Mr. MATHWIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to withdraw "too" from "too lousy". I now deal with that part of the Treasurer's statement in which he referred to the \$450 000 allocation for south-western suburbs drainage. We are near the end of this project, which started some years ago during the term of office of the then Liberal and Country League Government in this State.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Make up your mind about that. You change your name so much. Identify yourself. What are you: L.C.L., Liberal Party or L.M.?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MATHWIN: I do not know whether it is a Rosella or a Major Mitchell that keeps interjecting.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Go on! The public wants to know what political Party you represent. We want to know.

Mr. MATHWIN: If it will help the Minister, I will repeat what I said. I said that some years ago the then L.C.L. Government, which was headed by Sir Thomas Playford, commenced the south-western suburbs drainage scheme. Expenditure on this project has totalled nearly \$11 000 000, and the scheme has alleviated many of the difficulties that existed in the area. The member for Brighton would know of the areas that we had there in relation to stormwater drainage.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Will you speak in English?

Mr. MATHWIN: I would, if I thought the Minister could understand me. Obviously, however, he cannot understand English so I will speak in the language to which he is accustomed: pidgin.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Would you speak in English so that the people can understand what you are saying?

Mr. MATHWIN: Without any further interruptions from my comrade from Port Pirie, I will refer to railway accommodation, for which \$12 600 000 has been allocated. The Treasurer's statement is full of possibilities; it states:

We expect to receive assistance by way of grants to the extent of two-thirds of the cost of those projects. One such project, the Port Stanvac to Christie Downs railway—which interests me particularly, because it goes through, or along the boundary of, my district—has been in progress for some time.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It doesn't go through your area at all.

Mr. MATHWIN: It goes through my boundary.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It doesn't.

Mr. MATHWIN: The Minister is aware that it goes through the boundary between my district and his.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Only for the distance that you could spit.

Mr. MATHWIN: There is a small statue in the middle of Brussels that would probably suit the Minister if it was put on his side of the railway line.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: I wish you could be more specific about that. I reckon you won't say what the reference is.

Mr. MATHWIN: It would be better than a spit. The Treasurer continued:

About \$1 500 000 was expended on it in 1973-74 . . . For the purpose of these Estimates we have assumed that urban transport funds will be made available by the Australian Government this year towards approved projects carried out in 1973-74 and 1974-75.

One sees from that paragraph that there are two possibilities. The Treasurer said, first, that the South Australian Government expected to receive assistance from the Commonwealth Government and, secondly, that for the purposes of these Estimates the Government had assumed that it would receive Commonwealth assistance. However, before it releases the money the Commonwealth Government will dictate to this Government where the money is to be spent. What a way for the Commonwealth Government to act. The next item in the Treasurer's statement relates to harbors accommodation, for which \$5 800 000 has been allocated. In this respect it is interesting to see the following statement from the Treasurer:

The more important works completed last year included the new passenger terminal at Outer Harbor and the special berth for handling steel at Port Adelaide.

That is interesting, as the steel has been there for four months.

Mr. Nankivell: It was a miscarriage of justice.

Mr. MATHWIN: Indeed. Steel has been lying on that berth for the past four or five months, just rusting away.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Like you are.

Mr. MATHWIN: It will be useless, just like the Minister. It is rusting away without any chance of its being released. The Treasurer said that a special new berth for handling steel had been completed at Port Adelaide. I suggest that that was a "berth" with Labor pains, helped along by the Minister of Labor and Industry. In this respect we have a demarcation dispute, which the Minister ought to be able to settle. The Minister has been fobbing us off all last week, and the Treasurer backed him up, saying that they had the solution. However, they know that they do not have the solution, because they cannot control Mr. Nyland.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Who said we had the solution?

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: We never said that.

Mr. MATHWIN: Surely the Deputy Premier could give advice. The Treasurer's second reading explanation states

that \$42 700 000 will be spent on school buildings during 1974-75; that is a tidy sum, but how on earth he believes he can spend such a large sum I do not know. Even if there were no strikes and no more were to occur, and there were no problems with materials, I doubt that the Minister of Education could spend that allocation. Nevertheless, if he can, good luck to him. In the schedule of major projects for which planning and design is proposed during 1974-75, I was interested to see that Paringa Park Primary School was included. I remember the school's being on the list of major projects for which planning and design was proposed during 1972-73.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: And the Public Works Committee turned it down.

Mr. MATHWIN: I know, and I took the committee to task in the House for what it did to me on that occasion. The member for Heysen blushed when I brought up this matter, as he was partly responsible for the committee's turning this project down. One would have hoped that the Minister of Education would side with me in this matter.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: I put up the proposal.

Mr. MATHWIN: During the following year, 1973-74, the school was not included in the schedule of major projects for which planning and design were proposed. However, I am pleased to see that, this year, the school is back on the schedule.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You'd better control the Public Works Committee this time.

Mr. MATHWIN: I had hoped that the Minister would use his good offices.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: What about your own good offices?

Mr. MATHWIN: I will use them to the best of my ability. I can think of only two committee members who might help me, namely, the member for Heysen and the member for Murray. As the latter honourable member is away, I cannot ask him to support me. That leaves three Government members, plus the Chairman. I hope that the Minister will use his good offices with the Government members of the committee for the benefit of children in my district, and also for some of the children in the Minister's district.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You deliver your two votes and the one in the Upper House, and I'll do my part.

Mr. MATHWIN: I shall be happy to do that.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Is that a deal?

Mr. MATHWIN: I can promise the Minister that I will do what I can regarding my colleagues.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Get a Caucus instruction to them. Tell them how to vote.

Mr. MATHWIN: Never! I hope that the Public Works Committee, in its wisdom, will see fit to allow the work on this project to proceed to my satisfaction, as the member for the district, and to the satisfaction of the Minister of Education, the children who attend the school, and people in the district who regard this matter as urgent. The position when I inspected with the committee recently would bear me out when I say that only two people can use the canteen simultaneously and flies can enter it easily; the toilets are far from the infants section, the buildings of which are badly in need of repair; the library needs upgrading; and the school aide is housed in a cupboard. Surely this position warrants the support of the committee and of my friend the member for Heysen.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The member for Heysen is one of the leaders of your Party.

Mr. MATHWIN: I hope that he will do his job correctly and give this matter due consideration. Regarding major works in progress at June 30, 1974, I point out that the cost of converting existing pre-school buildings at Ferryden Park is estimated at \$50 000, at Gilles Plain \$79 000, at Kilkenny \$77 000, and at Strathmont \$65 000. Regarding major works to be commenced at new pre-schools during 1974-75, to be of brick construction, the estimated cost is: Alberton \$51 000 (which is cheaper than any of the cost of the work on converting existing buildings to pre-schools) and Elizabeth Downs \$85 000.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: A little depends on the number of students to be accommodated, of course.

Mr. MATHWIN: The cost for Elizabeth West is \$81 000, and for Goodwood \$78 000. Does the Minister suggest that people at Alberton have fewer children than do people at Ferryden Park or Gilles Plains?

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: I was suggesting that the size of the expenditure had something to do with the number of children planned to be taken into the pre-schools. Other pre-schools in other neighbouring primary schools may be built later.

The SPEAKER: Order! That was a speech, not an interjection. The honourable member for Glenelg.

Mr. MATHWIN: The Minister has admitted that there are larger families in Elizabeth Downs and Elizabeth West (mainly migrants) than there are at Kilkenny or Strathmont. At Nangwarry (a country town) \$79 000 is provided to build a completely new pre-school, whereas that at Gilles Plains (a modified timber building) is estimated to cost \$79 000. These figures do not balance out.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The honourable member ought to know that any building in the country carries a 30 per cent loading; so, \$79 000 for Nangwarry is equivalent to between \$55 000 and \$60 000 in the metropolitan area.

Mr. MATHWIN: One is brick and one is timber. The timber one is in the city. However, I think I have made my point. The Minister should look at the situation, because it is grim that it now costs just as much, if it does not cost more, to convert an existing school as it does to construct a new pre-school building. I see that \$1 250 000 is proposed for the continuation of redevelopment of Parliament House. One would hope that something would be done about the heating in this place. The lounge, for instance, is so cold that the only appropriate thing in there is the Frost programme on television.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: The pipes will be put on the outside of the new building, as they are in England, so that, as they freeze up in the winter-time, they can be repaired more quickly. We learnt that from the English.

Mr. MATHWIN: These are cold and shocking conditions in this building at the moment. The only other thing I wish to mention is the new Administration building, for which a sum of nearly \$4 000 000 is allocated, being constructed on the corner of Flinders Street and Gawler Place. What has happened to the site in Victoria Square that was supposed to be for the Government buildings? It was suggested that it be given away to some Japanese or Chinese firm to supply accommodation for tourists. Then it was suggested that that building would not be started because the Ansett building across the road opposite Parliament House was to be commenced. That has been started at last but nothing has happened except the moving of the earth, and there is now a picket there to stop people taking away earth on a tip-truck. Members of the tip-truck operators association cannot go there because they are not members of the union. I under-

stand it is illegal for a man to belong to two organizations, yet the union picket is there stopping the drivers going there with tip-trucks to carry away the soil. That is a shocking state of affairs. The Minister of Labour and Industry, who is often in labour but never industrious, was saved by the bell and did not have to answer a question I put to him today. I had intended to mention the building industry in this State.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Would you mind speaking in English?

Mr. MATHWIN: I would speak in English if the Minister could understand me. I will bring a blackboard and draw it all out for him, and he can read it in his own time.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: People have a problem understanding you. If you speak in English, people will be able to understand you.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will get the next call to speak in this debate.

Mr. MATHWIN: I mention briefly the building industry and the fact that in this area South Australia has the highest inflation rate of any State in Australia, nearly 40 per cent in the last 12 months. No member can deny that. New houses are costing more, having regard to the "rise and fall" clause in building contracts, and even the ombudsman for the workers' federation, Mr. O'Dea, said this evening on television that houses were costing thousands more dollars to build. Whereas not long ago a person could have a house built and could move in within 12 weeks from the pouring of the foundations, now he could not move in within eight to nine months. That is a shocking state of affairs for a State in which the building industry was doing so well a short time ago. There are fears that the whole industry is about to collapse, yet the Minister of Labour and Industry does nothing about it.

The SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Labour and Industry.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: As the honourable Minister does not wish to speak, I call on the honourable member for Flinders.

Mr. BLACKER (Flinders): I want to comment briefly on these Loan Estimates. The whole document lacks the clarity and sense of purpose that we would normally expect. I say that respectfully, as every paragraph makes the overriding statement "if we get certain loans", or words to that effect. The first paragraph states that this year's payments will be \$26 909 000 more than last year's. Most people in the State would believe that that was perhaps better than at first expected. Probably, every South Australian was preparing himself for a shock, and in one sense this was a pleasant surprise. However, it is not as simple as that, because cuts have been made in some areas and increased expenditures are provided for in other areas. Probably the most disturbing fact about this document is the summary of the Loan Account and its diminishing value over the years. As has already been stated in this debate, in the past three years the Loan Account has diminished by \$10 000 000. Although there is an expected residue of about \$4 000 000 after the completion of this year, I think that, with the present inflationary trend, much of this money will be used in the course of the year's activities.

In the first paragraph of the Loan Estimates, reference is made to education and to how the account has been transferred from State responsibility to Commonwealth responsibility. Whereas that is all correct and accounted

for, it raises one question: where does the responsibility of the State lie and what effect does it have on the Loan Estimates? If education expenses are being taken over by the Commonwealth Government, those amounts must be accounted for elsewhere, and that is how the Treasurer has been able to present Loan Estimates that balance and are reasonably acceptable to the public, mainly because the excesses in education, national highways, and other areas have been directed to the Commonwealth Government, and these have offset the otherwise excessive expenditure we would normally expect. In his second reading explanation the Treasurer refers to a gross programme of \$990 400 000, which is a fraction over 10 per cent in excess of the 1973-74 gross programme. This is reasonably expected, but no-one would expect that the additional 10 per cent would in any way compensate for the increased costs that have to be borne. The Treasurer's second reading explanation states:

Needless to say, all States made strong submissions to show that an increase of only 10 per cent would not even cover the cost of price rises and that a decline in the volume of physical work would follow.

The statement that a decline in the volume of physical work would follow is the most significant statement in the whole document, because it is an admission that something will have to crash, something will have to suffer. What does it mean if there is a decline in the volume of physical work? Does it mean that there will be less wages for each employee, or does it mean that there will be fewer employees? I cannot imagine that employees will be willing to accept less wages, so the inevitable result will be fewer employees. This is probably the first step toward unemployment, and it is documented in these Loan Estimates. Many references to inflation have been made in this House in the past, and no doubt many such references will be made in the future. The fact that even the Government refers to a decline in the volume of physical work indicates that someone is starting to accept that we require a given amount of work for a given amount of pay.

The sum of \$4 944 000 is being held in reserve toward the financing of the Redcliff petro-chemical project in a way yet to be determined. Actually, this sum will be relatively insignificant if the project is to proceed, because it is only about 1 per cent of the total expenditure. It must be remembered that the cost of the project is escalating at the rate of about \$1 000 000 a week. It is not stated what the sum of \$4 944 000 will be used for, but no doubt it will be used in the normal course of establishing the project. It is planned to spend an additional amount for housing at Red Cliff Point; this matter has been referred to by several Opposition members, who have claimed that other areas are suffering as a result of an additional amount being channelled to the Redcliff project. Of course, if a house is built, irrespective of where it is, someone is being provided with accommodation. However, there are many disappointed people in the metropolitan area and in regional cities who have been waiting for many years for a Housing Trust house, and they dislike the idea that some of the allocation for housing will be spent at Red Cliff Point. This means that the Housing Trust programme in other areas is getting further behind, with little hope of immediate improvement. Over the years the Housing Trust's problem has grown, and it would be fair to say that it has grown considerably more under the Labor Government, as a result of the Government's Socialist policies and the tendency towards a welfare State. Therefore, this Government will have to bear the responsibility.

Although the maximum housing loan has been increased from \$12 500 to \$15 000, it will be of little more benefit than was the previous increase, because the cost of building a house has increased by considerably more than that amount in the past year. Last year the State Bank advanced \$2 867 000 to producers, and this year the allocation is being decreased by about \$400 000 to \$2 450 000. Of last year's allocation of \$2 867 000, \$2 850 000 was from State Loan funds and just \$17 000 was from semi-government borrowings. This year \$2 450 000 is from State Loan funds (about \$400 000 less than last year) but \$500 000 is expected from semi-government borrowings; as we received only \$17 000 from that source last year, I cannot comprehend how we will receive \$500 000 this year.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Any borrowing by a semi-government authority of \$500 000 or less does not result in our losing out on our overall borrowing authority from the Commonwealth. It is not subject to the Financial Agreement.

Mr. BLACKER: I appreciate the Minister's explanation. Regarding roads and bridges, the allocation by the State Government has been reduced to \$1 000 000. The remaining work on the Eyre Highway will be financed under the proposed National Highways Bill of the Commonwealth Parliament. I raise this point because the figures for roads and bridges have decreased in comparison with last year's figures, so there is an effect on the overall figure.

Several matters in this programme require detailed debate, and doubtless they will be raised in the debate on the lines. The amount of increase allocated does not break even with the inflationary trend and there will be a tightening of the belt by all sections of the community. We all should accept that, and I think most people are willing to accept it.

Whilst first reports of these Loan Estimates were that they were not much different from those submitted last year, I consider that they show a shift of responsibility from the State Government to the Commonwealth Government, particularly in education and national highways, and this is contrary to what the people have been told. The whole economy of the State requires that additional finance be available merely to break even.

As I said in the House last week, the Public Health Department estimated that it would require an increase in funds of about 30 per cent to break even and maintain the standards that it had maintained last year. Probably, we could not expect that amount of increase to be made available, and I should not think that those in that department expected it either. The department, like all other departments, has had to tighten its belt. The Governor's Speech refers to the escalation of costs, as follows:

Unfortunately, the rapid escalation in building costs has somewhat diminished the impact of increased expenditure on buildings, and in that area the Schools Commission funds that have been made available have done nothing more than offset some of the effects of inflation.

That statement sums up the trend through the economy at present. Regardless of what funds any Government department obtains, the money will do little to solve the problems facing the department. I wholeheartedly agree with many issues that other Opposition members have mentioned and I will speak further on the lines, which deal with many matters affecting my district, particularly the rural areas. I refer particularly to harbor accommodation, waterworks, and sewers.

Mr. GUNN (Eyre): This second reading explanation shows the people of this State that a Labor Government would prefer to spend money on a so-called grand scheme

at Monarto rather than provide funds for child-care centres. We have a Government and a Minister who, because of the policies of the Australian Government, would leave little children in the streets and gutters while the mothers went to work. That is the type of Government we have in this State. It kowtows to the Australian Government, which wants to strangle all the States. One can only conclude that the document is one of deceit, similar to the statement the Prime Minister delivered in 1972. Shallow and inconsistent, it fails to care for the people of this State.

Mr. Keneally: And it's incredibly good, as well.

Mr. GUNN: The member for Stuart makes snide interjections but rarely speaks in this House, because he and other members opposite know that they cannot justify this kind of document. Where are the other Government members this evening? They are too ashamed to be in the Chamber; they are not game to hold their heads up.

Mr. Keneally: Why should we make fools of ourselves merely because you're making a fool of yourself?

Mr. GUNN: The honourable member may make snide interjections, but I ask him to let the people decide whether we are making fools of ourselves. Are members opposite game to face the electors? Let the member for Stuart justify the provisions made in this document. Those provisions do not even keep pace with the present rate of inflation. The increase in capital expenditure in this State is about 14 per cent and inflation is running at about 17 per cent. The Treasurer's explanation states:

The balance of \$4 900 000 is being held in reserve at this stage towards the financing of the Redcliff works in a way yet to be determined.

What does "yet to be determined" mean? The Treasurer has the gall to tell the House that he will introduce an indenture Bill, but I want to go on record as saying that I will not support the indenture Bill at this stage.

Mr. Payne: The old rider "at this stage" is there.

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

Mr. GUNN: Proper environmental studies have not been carried out in regard to the project, and one has only to look at this second reading explanation to see how shallow is the Government. The Government has decided on the Red Cliff Point site and will go ahead, regardless of whether that destroys all the fisheries in the gulf. The Government is not concerned about the prawn industry. It says, "The people engaged in that industry are in private enterprise and they would not support this Government." Members opposite are not concerned about an export industry which employs many people and in which large amounts of private development capital have been invested.

Mr. Keneally: And they're going broke, I suspect!

Mr. GUNN: That is the kind of interjection one gets from a kind of person like the member for Stuart. He has no time for anyone who will risk private capital, show enterprise, and develop important industry such as the processing operations at Port Lincoln and operations on other parts of the coast. The introduction to a report on the plant states:

Some 2½ years ago the site at Red Cliff in South Australia was nominated by the South Australian Government as a suitable location for a petro-chemical plant.

The Government decided, before the matter had been considered, that it would build the plant. Nothing has been done yet, and I ask when this House will receive the proper documents as to the position in the gulf if the plant is built there. Members should have the information now so that they and the people concerned can study it. The member

for Stuart ought to be ashamed for not protesting in this House about the Government's failure to inform the people and industries that will be affected.

Mr. Keneally: You seem much more concerned than the people who live in the area. You're ranting and raving, and you live about 700 or 800 miles away.

Dr. Eastick: Mr. Reilly knows what's going on.

Mr. Mathwin: Mr. Keneally doesn't know.

Mr. GUNN: I am fully aware of the position.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: An honourable member must not be referred to by name. He must be referred to as an honourable member of this House, and I remind the honourable member for Glenelg of that.

Mr. GUNN: The member for Stuart would say that this matter did not affect my district. However, many people who fish in the gulf live in my district. The member for Stuart adopts the attitude that those people do not matter and that they do not count. Paragraph 6 of the Redcliff Petro-chemical Development Plan for Environmental Study, states:

A description of the present commercial prawn and fishing industry in the upper part of the gulf should be made.

It is all very well for the Minister and other Government members to laugh, but I have quoted what is in the department's report. However, we have received no information, although the report suggests that other investigations should be made. Has the Fisheries Department made any investigations and have outside experts been called in to ascertain the effects this industry will have on fishing?

Mr. Keneally: Yes.

Mr. GUNN: Well, where are the reports? Obviously, the honourable member has seen the reports, but members of the public and Opposition members have not had the chance to see them. If that is true, what type of Government is it that would discriminate against Opposition members? Is that a Government that can be proud of itself, when it is to spend millions of dollars that belong to the people of this State? We should be equal in this place, and the Government must account for its actions because there will be much opposition to the indenture Bill when it is introduced into this Parliament unless the Government accepts its responsibilities. Opposition members would be completely irresponsible if they did not voice a strong protest about the failure of this Government to inform the people of this State properly. I am pleased that the ex-junior Minister has now returned to the Chamber. Perhaps he could say what protection he and his department have been given and what effects this large industrial complex will have on Spencer Gulf. I refer now to another extravaganza in which this Government is engaged but about which it has not informed the public regarding certain aspects—the Monarto development plan.

Mr. Langley: Is that in your district?

Mr. GUNN: The effects of Monarto will be felt throughout the State, because money spent there will not be available in other parts of the State. Many people in my district are crying out for Housing Trust houses, but millions of dollars is to be spent at Monarto.

Mr. Langley: Who caused the housing crisis?

Mr. GUNN: It has been caused by the policies of the Labor Government. Young couples cannot afford to buy houses because of the high interest rate. Is the member for Unley proud of that fact? He should be ashamed of himself. The Labor Party had pledged to maintain low interest rates, but today we have the highest interest rates in the history of this country.

Mr. Langley: Haven't wages risen too?

Mr. GUNN: Let the honourable member listen to what the Leader of his Party said in March, 1973: "This is a State in which everyone can afford to buy good housing." We know what is happening today, when people cannot afford houses. This Government agreed to a proposition to house people in rental accommodation so that all through their working lives they would pay rent and never have equity in the property. That is a situation that Opposition members will never tolerate. The condition that has been attached by the member's Commonwealth colleagues to the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement is that 70 per cent of the funds must be spent on rental accommodation. I do not oppose welfare housing but, if we want to protect and encourage the growth of families in this community, we should encourage them to own their own houses.

Mr. Payne: What's the private sector doing about it?

Mr. Langley: How much is it charging?

Mr. GUNN: Socialist members opposite may concentrate their vicious attacks on the private housing sector, but we are aware that housing approvals are down by 33 per cent this year. Are members opposite proud of that fact?

Mr. Langley: Who did that?

Mr. GUNN: The Commonwealth Labor Party, and the honourable member knows it. The development of Monarto will deny people in my district, and in the District of Flinders, Housing Trust accommodation that is badly needed.

Mr. Keneally: Come off it! Where is the biggest need for housing? It is in the areas represented by Labor members, and the demand you have would be infinitesimal compared to the demands in our districts.

Mr. GUNN: From what Government members have said, there seem to be two distinct groups of people in the community. If a person lives in an outlying country area, he should be discriminated against because he has no voice: he should not be allowed to have a trust house. What a despicable attitude! A critical shortage of trust accommodation exists in every country town. The member for Stuart should ask the Minister of Education how difficult it is to find houses for teachers in country areas. Obviously, the honourable member does not know and is not willing to check his facts.

Mr. Keneally: About 60 per cent of people in my district live in trust houses, yet you talk to me about Housing Trust houses!

Mr. Mathwin: Do you live in a trust house?

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not Question Time and no member has the right to ask questions at this stage. Like it or not, the floor belongs to the honourable member for Eyre.

Mr. GUNN: Thank you very much, Sir. Obviously, Government members do not like what I am saying. I am not daunted, however, and I will continue. Members opposite cannot get away from facts which have been presented to them and which are having such a detrimental effect on people in this State.

Mr. Payne: Eric Butler would be proud of the way you are going on.

Mr. GUNN: That is a disgraceful and untruthful allegation to make across the Chamber. The honourable member is trying to malign me by connecting me with an extreme political organization. I speak from my heart on behalf of people who do not have houses and will not be able to have houses because of existing policies. Only when there is a Liberal and Country Party in Government in Canberra and in South Australia, with a sensible policy to control inflation and reduce interest rates, will the little people in the com-

munity be able to own their own houses once again. We know members opposite want to put into operation what Mr. Dedman suggested many years ago. They want to discourage people from owning their own houses, because once people own their own houses they have a stake in the community and they will question the Socialist philosophy.

Let us look at Monarto, that great development to take place so close to Adelaide that it will be only a dormitory city. It is not the proper decentralization we were told it would be. The Treasurer has made a mockery of the word. The best form of decentralization is helping local industry, not crippling them, as Socialist Governments have done. The policy should be to back up the supporting industries in country areas. The sum of \$1 500 000 is mentioned in connection with Monarto. Let us just analyse the situation. Recently, by a stroke of luck, I was fortunate enough to come across a document entitled *Murray New Town Site Selection*, a preliminary soil and land form survey.

Mr. Payne: Was that the first time you had ever been in the library? You were lucky to come across it.

Mr. GUNN: I am pleased the honourable member made that comment, because it proves he is not aware of the facts. This document was not in the library when I asked for it. When I was inquiring in another part of the city a person there had a copy. I went to the Agriculture Department and asked for a copy of the report, but it was not available at the extension desk and there was not a copy in the departmental library. I was told it was hard to come by, but I believe it had been removed deliberately because the information contained in it was so damaging to the argument put forward by the Government. In the summary of recommendations, over half the areas at Monarto have been considered by the people making the report to be unsuitable. As an example, I refer to No. 6, the silo unit, with an area of 3 310 hectares. The opinion is given as "unfavourable" and the limitations include dunes subject to wind erosion and very restricted drainage as indicated by gilgais. One could go through this document and find that more than half the land to comprise this town is unsuitable, yet the report has not been made available to members of this House. That is another example of the Government's trying to keep proper information from members.

The very worst aspect of the whole proposal is that the Government intends to conscript members of the Public Service and force them to go to Monarto against their will. We have had brought to our attention in recent times statements by the Minister of Agriculture that the Callaghan report justifies the transfer of the Agriculture Department to Monarto. That has been proved more than once to be a completely untruthful statement. The Minister did not even know what was in a report that he had commissioned, yet he was talking such utter nonsense as we have become accustomed to hearing from him. This report contains no recommendation about locating the headquarters of the Agriculture Department at Monarto. It does state that Monarto could be one of the regions, and I support the concept of having the Agriculture Department offices dispersed around the State, but it is necessary for this most important department to have its headquarters in Adelaide. I am most disappointed that there is nothing in these Estimates to suggest that money is being set aside to locate the Agriculture Department in a new and suitable building, because the building in which it is at present housed is a disgrace to this Government.

An examination of the building reveals that the bare bricks, which have been painted, are fretting. There is no proper heating or air-conditioning, and the building is a rabbit warren. It is a disgrace that a department so important to the protection of agriculture, one of the most important industries in the State, should be housed in such a deplorable location. The Government should purchase a suitable property on South Terrace, close to the premises of the United Farmers and Graziers of South Australia Incorporated, where the Australian Wheat Board, the Australian Barley Board, and other organizations associated with agriculture are located, so that people seeking information from the Agriculture Department can have easy access to it. Whatever the Socialists opposite think about the Agriculture Department, it plays a significant part in the development of agriculture and of our export economy and the maintenance of stable employment in this State. Like other members, I have been concerned about the drastic effects of inflation on the building industry.

Mr. Langley: You know something about this!

Mr. GUNN: It is all very well for the member for Unley to come in with such remarks. Recently I led a deputation from the District Council of Elliston, consisting mostly of members of the hospital board which is building a new hospital at Elliston. Because of inflation, the building costs have increased at about 4 per cent a month and the board is being placed in the situation where, the foundations having been poured and the bricks having been delivered, it is not sure of its ability to finance the project. This situation applies not only to the Elliston Hospital, of course. The architects were those who decorated the office of the Premier, so members cannot say they are a shonky organization: they are responsible people. The original building contract was for \$369 837, but it is estimated that the total cost by July, 1975, will be between \$575 000 and \$580 000. That organization cannot cope with such an increase. The Minister has said that the State Government cannot do so. He has suggested we should go to the Commonwealth Government, but I shall quote from the transcript of the deputation. The Minister of Health said:

All I can suggest is that you go away and think where you might be able to get some more money. We would put up your case but could not guarantee what the Australian Government will do with their money or whether they will accept our priorities.

The people of South Australia were told by the Treasurer, the very gentleman who introduced this Bill, to vote for the Australian Labor Party, yet one of his own Ministers does not know what is its programme. One of the most important things is to provide for the sick, the bereaved, and the aged. There is to be no more money from the State Government. Are these buildings to stop? The Minister suggested that the deputation should get more money, and the members of the board told him they would have to borrow \$80 000. They had been around the district and extracted as much money as possible from the local residents. This is not the only hospital in this situation.

Mr. Langley: Is there a shortage of skilled labour?

Mr. GUNN: The building contractor was waiting on the site, but if he has to be put off the final cost will be much more. What will happen to the hospital at Kimba and those in other places around South Australia? What is the situation? The Government has money to spend on other projects, but it is not willing to look after the sick and the needy. It has funds to build a city in a doubtful location but not to look after the people who are living in the already decentralized areas of this State. Is that a situation of which the Government ought to be proud?

Dr. Eastick: It can spend money on *Blue Poles*.

Mr. GUNN: It certainly can. The Treasurer can go overseas and take a great entourage with him, but he cannot even make a report to this House regarding the tangible benefits that will flow to the State as a result of his trip. Despite this, there is no money to build new hospitals for the needy people in country areas who must travel miles for medical attention. I am disappointed in this document because it does not give a true indication of this State's financial situation. In saying that, I do not cast any reflection on the Treasury officers, as they would merely have been carrying out the Government's instructions. The responsibility for this matter lies on the shoulders not of those officers but of the Treasurer. I sincerely hope that when the lines are debated the Treasurer and his colleagues will be in the House ready to give clear and precise answers.

Mr. Langley: Should he be here tonight?

Mr. GUNN: I am the first to admit that the Treasurer is at present in Canberra representing this State, and I do not begrudge him that. I hope he is doing some good. However, judging from the Prime Minister's pronouncements, I think his efforts will be wasted. In Committee I will refer to many other matters.

Mr. RODDA (Victoria): I join with my colleague in stating that this State's finances are in a parlous situation. However, our comments fall on deaf ears. As the member for Eyre said, the total Loan money considered by the Premiers' Conference was about \$990 400 000. The significant cry is that the Australian Government remained firm and would not increase its level of support. What a contrast that is from the position that obtained during the heyday of the term of office of the McMahon Government in Canberra. It is interesting to note that only three or four Government members are at present in the Chamber. This illustrates the Government's lack of interest in this matter. The House is at present examining the State's capital works, and Her Majesty's Opposition is suggesting that the Government ought to be responsible in relation to the disbursement of capital funds at its disposal.

Mr. Payne: Look, Allan, you wouldn't say that the bloke who spoke before you was responsible, would you?

Mr. RODDA: We will not worry about the "bloke". He had some pertinent things to say about some of the matters for which the Government is responsible. When I entered the Chamber—

Mr. Payne: He said one thing.

Mr. RODDA: —he was talking about the shocking conditions under which the Agriculture Department is housed in Gawler Place. As the Treasurer said, South Australia's allocation for capital works from the \$990 400 000, to which I have already referred and which is made available to the States from Loan Account, will be about \$181 185 000. This raises the matter of priorities. On his return from the June Premiers' Conference, our Treasurer made clear that he was disappointed at South Australia's hand-out. However, he went on to say that he would bleed the already pauperized people of South Australia of a further \$20 000 000 to maintain the Government's priorities. The Government, which is in a parlous state, must look at its priorities because, as well meaning as it may be, it will get into bother. The Government has a commission to govern, and it must grapple with the 18 per cent or 20 per cent inflation rate that is obtaining today. The Opposition believes that the family is suffering, and it calls for efficiency to be exercised by the Government in the expenditure of money.

My colleagues have already dealt extensively with the allocation of revenue, and I should like now to say something about the people whom I represent and their interest in

this matter. One of the major matters of interest in my district is that of housing. Last year a meatworks was opened in Naracoorte, and the demand for housing has placed a strain on the town. Only recently the directors of that company told me they wanted 90 houses for their employees. At present, 24 houses are being built in Naracoorte, as well as 21 flats for teachers. However, these are a long way behind schedule. This is, unfortunately, the sad story that applies right across the State. At Keith, five houses have been sitting on their bottoms for five or six weeks, not a blow having been struck on them in that time, even though persons are waiting to occupy them. On last night's *This Day Tonight* programme the McQueery family, which includes four children and which is now living in a caravan while awaiting more permanent accommodation, was given much publicity. This illustrates the position we are in and clearly underlines the unrest that exists in the country and the shortages that have been produced by inflation, strikes and other factors, all of which mount up.

Mr. Langley: You tell us how to overcome them.

Mr. RODDA: We would, first of all, implement the secret ballot.

Mr. Langley: I should have guessed you'd come to that.

Mr. RODDA: I have spoken to the wives of striking men, and many of them are sick and tired of what is happening. This situation is reaching into the rural districts as well as the city, and the Government has a responsibility to do something. The allocation for housing was increased by 17 per cent to \$38 400 000, and those who want houses can only hope that some of this money will be made available for them. Naracoorte requires 150 houses to be built within its boundaries. On top of that is the Redcliff project and the proposed city of Monarto, which will probably take priority over the State's other needs. We will have an opportunity to debate this matter. Regarding schools, here again as I talk to my colleagues I find there is this go-slow policy and the problem of shortages of materials. We are grateful for the Naracoorte North Primary School building and for the completion of the west block at the Naracoorte High School. However, a report I have received from the high school council states:

During July, 1973, building activity commenced on a new boys craft complex and on a new sheltered assembly area.

I visited the school two weeks ago, and it was disappointing to see that the boys craft centre was all but finished, but the contractor had not returned to the project to hang a few doors and to do one or two other jobs. The school is being denied its proper function because these small jobs have not been completed. The Government must be made aware of these situations, which exist throughout the State. The report continues:

The very high rate of staff turnover for various reasons seems to have been stemmed a little if the present list of applications for transfer in 1974 can be taken as an accurate indication.

This situation is also brought to the Government's attention. The report continues:

Private accommodation for both married and unmarried staff has been far from adequate, and promises of new flat accommodation for single teachers from the beginning of 1974 is particularly pleasing and encouraging. It is worth noting that staff applying for transfer this year have not done so through dissatisfaction with the school, but because they feel there is a lack of incentive to remain in the country. Accommodation for single people has been poor, and rents are high, and these and some social

reasons override their professional satisfaction at this school.

The report was written in September, 1973, yet now in August, 1974, these teachers' flats are still not completed. This situation also emphasizes the industrial troubles existing in the State. The report continues:

There is still some dissatisfaction with the number and standard of houses for married teachers.

Mr. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the House.

A quorum having been formed:

Mr. RODDA: I was referring to the standard of houses for married teachers at Naracoorte. The report points out the delay in having the necessary repairs carried out. It also states that oil heaters will be installed in teachers' houses, but the heaters are conspicuous by their absence. The report, which goes on in detail about some of the inadequacies country teachers experience, must be brought to the Minister's notice. This afternoon, when referring to industrial unrest, I referred to the problem of the steel dispute at Port Adelaide.

Mr. Wright: It's insoluble.

Mr. RODDA: It is bad for the State when there is no solution to this problem, and it is extremely bad for the Government to find itself in such a dilemma. Why cannot these people sit around the table and work out in a commonsense way who should load the steel, of which industry generally is badly in need? I cannot for the life of me see why the Waterside Workers Federation and the Transport Works Union, which, I understand, are the two organizations involved in the demarcation dispute, cannot come to some solution for the sake of the State. They have, in effect, raped the steel industry. Everywhere I go I find people who want steel, and this steel is rusting on the wharf. I am not against unions, which I think do a wonderful job for people who work in industry, but they must be responsible. This irresponsibility we see gnawing away at the economy and the well-being of the State is extremely serious.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: You blame the unions for it, do you?

Mr. RODDA: They are responsible for doing the job; they will not let anyone else do the job. We hear talk about peaceful picketing, but I would like the Minister to tell me what peaceful picketing is. I believe that it is only the first stage of an argument. I put to the Government that, if it has its political support from the unions, it behoves the Government to do something about solving these problems that cause so much trouble in the community. There is little use Parliament's voting large sums of capital moneys to do work if it will be delayed through demarcation disputes.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Tell us what we ought to do?

Mr. RODDA: I have told the Minister and his colleagues that we would opt for a secret ballot, and that is not music to the Government's ears.

Mr. Keneally: What if a secret ballot didn't produce the result you wanted?

Mr. RODDA: No-one will listen to a solution, whether a good or bad one.

Mr. Wright: Would you have a secret ballot for companies, too?

Mr. RODDA: I do not see companies—

Mr. Wright: You wouldn't take business out of their hands.

Mr. RODDA: Common sense seems to prevail in companies. It is a sad state of affairs when we see a commodity, which is needed by industry and for the welfare

of the State, sitting on a wharf at Port Adelaide, and it is a poor example of a Party that has the commission to govern the State. In concluding, I leave it to a Government member to tell us what should be done.

Mr. BECKER (Hanson): Being the twelfth man to come in to bat in an 11-man side, I appreciate that everything has just about been dealt with. The Treasurer's explanation has been well covered. A study of the document makes one more aware that South Australia is about to become a satellite of Canberra, and that the Commonwealth Labor Government is placing more control on the States. The increase in expenditure under the Loan Estimates is calculated at almost 18 per cent. Although we shall not know for some time the inflationary trend, we assume that 18 per cent is probably not high enough to cover the present rate of inflation. It is estimated that this could soon be about 20 per cent and, if allowed to continue unchecked, it could be 35 per cent in the next financial year, going as high as about 150 per cent in 1977. These predictions have been made by learned economists, but we know that that sort of situation cannot be allowed to occur. I cannot see any Government allowing that situation to develop. So I consider the increase in expenditure of 18 per cent reasonable in the present circumstances but, if we are to curb inflation, we must take a responsible stand sooner or later; we cannot stop it by the turn of a tap.

We have experienced that in the past so, if we are to control inflation, we must do it gradually over a period of a couple of years. The State Government is faced with the problem that the Commonwealth Government is saying, "Right; the pressure is on us. Therefore you, the States, will also have to try to curb inflation in various areas, and one area is the Loan programme." It is not a very popular area in which to start, and it can cause problems, so the State must reorganize its priorities. As we study this document, we see that an attempt has been made to reorganize the priorities, with some of which I do not agree, but I will deal with them one by one as I come to them. To some degree, a genuine attempt has been made by the State Treasury to look at the whole matter of inflation and do the best it can for the State, because in the long term this is a problem we must face in this State, irrespective of which side of the House we sit on.

We have a problem before us. We must maintain some progress and growth, provide services and facilities for the taxpayers, and at the same time wrestle with the problem that is bugging us—inflation. So I do not agree with everything that has been said in that regard. However, I think there has been a responsible attitude towards it, provided the Treasury will now stick to this document, which estimates there will be a slight deficit, so it is as near as practicable to having a balance. But, if we are to act responsibly, we must this time stick strictly to these Loan Estimates. I believe it can be done. Under the contracting system, the attitude to be adopted is that we can work within the Loan Estimates. The Treasurer states:

For other Government buildings the excess above estimated payments was \$3 318 000. This was due in part to faster progress than was envisaged in the provisions included in the Loan Estimates and partly to increasing price levels.

So the real test is in the system of calling for tenders and making sure the departments can operate within them. It is interesting to note certain figures that have been supplied for the last financial year. Under the Highways Department, there was a short-fall of some \$2 600 000; the

Railways Department had a short-fall of \$1 900 000, and the Engineering and Water Supply Department a short-fall of \$3 000 000, making a total short-fall of \$7 600 000. It is disappointing to note that part of the short-fall in the Highways Department was \$2 000 000 less spent on the Eyre Highway. We hoped that that programme would have proceeded as quickly as possible.

This has helped the Government shift its priorities. It was also fortunate that it received that additional \$3 900 000 in repayments. It went for a deficit of \$4 000 000 compared with a surplus of about \$2 900 000. Overall, this allowed the shifting of priorities to two main areas, one being the Public Buildings Department, which exceeded the estimates by some \$7 000 000, partly explained by the cost increase and the rapid progress made, but the bulk of this increase in the transfer of priorities was some \$10 600 000 under the line "Other capital advances and provisions". Most of that was lent to the South Australian Land Commission, and \$2 000 000 to the Monarto Development Commission. The Municipal Tramways Trust also obtained an additional \$4 000 000 and, as has been explained, that was partly for the takeover of the private bus operators, which was not contemplated when the previous Loan Estimates were presented.

The Commonwealth Government was a little slow in honouring certain promises it had made to the State, so new lines had to be created. Here again, the Commonwealth Government must honour its agreements to the States and must play its part in seeing that, if it promises funds to the States, it does not embarrass them by holding up payment of the money. It appears that the money is not forthcoming to this State, on occasions, as quickly as promised. That can, of course, put tremendous pressure on the State, which also must provide money and, if it is slow in providing that money or cannot obtain a contract, then the whole system places even greater pressure on the State. The Treasurer also states:

This year, I am very concerned as to whether or not the funds may be available from banks, insurance companies and other traditional lenders in the volume necessary for semi-government borrowing programmes to be filled.

That point needs enlarging. I would join the Treasurer in saying there is a great problem here. It is one thing to authorize the raising of such funds, and we have seen that the Housing Trust and the Electricity Trust will have large borrowing programmes in the next 12 months; but it is another thing to raise the money and have the appropriate institutions underwrite these loans. That will depend, of course, on the interest rate. Here, we return to tackling the inflationary situation, and we are mindful of the current rates of interest, the highest ever in the history of this country.

If the semi-government bodies are to obtain the finance they need, they must compete on the open market at the relevant rates of interest, and it will be difficult within the State to obtain the volume of money required. The doubt is whether the funds can be obtained in other States or whether they will have to be obtained overseas. It is becoming more costly for the State to fund the Loan programme; the discounts, and so forth, in the last financial year increased by almost \$200 000. I do not know what would happen if these funds could not be obtained. I do not know whether the money could be obtained from overseas.

In connection with the allocations to the South Australian Housing Trust and the State Bank, I am disappointed that, for the second year in succession, the building societies have not received an allocation. I realize that some

members may criticize the interest rates charged by building societies but, if the State Government is not willing to put funds into building societies, they have to obtain funds on the open market. It is a pity that that is necessary, and it is a pity that the Government could not make money available to the building societies in an attempt to check the increase in interest rates.

The State Bank is to receive its usual allocation of \$2 000 000 to assist it to expand its activities. The time has come when we must look at the State Bank's operations. It must be many years since the State Bank opened a new branch. We will be looking at the bank's operations again when we consider the Revenue Account, because 50 per cent of the bank's profits are used to assist the revenues of the State. The State Government should consider making the bank more competitive, with a view to increasing profits. The State Bank has not directly extended its activities into the hire-purchase field; capital would be needed for this purpose, but it would result in the bank's returning additional profits to the State Treasury.

The allocation to the South Australian Housing Trust will assist it in connection with the construction of factories. In 1974-75 the trust will have available \$7 000 000 of circulating funds and \$5 800 000 of semi-government borrowing to supplement the special funds under the new agreement. The allocation of funds must keep pace with the growth of industry in this State, but it is fruitless to encourage new industry to the State if we are unable to provide housing accommodation. An attempt is being made to do something at Red Cliff Point, but there are many light industrial districts on the fringe of the metropolitan area that desperately need more housing accommodation. There ought to be an arrangement whereby we encourage decentralization of industry while at the same time we insist that all employees be housed. We should offer assistance in this respect.

The allocation of \$450 000 to the south-western suburbs drainage scheme would be almost the final allocation. The bulk of the money will be for drain works, \$180 000 being required to complete the widening and deepening of the Patawalonga Basin, which has almost been completed. A programme of beautification has started. So, after many years of difficulties, the residents of the area will now have a first-class recreational area where children will be able to sail boats and paddle canoes in complete safety. It will be one of the best recreational areas of its type in the metropolitan area.

A further allocation of \$1 650 000 is proposed for continuing work on the major trunk water main from Darlington to Port Adelaide and for a large capacity tank at Seacliff. For many years people at Glenelg North, Novar Gardens and West Beach have complained of poor water pressure in the summer months. Consequently, one can understand why those people will not be happy when they see within the next few weeks that their water rates have been increased by between 30 per cent and 60 per cent. In the summer they are lucky to have one tap at half pressure. I will support anything that can be done to expedite this situation. We are waiting for the drain to be completed so that further work can be done to improve Military Road.

The sum of \$450 000 is allocated for the reconstruction of sewers in the south-western suburbs. Part of the work has already been undertaken in the Glenelg area, replacing older sewers. If the Rundle Street mall project goes ahead, a new sewer for the street will cost \$335 000; it will replace the present sewer, built in 1882, which has one or two minor fractures. I cannot see any provision for a new

sewer in the Loan programme; perhaps it comes under a special line. It is certainly better to install a new sewer when the mall is constructed than to do it later. I am pleased to see the provision for new classrooms, but no mention is made of schools in my district, especially Camden and Plympton Primary Schools. What is meant by the term "Demac"?

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It is a form of construction that is similar to Samcon.

Mr. BECKER: I will be seeking from the Minister of Education assurances that provision for these buildings is made in the Estimates this year. I shall also seek an assurance that we will get the two Demac buildings that were promised for West Beach at the beginning of June this year and, I understand another two that should have been provided before the beginning of the next school year. If there is one school where the number of pupils has increased remarkably, it is the one at West Beach. There are more than 600 children there now, and I hope that adequate accommodation will be provided for them.

I am surprised that \$1 250 000 has been proposed for the redevelopment of Parliament House, having regard to the fact that \$1 000 000 has been spent. One wonders where that \$1 000 000 all went. Not much can be seen on the second floor, let alone in the basement, and I hope that the priorities for hospitals and schools will not suffer from a continuance of the works programme in Parliament House. I am sorry that the allocation for tourism, recreation and sport could not be larger. However, realizing the position that the Treasurer faces, we will have to pursue the matter to ensure that areas are set aside in new suburbs in the metropolitan area to develop first-class recreation areas. The best way in which to deal with the Loan Estimates is in the debate on the lines, and I support the second reading.

Mr. McANANEY (Heysen): Before I rose to speak, my illustrious Chairman of the Public Works Committee tried to divert my attention, because he knew that I would tell a good story. He knows that the committee has done an excellent job in the past year.

Mr. Mathwin: What about—

Mr. McANANEY: I think the member for Glenelg got me involved in a matter regarding a school building. On occasions the Education Department has submitted school proposals despite a declining number of pupils at the school and, when action has been confirmed, the number at the school has decreased even further. I think it is good that we have a Public Works Committee to correct the mistakes made in the department. However, I am opposed to the Education Department moving wooden buildings from certain schools to schools which are expanding and at which the conditions are worse. I think that the Education Department has improved considerably during the period in which I have been a member of the Public Works Committee. However, after being on the committee for several years, I cannot understand how the priorities are determined in relation to the schools that are to be replaced.

Mr. Mathwin: Hear, hear!

Mr. McANANEY: The honourable member proves the point that I was making about schools with a declining population being replaced, when other schools with an increasing number of pupils were being provided with wooden buildings. Surely, the modern type of classroom should be provided in these places, rather than demolishing a school where accommodation is adequate. At the school which I think the member for Glenelg has in mind, we went to a large room which, although it contained surplus furniture from the library, had ample space in it for two

ancillary staff, yet those staff members were sitting in an enclosed storeroom.

Certainly conditions at that school were better than at some other schools, but there was no need for the staff to be suffering from claustrophobia, because accommodation was available elsewhere. We get many cases of money being spent on painting wooden buildings or putting down new pavement and then the school being replaced. About three years ago I went to a technical college in connection with an application for an extension. The members of the committee arrived early and we were invited to have a cup of tea in the canteen. We were told that the canteen had not been too good until recently, when it had been extended. Then, when we looked at the building, we found that the extension was to be demolished. The Education Department is now adopting a master plan for its schools, but human errors will occur, and we must have the Public Works Committee and the Public Accounts Committee so that they can correct those errors.

Several times last year, in this inflationary period, our "Mr. Chamberlain" Treasurer did not put into practice the theories about which he claimed to be an expert. When there were boom conditions in South Australia, he spent Loan funds and reduced these funds to a low level. He was competing in the building and other industries, and this forced up costs. Now, because of the deteriorating employment position, he cannot say that he will engage an army of men and spend the money that he should have accumulated in a bad period. However, that would not happen if we had a good Treasurer. Sir Thomas Playford always had \$1 000 000 or \$2 000 000 up his sleeve so that he could spend it when the occasion arose.

The Hon. D. H. McKee: Where did he get it?

Mr. McANANEY: We had good Commonwealth Liberal Governments, which looked after South Australia better than the present Commonwealth Government has done. We in South Australia received a far better percentage than the other States, except Tasmania and Western Australia. On a population basis, we always received more money than did the other States. About six years ago South Australia was receiving 40 per cent or 50 per cent more than it was entitled to receive on a population basis for roads, but this year we will get less per capita than our percentage of population entitles us to get. In addition, we have to put in an 85 per cent matching grant instead of the 59 per cent grant that applied in the past. Apart from this, the Commonwealth Government will stipulate how this money will be spent. It is now the middle of August, but the South Australian Government does not know what it will receive, and it will then have to ask Canberra on what items the money can be spent.

The Government has stated that if a council is in difficulties it will help, but any council that is in difficulties now must have been badly managed. The Minister has stated that councils with a large overdraft will receive help. Why in the name of goodness should a council have an overdraft at this time? It is under an obligation to be in credit at one stage of the year, and this is the time it should be in credit. Those councils that have badly managed their works programmes will be helped, and this is an unfortunate situation. Apparently, councils who have been able to manage their affairs well will not be given assistance. The Government has drawn up ways in which the bookkeeping and accounting of councils can be improved, and has pointed out to councils how to budget their affairs. How can a council budget properly when the State Government does not know without asking Canberra what its financial position will be this year?

Surely local people know what their area needs. The Minister of Transport said today that the Government would make up losses made by the Railways Department. Who constitutes the Government? The Government represents the taxpayers of South Australia and Australia, and the money is raised in South Australia by the Commonwealth Government, which is now telling the State Government how it should be spent. Who assesses these matters?

I have not had much recent experience of Canberra, but I visited that city many times in the early 1950's and, when I spoke to public servants, I thought I had been talking to someone from China, because these people knew little about what was happening in this country. However, this is where decisions are now to be made. If one visits a Commonwealth health or hospital department in Adelaide, one is told that the information has to come from Canberra, because very little latitude is allowed at the Deputy Commissioner or Director level in South Australia. The "Chamberlain" Treasurer of this State has met every crisis that has arisen by giving in to people. Apparently, he says, "I am going to have peace in my time", and we know how Mr. Chamberlain's attitude was received. One bright spot in this morning's *Advertiser* was a report about a union that wanted to dictate who should be employed in the fertilizer industry: this dispute had caused great cost to the State and to individuals, but eventually the management had some say in what it did, and the dispute has been settled.

No-one wants unemployment, but five minutes ago I heard a half-baked economist on the Frost show advocating that we should have at least 3 per cent unemployment in Australia in order to cure inflation. I was horrified by this statement. If people do not destroy their opportunities, there is no need for unemployment in Australia now. Also, there is no need for a 35-hour week, either. Our young people want houses, and the only way to get them is for everyone to be willing to work and build those houses. We will have a larger amount allocated to build houses this year, but it will build fewer houses because people are not willing to work. It seems there is no incentive for them to work, but union representatives on the Government side have boasted that we have achieved better conditions for working people. I consider about 99 per cent of people under 65 years of age in Australia are workers, because they work, irrespective of whether they are employers or employees. The standard of living in this State will depend on the willingness of employers and employees to work. I know our Communist friend on the Government back-bench—

Mr. Crimes: You mean Socialist.

Mr. McANANEY: What is the difference between Communist, Fascist and Socialist? It means a group wanting to control other people, and to dictate to other people what they should do. We will spend much more money this year for a smaller return. Despite what the Treasurer has said about finance and what one should do to avoid ups and downs, he has to consider a situation in which the cupboard is bare, although the Government should have had reserves to be used to alleviate some of the inevitable unemployment. A Dorothy Dix question was asked of the Minister of Transport today concerning the Railways Department. Undoubtedly, its revenue has increased because of the bountiful wheat and grain harvest and the cartage of superphosphate. The Minister overlooked the fact that the cost of running the railways services had increased by more than \$6 000 000, so that by the end of May the department was \$3 000 000 worse off than it was last year. That amount is the equivalent to the cost of

about four primary schools or 1½ high schools, and that is what we are missing when we cannot operate our railways efficiently and economically.

Mr. Crimes: What about private profits?

Mr. McANANEY: If the honourable member would study statistics, he would see that private companies in Australia today are paying less in dividends and have a smaller margin of profit on capital than the Labor Government is paying in interest on what it has borrowed. The Labor Government has encouraged high profits by inducing artificial shortages and introducing conditions in which profits can be made. The honourable member should hang his head in shame at the high interest rates and the profits people who have money are making through those high interest rates, while young people who want to buy houses are suffering. The honourable member is a Socialist, and we have a Socialist Government. This is what is happening, but still he laughs.

The high interest rates occurred because, when we had a balanced economy, the Commonwealth Government spent \$500 000 000 and then, by March of this year, \$1 500 000 000 more, and there was so much money in circulation that interest rates had to be increased to try to attract savings. That is what has caused the situation. The inequality of wages and dissatisfaction with awards is entirely due to that basic cause. The situation will remain until we get back to basic causes and until our economists examine the situation. They should not be like the clown who was on television tonight.

Mr. Crimes: Who was that?

Mr. McANANEY: I do not know his name, but I imagine he is employed by the Commonwealth Government, because that is the attitude of that Government. It is introducing restrictions on credit, which is a hit and miss method, and it has no idea where it is going. Dr. Cairns has made some of the soundest statements on economics that have been made during the past year. In one way he talks sensibly, but he is a member of a Government that has 10 different opinions, all of which are impracticable. Like the member for Spence, he is quite impracticable in his attitude.

I said last week that the Housing Trust had reached stagnation point and should be livened up to some extent. Last year in the debate on the Loan Estimates I said that only 20 houses were being constructed in Mt. Barker, and I doubt whether they have all been completed yet. Yesterday, I was pleased to see that more than 30 houses were being constructed, but not more than six or eight people were working on them. Those houses involve probably \$300 000, and completion should be speeded up so that a return on the money can be obtained. The trust is not showing the drive and initiative that is necessary to build more houses. I have not seen the Jennings programme, but the company is building houses without a cost-plus clause in the contract, so I am sure the houses are finished in a reasonable time.

Mr. Evans: The fixed price is quite high.

Mr. McANANEY: That is so, but the Housing Trust houses are not cheap now, and the people who will live in them are having to pay more because of the delay in completion. The Loan Estimates will involve much more borrowing, and the State will pay out increased sums in interest while achieving physically less during this year than in the past year. In the past four or five years we have had a bonanza in funds allocated to South Australia. The increase has been more than 20 per cent each year, but the gross national product is not increasing at the same rate. We cannot go on with the present rate of increase in money being made available by the Commonwealth, or

ultimately we will have a preponderance of people working for the Government. I know the member for Spence will be pleased about that, but the general population will not be; we will not be getting a return for the money taken away from us and someone else will be making the decisions. It was bad enough when the decision was made at the local government level, but when it is to be made in Canberra I fear for the future of the young people. They want more and more to do their own thing, and I am sure ultimately they will get fed up with people taking more and more of their wages and getting them into a situation where they cannot afford a house. Then the Government will say, "We will help you build a house and provide services for you." I do not think young people will stand for it.

Mr. Crimes: What do you think they will do?

Mr. McANANEY: I think they want a lead regarding the basic principle of people having to pay for what they get. We should not help able-bodied people and give them services paid for by other able-bodied people. We must get back to a proper standard of determining what each person in the community should do, instead of the situation we have now where, if one group screams loudly enough, it gets a hand-out. Therefore, the standard of living of a group is determined by someone in Adelaide or Canberra.

If we travel to Melbourne on the train, the Government pays half of what it costs. If we travel by private bus, we pay what it costs. If we travel by air, the Commonwealth Government is subsidizing airport facilities, but, as I do not know by how much it has increased its charges, I do not know how much it subsidizes air travel. There is no competition, and this is bad. The Socialist attitude of the member for Spence is fear that someone will make a profit. A person who works hard should make a profit. I have been in private industry all my life, and I remember one occasion when I was on my way home after 18 hours of work. I came across a dead sheep in the paddock at 10.30 p.m. I was not going to skin it for 20c, and then I remembered that, if I did that and sent it away, someone else would make \$1 out of it. However, I did that work, because someone would get some benefit from it.

Mr. Max Brown: You are breaking my heart!

Mr. McANANEY: The honourable member cannot appreciate this attitude. I think most trade union secretaries think they have been doing a good job but, when they look back, what have they achieved? They have not got any bigger percentage of the G.N.P. than obtained 30 years ago. People are working less and less and there are fewer houses in which people can live. At present, everyone is unhappy about and dissatisfied with what they are getting. They are living an artificial existence, and people 1 000 miles away are to determine what one's share of the cake is to be. Surely that is not right and something better than that should obtain.

Local Government is being deluded into thinking that it is to receive hand-outs from Canberra. However, the only hand-outs will go to the areas around the city. The only way in which to help local government is to give it a share of the petrol tax and rate all Government properties and national parks within council areas. Then, councils will be able to stand on their own feet and determine what money will be spent in their areas for the benefit of the people there. This is a poor document, as less work will be done by the Government this year than was done last year. I fear for the future, unless some good, sound common sense prevails among those who run the economy instead of the artificial attitude that prevails among those who are trying to run it at present.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

First schedule.

State Bank, \$4 600 000.

Dr. EASTICK (Leader of the Opposition): For advances to the State Bank, the sum of \$2 000 000 is provided. It is apparent that this is insignificant and will be of no advantage to house building in this State. Indeed, it is exactly the same as last year's allocation, despite an inflation rate of about 40 per cent in the building industry. In allocating only \$2 000 000, the Government is saying to the State Bank, and to the people, in effect, that it will be unable to provide the same type of funding for building as it has provided in the past. Has the Government decided to reduce the bank's opportunities to participate in this field, or is it expected that increased funds will be made available to the bank for this purpose?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): I shall have the matter checked. I ask that progress be reported.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION BILLS

The Legislative Council intimated its concurrence in the appointment of the committee and notified the selection of its representatives.

FIRE BRIGADES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

EGG INDUSTRY STABILIZATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.39 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, August 14, at 2 p.m.