

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

Thursday, September 12, 1974

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

**ASSENT TO BILLS**

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

Fire Brigades Act Amendment,  
Housing Loans Redemption Fund Act Amendment,  
Mental Health Act Amendment,  
Public Purposes Loan,  
Transplantation of Human Tissue.

**PETITION: LIVE HARE COURSING**

Mr. McANANEY presented a petition signed by 49 persons stating that live hare coursing was not a cruel sport, and praying that the House of Assembly would not pass legislation to ban it.

Petition received and read.

**PETITION: ANDAMOOKA CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY**

Mr. GUNN presented a petition signed by 114 residents of Andamooka expressing concern at the imminent failure of the Andamooka Co-operative Society Limited and the loss of facilities provided to the town of Andamooka, and requesting that the Government provide immediate financial assistance that would ensure that these facilities would be continued.

Petition received.

**PETITION: HILLS ROADS**

Mr. EVANS presented a petition signed by 62 persons stating that the development of main roads connecting the Mitcham Hills area with Crafers would be detrimental to the quality of life in these areas, and praying that the House of Assembly would bring to the notice of the Minister of Transport the stupidity of destroying this quality of life by constructing major roads in these areas.

Petition received.

**PETITIONS: SPEED LIMIT**

Mr. MATHWIN presented a petition signed by 53 persons, stating that because of conversion to metrics the speed limit of 30 kilometres an hour past school omnibuses and schools was too high and presented an increased threat to the safety of schoolchildren, and praying that the House of Assembly would support legislation to amend the Road Traffic Act to reduce the speed limit to 25 km/h.

Mr. ALLEN presented a similar petition signed by 67 persons.

Petitions received.

**PETITION: SODOMY**

Dr. EASTICK presented a petition signed by 25 persons objecting to the introduction of legislation to legalise sodomy between consenting adults until such time as Parliament had a clear mandate from the people by way of a referendum (to be held at the next periodic South Australian election) to pass such legislation.

Petition received.

**QUESTIONS****SHEEP EXPORTS**

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Premier say whether South Australia will be represented at a conference which is reported to have been called for next Monday by the Commonwealth Minister for Agriculture and at which

representatives of trade unions concerned about the shipment of live sheep from Australia will be present to discuss the subject? It should be recognised that South Australia, Western Australia and the western districts of Victoria are the areas most affected by the essential export of heavyweight sheep to Iran and other countries. I believe it is extremely important that, at this conference, which will deal with a matter of great economic interest to South Australia, this State be represented by a senior officer, who is able to state the Government's policy in relation to this vital subject. So, in asking the question I am seeking an assurance not only that South Australia will be represented but also that our representative will be able to state clearly to the meeting, to Senator Wriedt and to all others attending, this Government's firm policy on this most vital agricultural issue.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The answer is "Yes".

Mr. GUNN: Can the Premier state clearly what is the Government's policy on the export of live heavyweight wethers to the Persian Gulf? The Premier would be aware that some trade unions have tried to prevent growers, who have negotiated sales with companies, from exporting their sheep. Also, the Premier would be aware that there is a limited market in this State for that type of meat and, therefore, this market is important to primary producers who are suffering great difficulties at present.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will obtain from the Minister of Agriculture a full statement for the honourable member.

**PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY**

Mr. CUMBE: Can the Premier give additional information on the Redcliff project as a result of discussions he is reported to have had in Canberra last week with Commonwealth officers and colleagues? I should like to know what additional technical matters (and I emphasise "technical") have been determined as a result of those talks and what items have yet to be determined or concluded? As the time table earlier referred to by the Premier (the crunch) seems to have long since passed, does the Premier still feel confident that these matters will be finalised so as to enable the indenture Bill to be introduced in this Parliament during September, as earlier forecast?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The recommendation of the Commonwealth Ministry of Fuels and Energy to the Commonwealth Government is that the Commonwealth Pipelines Authority will undertake the building and operation of the liquids line and that a price will be provided for the liquid petroleum gas for conversion to gasoline that will be satisfactory to the producers. Those two factors will now enable the calculation of a gas price between the producers in the field and the consortium. The calculation of the price, and negotiations in connection with it, will take three or four weeks. We have tried to expedite this matter, but the calculations need considerable computer study. We are satisfied that we cannot get an earlier date than three or four weeks hence before these negotiations could conceivably be concluded. The Commonwealth Ministry's recommendation is that it is essential in the national interest that this undertaking occur: if it is not undertaken immediately, the resource of the liquids in the Cooper Basin will be lost for all time. It is not a matter of postponing it. Unless we can get immediate use of the liquids in the basin we lose the resource.

Mr. Millhouse: Why?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Because it would not be economic to develop them separately. The producers on the Cooper Basin field are obliged to supply dry gas to South Australia and New South Wales within a limited period. If they do not, at the time when they put in the plant for dry gas development, put in the plant for liquids development, it would not be economic thereafter to put in the liquids development plant. Therefore, the resource must be developed immediately or it is lost.

Mr. Millhouse: What do you mean by "immediately"?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Within the period proposed in the indenture, to bring the liquids on stream by 1978. That means that work must commence within the next year. That is the submission that has been made by the Commonwealth Department of Minerals and Energy. I must say that, in the conference that I had with the Commonwealth Minister and his officers, he was extremely helpful. The officers of the Department of Minerals and Energy have done much work, and that has satisfied the Commonwealth Minister that he has helped South Australia greatly in the development of this project. I want to say that publicly. I know that there has been much criticism of Mr. Connor in the press and publicly in relation to this project, but I can only say that his work and that of his officers on this project, as shown in the recent discussions that the Minister of Development and Mines and I had with Mr. Connor last week—

Dr. Eastick: Has he changed his spots?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: He has been wholly in support of South Australia's development of this project, and he has made clear to his colleagues in the Commonwealth Ministry that that is so.

Mr. Coumbe: He held it up earlier.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Earlier he was considering this total resource in relation to Australia's resources to ensure that we got national protection regarding our own resource.

Mr. Millhouse: How long did that hold up—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Millhouse: —proceedings—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Mitcham knows full well that the honourable member for Torrens asked this question. The reply is not subject to interjection by any other honourable member, and, if the honourable member for Mitcham persists in disobeying the calls of the Chair, Standing Orders will prevail as far as he is concerned.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: All the technical matters in the calculation of price have been cleared up and any question of concern about the diameter of the pipeline has been resolved. All the technical matters involving the Department of Minerals and Energy already have been determined. This enables us to take the final action towards the indenture. The only matters left to be cleared up with the Commonwealth Government are those regarding the provision of housing, the agreement with the Department of Urban and Regional Development about that department's total involvement in the development of the region at the top of Spencer Gulf, and the attitude of the Commonwealth Treasury towards the provision of ongoing funds. That will be determined at a subsequent series of meetings, and I expect submissions to be made to Cabinet on the total project within a fortnight.

Mr. Coumbe: When do you expect to introduce the Bill?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I expect the Bill to be introduced within a month, but at this stage we are faced with the fact that negotiation between the producers and the consortium on the final price of feed stock is the major outstanding item, and until that has been resolved we cannot introduce an indenture Bill. The parties could not make that calculation until the Department of Minerals and Energy had made decisions about the support price for liquid petroleum gas.

Dr. Eastick: The cost is escalating at \$2 000 000 a week.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We are trying to get this done as quickly as we possibly can.

Dr. Eastick: Is it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Costs are escalating at about that rate.

Dr. Eastick: Each week?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, each month, but the Leader must realise that, in order to get to a conclusion about this, the consortium must get an agreement with the producers on price, and all of those things must go through the processes that the companies have established with their computer programmes.

Mr. Coumbe: Has the crunch date been delayed?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I can only tell the honourable member that the matters which are to be determined and which I have raised previously with the Commonwealth Ministry have now largely been determined. The delay at present is that the producers are saying that it will now take them more time than we had expected or than we had been told about to calculate their price, and we cannot get that information. It is in the hands of the producers, not of the Government, to calculate a price earlier than the date originally specified. As soon as we can get that in, we will. However, I point out to the honourable member that it will then be a crucial matter to get this indenture before the House and properly investigated, and the Government is trying to proceed with all haste in the matter in order to obtain an effective determination. There has been much talk about the preparation of a complete environmental impact statement on this proposal.

Mr. Venning: Fair enough, too!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member wants a four-year study of this plant, we will not have a plant, and South Australia will lose this vital resource forever.

*Members interjecting:*

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Many vague statements have been made by people—

Mr. Venning: Tell us one of them!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I suggest that the honourable member listen for a few moments. If he is interested, I suggest that he keep quiet while I tell him.

Mr. Venning: Keep going!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Thank you. On the question of environment these basic matters must concern anyone. It is no use talking vaguely about environmental matters, delicate ecology, and the like. Let us get down to the nitty gritty.

Mr. Millhouse: That's what a lot of people have been saying.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: All right. I am interested that the honourable member wants to—

Mr. Millhouse: Go on, then!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: What are the things that a plant of this kind can do to affect the environment? There is the discharge of effluent, and we can say categorically that there will be no harm whatever to the waters of the gulf or to the area surrounding the plant and land from the discharge of effluent. Secondly, there is the discharge of fumes. Even if an accident were to happen in a plant of this kind, the discharge of fumes would be markedly less than the normal discharge of fumes from the Thomas Playford power station at Port Augusta. The major discharge into the atmosphere is of steam, which will not harm the atmosphere at all. What are the other polluting factors conceivable? There is considerable noise from the plant, but no domestic dwellings will be built nearby and, from a study of what happens close to plants of this kind elsewhere, it will not greatly disturb the fauna of the area. One can find an enormous amount of fauna close to the Wilton plant in England.

Mr. Coumbe: Did you go on an early-morning walkabout?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, I did, and the birds were singing happily! I assure the honourable member that the marsupial mice and wallabies in the area will be able to sleep normally. Considerable light comes from the plant on the occasions of flaring, but that will not greatly disturb anyone close by.

Mr. Mathwin: Are you going to give the mice sunglasses?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, I assure the honourable member I am not. Apart from those things, what does anyone suggest this plant will do to the area?

Dr. Eastick: What about the prawn fisheries?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The prawn fisheries are fully protected. There will be no discharge, into the gulf, of water that will adversely affect any prawn-breeding grounds, and the conditions that are prescribed are so stringent as to ensure that nothing happens there that will in any way disturb these grounds. So it has all been covered completely, and we can categorically state that that is the position.

Dr. Eastick: What is the—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Torrens asked a question and members have interjected persistently with no relevance to the question. Therefore, questions by way of interjection and answers to interjections are out of order. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: On both scores this Government is working effectively to get this vital resource developed in South Australia. We are proceeding with all haste and have done everything that a Government could do to get finality on the project. In addition, we have done more than any other Government anywhere to protect the environment and to ensure that this plant does not disturb it. In those circumstances I should hope that members of the Opposition would support this Government in the activities it is pursuing to obtain this plant for South Australia. We do not want the kind of criticism that has been raised recently by some members who want their cake and wish to eat it too; they attack the Government for not getting the plant and, at the same time, attack it for pursuing the development of the plant on the grounds that it is going to upset the environment.

Mr. Jennings: The Government can't win.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Members opposite cannot have their cake and eat it too.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Minister of Environment and Conservation say when he now expects to make public the environment protection clause that is to be inserted in the

proposed indenture regarding the Redcliff project? Of course, the question arises from the Premier's reply to the member for Torrens, in which he boasted, not for the first time, that this Government had done more than any other Government to ensure the protection of the environment in regard to a plan of this kind. Until now we have had to take that on the Premier's word, something which I do not like doing much, I can tell you.

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

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I understand that a few weeks ago the Minister said that the clause would be made public, I think last week. I say, in fairness to him, that he has mentioned this matter to me and reminded me of it in a conversation yesterday. However, I ask the question particularly in view of the Premier's boast a few minutes ago, because until we know what that clause is, none of us can judge whether the boast is justified. Of course, that is of minor significance compared to the protection of the environment. Therefore, I ask the Minister when he now expects to be able to publish this clause.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: What the Premier has said is exactly the position, and the Premier can say this because he has been told of the discussions that the consortium, officers of my department and I have had on the protection clauses of the indenture. Those discussions have been continuing for a long time. The Premier knows, as the honourable member would if he had seen a press statement about two weeks ago, that the Government and the consortium have agreed on what the Government will require for environmental protection. However, once our agreement was reached (and, as the honourable member has pointed out, this was reached about two weeks ago) the next step was to prepare the drafting for the enabling Bill. I have stated previously, and I repeat, that I am as anxious as is any other member to release this information publicly as early as possible before the legislation is introduced and members are required to rush their attention to that important clause. Because of the difficulties (and I am sure the honourable member would appreciate them) of drafting legislation of this kind, I had wrongly assessed how quickly that could be done. I assure the honourable member that it is being done as quickly as possible and, I repeat, with the objective of making the information public as soon as possible. I should be pleased to have the honourable member visit my office so that I could show him the conditions we have already agreed on with the consortium. I think that would ease even his mind.

#### EGG BOARD

Mr. ALLEN: Will the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Agriculture, ask his colleague to approach agents of the South Australian Egg Board with a view to having cooling equipment installed in country pick-up trucks? My attention has been drawn to the fact that all egg producers have found it necessary to install cooling equipment for the storage of eggs on their properties. Most of the eggs are then picked up by road transports, which are not equipped with cooling equipment, with the result that in hot weather the eggs are carried around the district for several hours before being delivered to a storage area and are downgraded with a considerable loss to the producer.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall be happy to refer the matter to my colleague and to bring down a report as soon as possible.

*MURRAY RIVER QUEEN*

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Minister of Development and Mines indicate what State financial assistance has been directed towards the building and commissioning of the *Murray River Queen* and whether it is proving to be a viable enterprise? In addition, can the Minister say whether there is any substance in the suggestion that the width of the beam of this craft prevents it from plying above lock 1 on the Murray River? Considerable publicity was given to the building of this craft. In the April, 1974, edition of *Tourism Australia* appears a report that the vessel will be as luxurious as any first-class hotel, with 36 self-contained cabins for 72 passengers, a dining-room, lounge bar, reading room and television lounge, and that she will also be fully air-conditioned and have a spacious promenade deck for sun lovers. The report also states that the "Queen" will operate six-day cruises from Goolwa to Morgan and return, serving excellent meals. I therefore ask the Minister whether there is any substance in the suggestion that the craft is too large to fit through the lock chamber at lock 1, Blanchetown.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The patronage of the *Murray River Queen* has been very good indeed; in fact, it has possibly exceeded expectations. Some modifications had to be carried out to the paddles and certain other features of the design of the craft, so for that reason the vessel was out of commission for a month or so. However, it is back on the river now and running very well indeed. True, some modifications to lock 1 are required before the boat will be able to ply above lock 1 to Morgan; this was known at the time the boat was first put on the river. My understanding was that the modifications to the lock would have been completed by now. As I am not sure about this, I will check the position for the honourable member. This matter was well known when the craft was built and, indeed, when the application for support for the venture came before the Industries Development Committee.

*LINCOLN GAP ROAD*

Mr. MAX BROWN: Will the Minister of Transport ascertain when work will commence on upgrading the section of the Whyalla to Port Augusta road between Lincoln Gap and Whyalla? I understand that the section of road to which I have referred will simply be repaired and upgraded, not renewed. I point out that the condition of this section of road has deteriorated over the past few months to such an extent that I believe that its ability to cater for the traffic that uses it each day should be examined urgently.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Only this morning the roads programme for the current financial year was finalised, the delay having been caused by the time taken to pass the Commonwealth legislation and, subsequently, to pass legislation through this Parliament.

Mr. Coumbe: And the Commonwealth Minister's conduct.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Try as the member for Torrens will, there is no way in the world he will drive a wedge between the Commonwealth Minister for Transport and me. We have the best of relationships, and if the honourable member wants to suggest otherwise—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Torrens is out of order in interjecting.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: —he can accept the consequences of that. The information that a colleague of his passed on to Mr. Nixon typifies the type of colleague that unfortunately the member for Torrens has thrust on him.

Mr. Gunn: Why don't you answer the question? What are you talking about?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: If members read *Commonwealth Hansard*, they will find out.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Minister is answering a question asked by the honourable member for Whyalla, I hope.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I cannot give the honourable member detailed information about the roads programme, as I have not yet been able to go into the matter as carefully as he would desire. I will obtain this information and let the honourable member have it. The practice followed in previous years of providing copies of the schedule to the Opposition Whip and the Parliamentary Library will be continued on this occasion. If members desire any further information, I shall be happy to try to accommodate them.

*ROAD TOLL*

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister of Transport say what action the Government has taken, or intends to take, to curb the mounting road toll in South Australia? I understand that, for the year ended December 31, 1973, the number of road deaths totalled 329. Up to September 9 this year, the number of deaths was 267, compared to 200 deaths for the same period last year. This indicates that we could be heading for a record number of road deaths this year. In view of the seriousness of the matter, I ask the Minister what action the Government intends to take to curb this toll.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am painfully aware of the statistical facts raised by the honourable member in relation to how many fatalities have occurred on the roads this year, compared to the position in previous years. However, I should have thought that the honourable member would be the first to produce figures that were truly comparable, that is, not figures relating only to the number of deaths in a calendar year but rather figures relating also to the number of vehicles on the roads, for that is the only true way to draw comparisons. Even when those figures are taken out, there is still a very disappointing and, one could even say, an alarming situation revealed. We are constantly looking at the various ways and means of solving this problem. I believe that we have taken some steps that are unprecedented in South Australia and, in fact, in Australia. It is difficult to measure the results we have achieved, because no real measuring stick can be applied. It could be argued that had the steps we have taken not been taken the road toll would have been much worse.

As members know, we have engaged in a series of activities. We have established the Road Safety Council and built up its staff, and we have introduced road safety education in the schools. These activities are vastly superior to anything undertaken previously in this State or anything currently being undertaken in other States. Despite all this work, accidents still occur. I have already indicated other measures that will be brought into Parliament this session; we hope they will have some effect. I refer particularly to legislation dealing with the grading of penalties for drinking drivers, persons found guilty of either driving under the influence of liquor or driving with a blood alcohol content of more than .08 per cent. Only a fortnight ago, when I introduced the Motor Vehicles Act Amendment Bill dealing with licences, I said that subsequently I would introduce a Bill to amend the Highways Act to provide that 50c of the new licence fee be used for road safety purposes, making \$1 in all out of the \$5 fee available for this purpose.

We are actively engaged in attempting to remove many road hazards that currently exist. We have undertaken a record programme of installing traffic signals and the like. We have put in crossing protection devices, despite the complaints received from one or two people about the noise at crossings over the Glenelg tram line. All in all, the record of the Government is beyond reproach. However, as the honourable member has pointed out, there are the extremely disappointing statistics. Our experts have been and still are looking at various matters. I assure the honourable member that, wherever it is shown to be desirable, we will give effect to suggestions made, so long as a satisfactory result can be expected. I would certainly welcome any constructive suggestions from the member for Hanson or any other Opposition member.

#### SCHOOL FIRE ESCAPES

Mr. GROTH: Can the Minister of Education say whether fire escapes recently added to several South Australian schools (including the Salisbury High School) comply with regulations under the Building Act? I ask this question as a result of a report in yesterday's *News*, in which the Secretary of the Salisbury High School Council reported that fire escapes recently added to several of our schools failed to comply with the required standards. They are barely adequate, he said, for emergency needs. Eighteen schools (one in the metropolitan area) have had these fire escapes added to them. The Secretary will raise this matter at next week's Annual Conference of the South Australian Association of State Schools Organisation.

He says that, if the children left the building by the fire escape door in a normal, routine manner, there would be no problem: however, in panic conditions there could be a problem. The council wants a disclaimer from the Education Department from any responsibility for a fire tragedy. The schools concerned had main fire escapes when built but, about a year ago, the department decided to add another fire escape leading from the first floor library to a steel ladder outside the building. It is this fire escape that does not meet regulation standards under the Building Act, 1970-1971. Children trapped in or near the library could jam themselves in the fire escape doorway, which is not wide enough under the regulations.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The schools that have been modified are the so-called Marion type of school, where a first-floor area was converted for library resource purposes under the Commonwealth secondary schools library programme, and the department decided that some additional means of escape should be provided. When these buildings were first erected (mostly in the 1960's) they complied with the provisions of the Building Act at the time. However, when these additional escape areas had to be provided, the Public Buildings Department consulted with the Fire Brigades Board on the design of the escape hatches, and the ladder, etc., was approved by the board. It is not a requirement that a building built under the Building Act in 1962 (and complying with that Act then) must now comply with the Act in 1974. The argument that has arisen concerns the size of the escape door. The only thing I can say to the honourable member (as I told the *News* in a statement I made the day before the article was published) is that the escape hatches had been approved by the board, and the Public Buildings Department had consulted with the board before the escape arrangements were installed in these schools. Unfortunately, the *News* chose not to print that statement.

#### BEACH PROTECTION

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister of Environment and Conservation say whether he has made a final decision regarding the building of a groyne on the beach front at Glenelg, adjacent to the Broadway? The beach protection measures now proceeding adjacent to the Broadway, at Glenelg South, involve, I understand, a groyne to be built in that area. I also understand that one of the members of the Beach Protection Board (Dr. Bob Culver) has strong feelings regarding the erection of groynes along the seafront. He realises that it is a serious matter to build groynes there, and this has been the reaction of many beach authorities throughout the world. He was emphatic, when I last spoke to him some time ago, on this matter. With this in mind, and with knowledge of the feelings of the Beach Protection Board and its members, will the Minister say whether he has made a final decision regarding the building of a groyne, which would be detrimental to the beaches in that area?

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: The honourable member knows that I have expressed the view (and this has been the Coast Protection Board's general attitude) that a groyne system to protect our beaches is not the appropriate way to protect them. From overseas experience and from our own observations and knowledge of the State, we believe that beach replenishment, so long as the sand is available, is the best method of protecting and building up the beaches, depending on seasonal conditions. This is the best way to build up protection and, at the same time, to avoid being subjected to the unsightly groyne systems which other parts of the world have been forced to use. The Coast Protection Board has told me that, because of problems associated with that part of the beach, a groyne (not a system of groynes)—

Mr. Mathwin: Once you build one, you have to build more.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: No.

Mr. Mathwin: Yes.

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: We will leave that matter to the judgment of the board's experts. I cannot say whether Dr. Culver has strong views on this problem, but I know that he shares my view on the general system of groynes. My recollection of this matter is that there is a weakness that the board believes could be strengthened by the building of one groyne. Although I am uncertain whether the work has been finally approved, it has been reported to me that this is the view of the board. However, I will obtain additional information on whether there was any disagreement among the members of the board on this recommendation. As board members have said several times, some of the work being undertaken in several areas is being undertaken partially as experimental work, and the board cannot, until it has attempted work of this nature, guarantee that this is the proper way to go about its total activities. Accordingly, the board cannot guarantee that some of the works approved will have the intended effect. I am willing to encourage the board to undertake work of this nature, particularly when we can observe and use the knowledge gained, even if the work itself is not the total success we would like. I will obtain such additional information as is available for the honourable member.

#### SURF LIFESAVING

Mr. OLSON: Will the Premier confer with the Commonwealth Minister for Defence on the possibility of Armed Forces helicopters being made available for surf rescue work in South Australia? My attention has been drawn to the dangerously low level of the number of active members

available for lifesaving duties on South Australian beaches by the President of the Surf Lifesaving Association (Mr. R. W. Mackenzie), a constituent of mine. Although the association deeply appreciates the State Government grant to help keep it functioning, it will be unable to maintain the helicopter lifeguard patrol (as used last season) to protect swimmers between Moana and Taperoo. As there is evidence that Armed Forces helicopters are idle at weekends, will the Premier inquire into the possibility of having a standby at Adelaide Airport for any beach or rescue operation?

Mr. Millhouse: Ha!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Despite the amusement of the honourable, learned and gallant member for Mitcham—

Mr. Millhouse: It is derision because of Commonwealth Government policy—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will confer with my Commonwealth colleague on the matter.

#### VEHICLE INDUSTRY

Mr. EVANS: Will the Premier say whether he is aware of a strong submission that the Australian Automobile Association has made to the Prime Minister's Department supporting the Industries Assistance Commission recommendations for the restructuring of the motor vehicle industry? If he is aware of that, will he say what action has been taken to tell the A.A.A. of the serious effects that the recommendations could have on this State if they were implemented? The A.A.A. newsletter for September, 1974, states:

The President of A.A.A. (Mr. M. A. K. Thompson) urged adoption of the recommendations in a written submission to the Prime Minister's Department. He said the Government should consider the report on the basis of a plan for the long-term restructuring of the industry. Its decision should be divorced from the present economic climate.

Mr. Thompson then refers to studies and then states:

These showed the consumer, both directly and indirectly, had been getting less than a fair deal under the present structure of the industry in terms of price and quality . . . By overseas standards the consumer was paying far too much for his car which was of relatively poor quality . . . Leyland and Chrysler told the commission the quality of vehicles produced by the industry did not satisfy the standard expected by consumers . . . The commission noted in its report that seemingly exorbitant mark-ups on many replacement components were common throughout the industry . . . In its report the commission sets out the means of restructuring the industry to the benefit of the consumer, the least cost to the community and with minimum disruption to employment. If there are costs to sections of the economy through adoption of the report these are far outweighed by the benefits both to the consumer and the economy.

The serious effects that these recommendations could have if they were implemented have been expressed previously.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I was not aware of the submission. I do not know whether my officers have seen it, but certainly I have not. I can only say that, if the A.A.A. thinks that what the honourable member has said will be the result of the Industries Assistance Commission report, it had better have regard to the fact that the number of people in South Australia who will be able to afford motor cars in future will be reduced seriously if the Industries Assistance Commission's report is implemented. I will refer the matter and get a report for the honourable member.

#### STUDENT TEACHER BONDS

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: This year's Auditor-General's Report, at page 16, shows that various departments have written off amounts of money. An amount of \$345 291 was written off against the Education Department, and that is by far the largest amount written off. Later, the Auditor-General refers to the repayment of bonds. I suspect, although I do not know, that the amount written off may be a reference to the writing off of bonds covering student teachers and other persons who have left the Education Department. The report also refers to an amount of, I think, over \$2 000 000 owing in unpaid bonds by people who have left the department. If what I suspect is correct, will the Minister of Education say what are the procedures for the repayment of bonds and the requirements for regular repayment? I hope he will do that briefly.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Any member who asks a question in this House realises only too well that he will get a reply. We have a system of open government.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Just give us the reply, without the sermon.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am awaiting a brief reply from the Minister.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Mr. Speaker, I always have regarded you as an advocate of free speech and one who would support the traditions of this House. I am sure that you, Sir, would provide the necessary protection for members. Bonding arrangements introduced at the beginning of this year, and I think applying from the beginning of March or April, were that any amount of an outstanding bond that was paid within six months would attract a 20 per cent discount and any amount paid after that six months but within a year would attract a 10 per cent discount. As from now, once a teacher resigns and incurs a bond liability, that same procedure will apply. I think most of the writings off occurred because of that change in policy with respect to bonds, but other sums are written off by the department each year. I will provide details for the honourable member as soon as practicable.

#### HOPE VALLEY SEWERAGE

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Works obtain a report on whether the sewerage of Mayfred Avenue, Hope Valley, is to be undertaken by the Engineering and Water Supply Department or the city of Tea Tree Gully by installing a common effluent drainage scheme, and whether there are present plans to connect this street to a sewerage scheme?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain a report for the honourable member soon.

#### WALLAROO PROPERTY

Mr. RUSSACK: Will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary what progress has been made in dedicating to the National Trust of South Australia property allotment 200, Emu Street, Wallaroo, which was formerly the post office? A letter from the Chief Secretary's office dated December 16, 1970, states:

Further to your letter of July 24, 1970, I advise that Cabinet has approved the dedication of allotment 200, town of Wallaroo, to the National Trust of South Australia. This property, which was formerly the post office, is currently used as a residence by an officer of the Police Department, and the Commissioner of Police has advised that a period of about two years will elapse prior to its permanent vacation. The transfer will be made free of charge when it is no longer required by the Police Department.

In 1972 it was indicated that the building was further required by the department and that it would be another 18 months before it could be released. The Wallaroo branch of the National Trust appreciated the Government's action in making available a disused residence that had been occupied by the sergeant of police at Wallaroo, and it has been using the building since then. However, now that there are indications that the Emu Street building will not be available until July, 1976, and the Wallaroo branch of the trust has developed to such an extent that it needs this building and the room, particularly because of the forthcoming Cornish Festival in May, 1975, will the Attorney-General ask the Chief Secretary to have this dedication expedited?

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

#### PORT VICTORIA BUS SERVICE

Mr. BOUNDY: Can the Minister of Transport say whether action can be taken to preserve the feeder bus service that operates between Port Victoria and Maitland? Also, is the Minister aware that the fate of this service is a symptom of the plight of almost all country bus services? I have received a letter from the Port Victoria Progress Association asking that this feeder bus service be retained, and pointing out that this bus also collects passengers from Point Pearce, Kilkerran, and Urania, and provides a parcel service for people living in these areas, as well as a carrying service for fish caught in the district. I have spoken to the proprietor of Yorke Peninsula Bus Lines who stated that the feeder service was uneconomic, and that yesterday the Transport Control Board had given permission to discontinue this service.

Yorke Peninsula Bus Lines has also indicated that a Commonwealth determination made yesterday granted drivers a \$24 a week pay rise, and that this would naturally flow to drivers in this State and further aggravate the viability of private country bus services. Yorke Peninsula has no railway system and relies on the bus service for both passenger and fast freight service. Residents of Port Victoria and Point Pearce will be greatly inconvenienced by the loss of this feeder bus service and may have to take a taxi. From what the proprietor of Yorke Peninsula Bus Lines has said, all country areas could well be without bus services in future.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am aware that, at his request, the proprietor of this bus service was given permission by the T.C.B. yesterday to discontinue the service, which is yet another example of the failure of private enterprise to provide proper services.

*Members interjecting:*

Mr. Venning: You know different from that.

Mr. McAnaney: Put them on unemployment relief!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I am sorry if these facts hurt Opposition members, but it is to be regretted that the member for Goyder is lamenting the fact that drivers of these buses have now been granted a wage increase that the court considered was desirable. I do not think it is to the credit of the honourable member to reflect on a decision of the Arbitration Commission.

Mr. Millhouse: Don't be absurd: that is unfair.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: That is what the honourable member is doing, and all the interjections from the member for Mitcham will not help him any more than it did when he tried to attack Jack Nyland on television. I am fully aware of the problem raised by the honourable member. The private bus industry throughout Australia is in a most difficult position, and it is clear that some

fairly important but difficult decisions will have to be made soon: for instance, whether the State should operate the transport system (and that action would be criticised by the member for Heysen and others because of the losses incurred) or leave country areas without transport.

Dr. Eastick: Like Mannum!

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: That was caused because another private operator could not make ends meet.

*At 3.9 p.m., the bells having been rung:*

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

#### SUPERANNUATION (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### ART GALLERY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Art Gallery Act, 1939-1973. Read a first time.

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

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

Following an administrative reorganisation, it has been decided that Ministerial responsibility for the Art Gallery Act, 1939, as amended, should be borne by the Premier instead of by the Minister of Education. This short Bill proposes, therefore, that the definition of "Minister" in section 3 of the principal Act be struck out. The effect of this amendment will be to permit the free application of section 4 of the Acts Interpretation Act, 1915, as amended. In effect, this application provides that a reference in the Act to the Minister shall be read as a reference to the Minister to whom, for the time being, the administration of the Act is committed. On the enactment of this measure, the way will be clear for the administration of this Act to be committed to the Premier.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### LOCAL AND DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Local and District Criminal Courts Act, 1926-1974. Read a first time.

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

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

The Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs has power to receive and, in appropriate cases, act on complaints by consumers concerning excessive charges for goods or services or unlawful or unfair commercial practices leading to infringement of a consumer's rights. The Commissioner may take such action by negotiation as in his opinion is appropriate and proper in relation to any such complaint. He also has power, where he is satisfied that it is in the public interest or proper to do so, to institute legal proceedings on behalf of the consumer, seeking a settlement of the matter raised in the complaint or taking legal action to see that justice is done. In most cases, the Commissioner has been able to secure a satisfactory resolution of matters in dispute.

Where the matter does not fall within the scope of the Commissioner's function or it is not appropriate for him to exercise his power to institute proceedings, the only remedy available is to seek redress through the courts of law. However, the position is that the average person who has a complaint is generally overawed by the prospect of taking



court action in the ordinary way with its uncertainty and likely expense and the possibility of lengthy delay before any determination is made. It is clear that people with sound legal claims are not having them heard because the amount involved is not great enough to justify the cost of litigation in the ordinary way. Our system of administration of justice is designed to sift carefully truth from falsehood, sound reasoning from fallacious reasoning, right from wrong. This is admirable and necessary. But it is too time-consuming, and therefore expensive, to be a satisfactory way of dealing with small claims. Solicitors are obliged to advise their clients with small claims against going to court and they do not, in practice, go to court. Much the same is true of other kinds of dispute where the sum of money or the injuries are too small to justify the costs of litigation: a dispute with a landlord concerning repayment of a security bond, for example, a claim for arrears of wages where the claimant has no trade union, or a claim for minor damages to a car where the claimant does not have full insurance or does not want to lose his no-claim bonus by involving his insurance company.

Fear of courts no doubt plays a great part in discouraging people from using them. But the overriding discouragement—the thing that prevents the most fearless litigant from litigating—is expense. The expense lies not in the court fees but in the fees payable to solicitors. The winner, of course, recovers a part of his costs from the loser, though not necessarily enough to meet his full expenses. But, even if full costs were recoverable by the winner, no case is so absolutely cast iron that the average small claimant would be prepared to disregard the risk of losing and, therefore, of having to pay out in costs to the other side and his solicitor a sum that might be twice or three times the size of his claim.

If, therefore, persons with small claims are to have the opportunity of bringing them to court, it is necessary to devise a simple system, admittedly second best and admittedly less thorough than is necessary for more important and complex matters, but for those very reasons less expensive. It is necessary to have procedures for small claims in which some of the rules and protections which one legal system provides are sacrificed to the necessity of relating the cost to the amount involved in the case. This Bill aims at providing a system whereby a speedy, informal and cheap method for settling, according to law, disputes involving claims of up to \$500 is established within the framework of the existing court structure. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 defines a "small claim". A small claim is a claim for a pecuniary sum not exceeding \$500 (a) upon a contract, or by way of damages for breach of contract; (b) in respect of *quasi* contractual obligation; (c) by way of damages for tort; or (d) upon a cause of action arising under the Consumer Transactions Act or the Manufacturers Warranties Act. Clause 4 is formal. Clause 5 repeals and re-enacts section 135 of the principal Act. The section is redrafted for two reasons. First, it provides that a body corporate may be represented by an officer or employee of the body corporate authorised to conduct the action or proceeding on behalf of the body corporate. Secondly, the section is amended to provide that the provisions of section 135 relating to representation in local court proceedings are subject to the specific provisions relating to representation in the small claims provisions.

Clause 6 is the major provision of the Bill. It enacts Part VIIA of the principal Act, which deals with small claims. Section 152a gives a local court wide powers in relation to the hearing and determination of a small claim. First, it provides that the court is not to be bound by the rules of evidence but may inform itself upon any matter relating to the claim in such manner as it thinks fit. Secondly, it imposes upon the court an obligation to assist a party who does not appear to be able to present his case adequately without assistance. Thirdly, it provides that the court may at any stage of the proceedings make amendments to the statement of claim, or other pleadings, as it thinks fit. New section 152b limits the right of parties to small claim proceedings to have professional assistance. No party is to be represented by a legal practitioner or an articulated clerk unless all parties to the proceedings agree and the court is satisfied that such representation will not unduly prejudice another party, or unless the proceedings have been instituted or defended by the Commissioner for Prices and Consumer Affairs under the Prices Act. A party may, however, receive assistance from a person who does not hold legal qualifications if the court is satisfied that the party requires such assistance, that the person by whom he is assisted appears without fee or reward, and that no other party will be disadvantaged by the fact that such assistance is allowed.

Subsection (3) provides that the above limitations do not prevent a body corporate from being represented by an officer or employee of the body corporate or an interpreter from receiving a fee for assisting a party in the presentation of his case, provided that his fee does not exceed an amount fixed by the court at the hearing. New section 152c provides that the court may exercise powers of conciliation in relation to a small claim. New section 152d prevents the court from awarding costs for getting up a case for trial, or by way of counsel fees, unless all parties to the proceedings were represented by counsel, or the court is of the opinion that there are special circumstances justifying the award of costs of this nature.

New section 152e provides that there shall be no appeal from a judgment upon a small claim except by leave of the Supreme Court. New section 152f provides that the determination of an issue in proceedings based upon a small claim shall not estop the parties to those proceedings from litigating the same issue in other proceedings based upon a different claim.

Dr. EASTICK secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### MANUFACTURERS WARRANTIES BILL

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to make provision for manufacturers warranties, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

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

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

It has often been remarked that in the modern marketing milieu it is the manufacturer who plays the dominant role; it is he who is responsible for putting the goods into the stream of commerce and, in most cases, for creating the consumer demand for them by continuous advertising. Frequently, the retailer plays only a very subsidiary role. It is the manufacturer who endows the goods with their characteristics and it is he who determines the types of material and component that shall be used and who establishes the quality control mechanism. It is also he who determines what express guarantees shall be given to the consumer and who is responsible for the availability of spare parts and the adequacy of servicing facilities. Almost all the consumer's knowledge



about the goods is derived from the labels or markings attached to the goods on the sales literature that accompanies them—and these, too, originate from the manufacturer.

These are not the only factors that strongly militate in favour of holding the manufacturer responsible for breach of any express warranties and the sort of warranties implied under the Consumer Transactions Act. The present law involves circuity of actions and an unnecessary multiplication of costs and proceedings. Typically, the buyer sues the retailer, who then joins the wholesale distributor or importer, and they will in turn bring in the manufacturer. If the retailer is insolvent or has otherwise closed his business for any reason, the consumer may not even be able to initiate action. If the retailer has no assets or place of business in this State, the consumer confronts difficulties. If the cause of the breakdown of the goods is disputed, the buyer will not have the right to obtain discovery of documents from the manufacturer or to examine his officers, although the manufacturer rather than the retailer is likely to be in possession of all the recent pertinent facts.

Despite these weighty considerations, Anglo-Australian law has made little progress in permitting the consumer to proceed directly against the manufacturer. This Bill is intended to rectify the deficiencies in the present law by providing a clearly stated statutory rule holding a manufacturer liable for breach of any express representations, and also deeming him to have given the implied warranties as to the quality of the goods, and, where appropriate, the availability of spare parts. I seek leave to have the explanation of the clauses incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

#### EXPLANATION OF CLAUSES

Clauses 1 and 2 are formal. Clause 3 contains a number of definitions necessary for the purposes of the new Act. A "consumer" is defined as any person (including a body corporate) who purchases manufactured goods by retail, including any person who derives title to manufactured goods through or under any such person. An "express warranty" is defined as any assertion in relation to manufactured goods made by the manufacturer, or a person acting on his behalf, the natural tendency of which is to induce a reasonable purchaser to purchase the goods. "Manufactured" goods are defined as goods manufactured for sale by retail, but the expression does not include goods that are normally offered for sale by retail at a genuine retail price above \$10 000. A "manufacturer" includes, in addition to the ordinary meaning of the word, any person who holds himself out as the manufacturer of the goods and, where the goods are imported into Australia and the manufacturer does not have a place of business in Australia, the importer of the goods. Subclause (2) provides that the new Act shall not apply to goods manufactured before its commencement.

Clause 4 provides that, where manufactured goods are sold by retail in this State or are delivered to a purchaser in this State upon being sold by retail, the manufacturer warrants that the goods are of merchantable quality and, in the case of goods that are likely to require repair or maintenance, spare parts will be available for a reasonable period after the date of manufacture. Goods are of merchantable quality for the purposes of the new Act if, at the time they leave the control of the manufacturer, they are reasonably fit for the purposes for which goods of that description are ordinarily used. Clause 5 creates a right for the consumer to recover damages for breach of an express warranty or a warranty implied by the new Act.

Clause 6 limits the right of a manufacturer to exclude his liability for breach of an express or implied warranty. However, where the manufacturer takes reasonable steps to ensure that the consumer will receive notice of the fact that he does not undertake that spare parts will be available for the repair of the goods, no liability attaches to the manufacturer for breach of that warranty. Clause 7 provides that, where a vendor incurs liability to a consumer by reason of some defect in the quality of the goods arising from an implied warranty and the consumer could have recovered similar damages against the manufacturer, the vendor can recover from the manufacturer an indemnity for his liability.

Clause 8 is an evidentiary provision. It provides that an advertisement or other publication appearing to be issued under the authority of a manufacturer shall be deemed to be so issued in the absence of proof to the contrary. Where any question arises whether the goods were manufactured before or after the commencement of the new Act, a court is required to presume that they were manufactured after the commencement of the new Act in the absence of proof to the contrary. Clause 9 enables the Governor to regulate written warranties of the kind that commonly accompany goods at the time of sale. The Ontario Law Reform Commission found that these warranties were frequently used to mislead consumers rather than for conferring any substantive rights upon them. For this reason, a provision is inserted enabling the Governor to proscribe undesirable practices in the use of such written warranties.

Mr. CUMBE secured the adjournment of the debate.

#### APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)

In Committee.

(Continued from September 11. Page 910.)

Schedule.

House of Assembly, \$216 000.

Dr. EASTICK (Leader of the Opposition): I appreciate that the facilities of Parliament House are being upgraded; indeed, members have accepted that an urgent need existed for considerable improvements to be made. However, the facilities available to members for Party meetings, and those available to Ministers and me (with the exception of those available to the Treasurer), are inadequate. Several members, including the members for Heysen, Bragg, and Glenelg, have not had access to a room or a telephone for some weeks. The main area of inconvenience with which I am concerned applies to cleaners, who are unable to fulfil completely their necessary functions. When overseas guests or other people visit the building, it is embarrassing. Can the Treasurer therefore indicate whether this matter has been considered and whether additional cleaning staff will be provided until the major part of the renovation work is completed?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Crimes): I would remind the Leader that cleaning is dealt with under "Legislature, Miscellaneous".

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I will therefore deal with this matter at the appropriate stage.

Line passed.

Parliamentary Library, \$63 000.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Under which award or agreement is the salary of the Parliamentary Librarian established? Compared to salaries paid to some of the officers of the Chamber, the Parliamentary Librarian's salary does not seem to be very generous.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: His salary is fixed in the normal course of events by the Public Service Board.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The member for Kavel has asked a question about this matter and received a vague but I suppose technically accurate answer. Unfortunately, our Parliamentary Librarian and members of his staff are poorly paid in comparison with other Parliamentary Librarians and with other members of the Parliamentary staff. I understand that one of the members of the Parliamentary Library staff, Mr. Jim Bald, is paid a salary substantially lower than that of newer members of the messengerial staff. It seems strange to me that a man who has worked here in the library for about 15 years—he was not here when I was first elected—is paid such a low salary. I have mentioned his case by way of comparison, not because he has complained to me about his salary. The Parliamentary Library staff is a small group and no-one really speaks for these officers, nor is anyone else in a comparable situation. Over the years I understand their salaries have dropped substantially behind the salaries paid to comparable officers. I believe this matter was raised last year in another place and that no action was taken to deal with it. My object in raising the matter is that it will be given sympathetic and active consideration. These officers are competent and helpful and, compared to their opposite numbers in other States, should receive substantially more than they are now receiving. Will the Treasurer inquire into this matter?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Appreciating the honourable member's constant sense of charity, I will ask the Chairman of the Public Service Board to investigate the matter and bring down a report on it.

Line passed.

Joint House Committee, \$91 000; Electoral, \$230 000—passed.

Government Reporting, \$454 400.

Mr. COUMBE: I pay a compliment to the service we receive from this department, as it is invaluable to members. In November, the Constitution Convention will meet in South Australia, and this will undoubtedly place a great strain on the facilities of the reporting department and its staff. As no provision is made in the Estimates for the expense of reporting the conference, I assume that it will be recouped from the Commonwealth.

The Hon. L. J. KING (Attorney-General): The costs of the convention are borne by the convention itself and ultimately distributed on an agreed proportional basis among the Commonwealth and the States. From memory, the Commonwealth contributes 50 per cent, the remaining 50 per cent being contributed by the States in proportion to population. The expenses of individual delegations from each State or the Commonwealth are borne by the party sending the delegation. The general cost of the convention, including the cost of reporting, is the cost of the convention itself.

Line passed.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, \$17 600; Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement, \$4 000—passed.

Legislature, Miscellaneous, \$493 000.

Mr. COUMBE: Can the Treasurer now supply the information sought a few moments ago by the Leader?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not believe that any extra provision has been made in relation to cleaning. However, I have consulted my colleague, who says he will examine the matter.

Line passed.

State Governor's Establishment, \$125 000; Premier, \$2 221 000—passed.

Dr. TONKIN: On a point of order, Mr. Acting Chairman. With respect, could you speak a little more loudly so that we can hear what is going on? Lines seem to be passing so rapidly that I find it difficult to follow what is taking place.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I will try to speak more loudly. However, the honourable member has a schedule in front of him, so that I would expect him to be able to follow it.

Public Service Board, \$2 608 000—passed.

Mines, \$4 149 500.

Mr. COUMBE: For some years, much research work has been done by the Australian Mineral Development Laboratories, which is an excellent organisation. I am sure we all appreciate the work done by that organisation on behalf of the industry. At one time about a year ago there was a slowing down, by Government direction, of some of the field work of the Mines Department, affecting the boring plants, which I think are still down at Thebarton. I believe the department should work to its full capacity for the future benefit of the people of the State. I sometimes wonder whether we take full advantage of the materials available. The Mines Department should do testing and prepare research material that would then be available to prospecting and development companies. Is the department fully employed in investigating the mineral potential of the State? Are its experts and equipment fully used? Is research material being made available to prospectors to enable them to exploit fully our mineral resources?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD (Minister of Development and Mines): I think I can answer the question unequivocally "Yes". The Mines Department provides an extremely good service to people in the exploration field, from the small prospector and fossicker up to the large company involved in, for example, petroleum exploration. It would probably be worth while for honourable members from time to time to visit the publications section of the department to see the variety of publications made available through the department to the general public. Members who have taken the trouble in the past to read the annual report of the department will agree that it is of an extremely high standard, providing a wealth of information for those with an interest in this matter. Within a month or so, the latest annual report will be available to this Parliament. Members will then be able to see this useful report which, on this occasion, is perhaps more management oriented and a little less technical in the geological or geophysical sense. Although we would like additional funds to enable us to undertake more activities, with the funds available we are keeping our people very busy. The only problem that has arisen over the last few months has been the weather pattern in the North of the State. One seismic crew was stuck at Tarcoola for some time, eventually having to be recalled because it was not possible for it to get on the field, owing to the waterlogged state of the ground.

Mr. GUNN: The Minister would realise that during the last Parliament legislation was passed to give him power to warn away from precious stone prospecting areas people who had been convicted of illegal mining activities. He would also realise that it is difficult for these people to be caught. Fortunately, three persons were recently arrested and convicted in this respect. There is much concern on the opal fields regarding this matter. Indeed, only this morning I was contacted by a person representing the Miners' Progress Association, who wondered whether the Minister would use his rights to bar these people from

the opal fields. Much damage can be caused to mines and much money lost as a result of the actions of these people; just when a person strikes opal, someone else can come in overnight and take away a lifetime's work. I assure the Minister that he would have the full support of all opal miners if he exercised his authority in this respect.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I am grateful to the honourable member for raising this matter. I have been made aware twice unofficially that a prosecution has been pending, and each time I have reminded the Police Department that this power was available to me and that I would exercise it on its recommendation. On neither occasion, however, have I received such a recommendation. I consider that I am, in a sense, in the hands of the Police Department in this respect. It is not for me as an individual or as Minister to act without a proper recommendation from the authority responsible for law and order in this State. However, as the honourable member has now raised the matter, I will contact the Police Department specifically regarding the cases to which he has referred and again request that an investigation be conducted if it is considered appropriate. I should be more than happy to use the powers available to me: the question is the appropriate timing of such action.

Mr. GUNN: The persons to whom I have referred were each fined only \$400. However, they were in such a financial position and their illegal activities were obviously so profitable that they were able to engage a solicitor at a cost of \$1 700. Indeed, they treated the matter as a complete joke, celebrating with champagne at the local hotel after the court case. These people are fleecing the genuine miners so much that a small fine of \$400 means absolutely nothing to them.

The Minister will recall that I contacted him some time ago about sending prospecting drills to Andamooka. To a lesser extent, this is also necessary at Coober Pedy. The miners are concerned about the future of their industry, which is the second largest mining industry in the State and which should therefore be encouraged in every way. For many reasons, but mainly that of the present overseas financial situation, there is a depressed market for opal. What effect does the Minister think the restrictions that his Commonwealth colleague has imposed on uncut opal leaving this country will have on the industry, and what information can he give on sending opal drills to Andamooka?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Regarding the last matter, I doubt whether it will be possible, within the confines of the vote being considered by the Committee, to provide the support sought by the honourable member. However, I will have the matter further examined. Regarding the sale and marketing of opal, the Government is trying to do what it can to generate a domestic market through such activities as those of our craft authority with which the Premier was initially, and still is, associated and for which I am now Ministerially responsible. This operation is proceeding with much success. I hope that members will before long see some tangible results from these operations.

Mr. Coumbe: Will its activities result in a deficit?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I am not sure what the honourable means by a "deficit". I do not know whether it was ever considered that the craft authority would at this stage make a profit. Obviously, much money has to be poured into providing facilities. Does one ever really expect the authority to make a surplus through the use of, say, scholarships or making money available to

various craftsmen? I should think not, just as the Education Department would not make a surplus by providing scholarships in other fields. The Government is trying to do what it can to stimulate the domestic market for opal. In reply to the other matter that the honourable member again raised, I hope that the miscreants got a hangover and that we can give them an even more severe one.

Mr. MATHWIN: Mr. Acting Chairman, when the Committee was dealing with previous lines, you called only those lines shown in block titles, and the lines were passed in that way. One would have expected the same thing to happen in relation to the Premier's Department. I was waiting for you to take the vote on the State Governor's Establishment, which comes under the Estimates for the Premier and Minister of Development and Mines, and for you then to proceed to deal with the Premier's Department. However, you did not do so.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can raise that matter at the appropriate time. He cannot raise it now.

Mr. COUMBE: I realise that the Minister of Works now has certain responsibilities regarding the conservation of underground water. There is an allocation for the Mines Department, which does boring work and carries out investigations in connection with underground water supplies. Will the Minister give the Committee information on underground water supplies, particularly as they affect the Adelaide Plains, where market gardeners are concerned about their situation? I understand many of them will have to move farther out from their present area near Virginia. This could, of course, result in increased vegetable prices. Can the Minister say whether the underground supply in the Adelaide Plains basin is improving or remaining static or whether it is deteriorating despite the restrictions placed on the operations of borers and those who pump from wells?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: From the information I have it seems that this is now a holding operation. I am unable to say what kind of recharge will have occurred as a result of the better than the average seasons of the past two years. I will obtain more detailed information for the honourable member, who will be aware that a somewhat alarming situation emerged some time ago, with a possibility of saline waters entering the underground basin. However, as a result of restrictions, I think that situation has now been held, but I am unaware of the extent to which that has been proved. The management aspects are now administered by the Minister of Works, and it is the Mines Department's responsibility to help with the technical aspects of drilling and with general information about the management of the resource.

Mr. GUNN: I introduced a deputation of people, interested in the old goldfields south of Kingoonya, to the Minister's Secretary in the Minister's absence. These people want to get the old Government battery at Glenloth operating again. Has the Minister further considered this matter and can he say whether the Government intends to allow these people to spend a considerable sum on getting the battery operating again?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: This matter is still being considered. However, we must take into account whether it might be better to upgrade the old Tarcoola battery, instead of the one at Glenloth, in view of the limited allocation. I cannot give any final decision on that matter. We are still considering this matter, which the honourable member initiated.

Mr. GUNN: Is the Mines Department conducting any exploratory drilling operations for water in the Coober Pedy area? The Minister is aware of the great shortage of suitable supplies of water in this area, and the Government is spending considerable sums to provide desalination facilities. Although an abundance of salt water is available, many people have asked me whether the Government has any plans to conduct boring operations to ascertain whether a suitable supply of underground water can be located close to Coober Pedy.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will consider this matter.

Mr. EVANS: As a \$40 000 allocation was made and spent last year on producing films, can the Minister say what films were produced and what was the contract price for each film? Can he also say what kind of survey work the Mines Department carries out in connection with subdivision applications? I understand that the department's team carries out surveys on the geological structure and soil content of areas in relation to which subdivision applications are made. Is there more than one departmental team that carries out this work?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will obtain the information with regard to the films. I understand that only one crew is involved, but only from time to time, on the survey operations. The team recently worked on a new subdivision in the area to the back of Hallett Cove, namely, Sheidow Park.

Mr. MATHWIN: Is the Minister referring to the area of spoiled flora immediately adjacent to the historical area at Hallett Cove? That is all Sheidow property.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: This work is normally carried out at the subdivider's request and expense. The area to which the honourable member refers is not the area to which I was referring, which is visible from the main South Road at Fountain Valley.

Mr. GUNN: Several of my constituents have complained to me that the Government is considering increasing the cost of a precious stones prospecting permit, now \$10, to \$20. Because of the depressed state of the industry, particularly at Andamooka, people are finding it difficult to earn a living, and this would be an additional burden on them. Andamooka's population has fallen from 1 500 to between 750 and 800, and the number is still falling.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: No recommendation has been placed before me; should a recommendation be placed before me, it will be considered on its merits.

Line passed.

Art Gallery, \$387 000.

Mr. CUMBE: I refer to the allocation of \$70 000 for the purchase of works of art, an increase of \$10 000 over last year's allocation. The proposed purchase of a Dobell self-portrait has been the subject of controversy in some quarters. I believe that \$70 000 of the cost of the self-portrait is to be raised by public subscription. Will there be a public appeal? Dobell did some early sketches and self-portraits some years before he did the one it is proposed to purchase. The self-portrait under consideration is possibly one of Dobell's last paintings. When some of the earlier works were offered for sale at Sotheby's, reasonable prices were fetched. Of course, works of art often increase in value after the artist's death. I believe that \$80 000 has been offered to the Dobell trust for the self-portrait. Can the Treasurer say what steps the Government has taken to

ascertain whether that sum represents the true value of the work? Has the Art Gallery Board or the Director examined the work to see whether the price is reasonable?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): The Government's original intention, because of the stringency of financial provisions at present, was to hold the provision for the purchase of works of art at \$60 000 this year, given the fact that there were some extra expenses in the Art Gallery Department. We had concentrated any extra money on providing for staff and facilities. The Art Gallery of South Australia, one of the three major galleries in Australia, has a major gap in its Australian collection in that it has no major Dobell. The Melbourne and Sydney galleries have considerable collections of major Dobell works. The Dobell trust has a number of Dobell works that have not been sold.

The self-portrait under consideration is believed by many people to be Dobell's greatest work. He did sketches for it over a long period. A major Australian novel deals fictionally with this self-portrait, which has been valued on the market at far above the figure at which the trustees have offered it to the gallery. The trustees are agreed that, in the interests of art in Australia, it is proper for the South Australian gallery to have a major Dobell. It can therefore be seen that the figure of \$80 000 is a concession. When the gallery asked for Government support I said that, given the Budget situation, I could not possibly find a figure of that kind. The gallery replied that it believed it could raise, through a public appeal, the additional money if some substantial contribution was given by the State Government to start the fund. In those circumstances I was willing to increase the allocation for the purchase of works of art from \$60 000 to \$70 000. The extra \$10 000 will be dependent on the public's providing the remainder of the money for this Dobell. Otherwise, the figure for the Art Gallery will remain at \$60 000.

Mr. Goldsworthy: The gallery might spend the whole \$70 000 on it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It will not do that.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Is the rest of the allocation to be used for normal purchases?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. We have markedly increased the money available for purchasing works of art. When this Government came to office in 1970, the figure for purchasing works of art for the Art Gallery was \$5 000 a year. As a result of our increasing that provision, there have been some major acquisitions. In some years a substantial sum was spent on a specific collection; for example, the gallery now owns the major collection in the world of Thai pottery of the medieval period. I have not seen the Dobell self-portrait, but I have seen illustrations of it. I must say that the kind of statement made by a would-be art critic in the *Sunday Mail* last Sunday showed—

Dr. Tonkin: Come now! He is a critic of some standing.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: For him to say what he said about Dobell is a retreat from the standards that he previously attempted to establish. I consider that this Dobell is a major Australian masterpiece; in fact, it is a masterpiece of world standard.

Dr. Tonkin: The art critic called Dobell a second-rate painter.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: What the critic said is nonsense.

Line passed.

Premier and Minister of Development and Mines, Miscellaneous, \$3 729 000.

Mr. EVANS: Although there was no allocation for the Arts Grants Advisory Committee last year, there is an allocation of \$5 300 this year. Can the Treasurer explain exactly how that sum will be spent? Although there was no allocation for Festival of Arts illuminations and decorations last year, \$2 900 is allocated for that purpose this year. Last year the allocation for grants and provisions for the arts was \$789 900, but \$894 896 was actually spent, and the allocation has been substantially increased to \$1 406 990 this year. A few moments ago the Treasurer said that, because of the scarcity of funds, he had to be very cautious with the Art Gallery allocation, but caution has not been exercised in the item to which I am now referring. I ask the Treasurer to explain where the money will be spent and what applications were made for various increases in provisions for the arts.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): First, the honourable member has asked about the Arts Grants Advisory Committee. The \$5 300 is for payment to committee members, travelling expenses, and so on. In relation to the amount for the Festival of Arts illuminations and decorations, this provides for reimbursement to the Public Buildings Department of the balance of the cost of floodlighting and decorating public buildings during the most recent festival. As to the grants to the arts, the total amount in applications to the Arts Grants Advisory Committee was far in excess of what appears in these Estimates, but I will detail the grants to the honourable member. Last year there was a grant to the Adelaide Film Festival of \$4 473 for illuminations. That was made direct to the festival. There will not be a grant this year. That will not be repeated this year. Last year \$3 000 was granted to the Adelaide Highland Games, and that will be continued this year. Last year \$2 000 was granted to the Adelaide Repertory Theatre. That grant will not be repeated this year.

Last year \$81 661 was granted to the Arts Council of South Australia. This year the amount is increased to \$128 634. That grant is towards the cost of touring South Australian and interstate theatre, opera and music productions to country regions of this State. The increase in funds is necessary because of increases in awards for artists and also for touring expenses. The increases are unavoidable, given increases in wage costs, if we are not to reduce what has been provided previously for touring country areas. We consider it necessary to provide for country people in South Australia the sort of facilities that we are endeavouring to provide in the city in relation to arts.

Mr. Venning: You have suddenly realised that country people exist!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This is not sudden. This Government established the Regional Cultural Centres Committee, which has provided large sums of money to country areas for the building of country regional performing arts centres so that country people may enjoy the same facilities as city people enjoy.

Dr. Eastick: Mildura is a good model, isn't it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Mildura is a good model, and we have approved the provision of a centre in Renmark, which, together with the adult education centre, will be a performing arts centre for the whole Riverland. For Theatre 62, we provided \$50 000 last year and we are providing \$85 000 this year. The amount provided this year includes \$40 000 towards payment of accrued debts over the past three financial periods, which arose from insufficient previous funding. The balance of \$45 000 is less than was provided last year towards operating expenses.

We have not been satisfied with the accounting by Theatre 62, because the theatre has exceeded estimates on several occasions. Consequently, the most stringent provisions for accounting have been made and a Government accountant is sitting on the board constantly to ensure that the theatre does not exceed the estimates that we have provided to it. For New Opera (S.A.), an amount of \$50 000 was provided last year and \$85 200 is provided this year. The provision is towards general operating expenses for the State-subsidised Opera Company. This increase is necessary because of increased awards of up to 40 per cent during this year.

The grant to the South Australian Theatre Company was \$293 000 last year and this year it is \$466 000. This is the major State theatre company and the subsidy is towards operating expenses and administrative costs during 1974-75, plus the additional expenses associated with the transfer to the new accommodation. Several establishment expenses are included in that provision, because the theatre must be involved in considerable expenses in moving into the new complex.

Last year an amount of \$65 000 was granted to the A.B.C. Symphony Orchestra and \$65 000 is provided this year. The grant was increased last year to provide for increases in the number of permanent and augmented members of the Symphony Orchestra, and honourable members who have heard the orchestra performing in the Adelaide Festival Centre will appreciate the marked improvement in the orchestra as a result.

An amount of \$30 000 was provided last year for the Australian Dance Theatre, and \$120 000 is being provided this year. This includes \$10 000 towards expenses last year and provision towards expansion of this company into dance training activities to attract younger dancers and also to improve facilities. This is a major company of national standard. It is the only modern dance company in Australia and the only national company that has its headquarters in South Australia. It has been funded considerably by the Commonwealth Government, but it has been necessary for us to provide additional money to strengthen the company, with the ingress of overseas choreographers. This year we are providing \$3 500 towards travelling expenses for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra from Sydney to Adelaide during its tour of Australia.

An amount of \$5 000 was provided last year for Carclew, and this year we are providing \$17 700. This follows the carrying out of repairs to the building and site and increased funding now required to develop the centre as a child arts complex to its full potential.

Mr. Becker: There's another \$13 100 provided.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The amount is \$12 700 more this year. We had to repaint the place, do all sorts of repair and give other attention to it, if we were to keep it going at all. It was in a decidedly dilapidated condition and the \$12 700 is much less than the estimate to put it into the best possible condition. However, it was necessary to do essential maintenance work and allow for its development, which the honourable member would have seen publicised, for children in South Australia. I consider that Carclew now will compare with the centre in Hobart for youth training and youth activities in performing arts work.

Last year we did not give anything to the Brass Ensemble, but this year we will give \$3 003. This is a Government subsidy of travel expenses so that the Brass Ensemble could attend the August, 1974, International Society for Music Education World Conference in Perth. That has been held.

Mr. Mathwin: You wouldn't help the Cabra Convent choir, would you?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: These recommendations for expenses were made by the Arts Grants Advisory Committee after the committee had investigated all the matters concerned. They are not Ministerial decisions. We have established an extremely representative group of people to examine the applications and consider the various priorities in the State. The amounts that I have been stating are the committee's recommendations.

Dr. Eastick: Has the committee a maximum to which to work?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Dr. Eastick: Or does it submit amounts and you scale them down?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Originally, the committee submitted a total much greater than this. I stated that this could not conceivably be managed within the terms of our present budgetary situation and that the amounts would have to be reduced to a much lesser figure. I specified the maximum that I could possibly make available in this area, and the committee made alterations up to the limit.

Last year we gave \$9 000 to the Eisteddfod, and this year we are providing \$9 000 towards the cost of the August, 1974, Adelaide Eisteddfod. This year we are providing \$2 050 towards cost of printing volume 2 of the works of South Australian graphic artists to gain recognition of their abilities throughout Australia. Last year and this year amounts of \$2 400, as scholarships, have been provided to support South Australian students at the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney and at the Australian Ballet Centre in Melbourne. Of course, this is only a small subsidy towards the total amount. A sum of \$50 000 was allocated last year to the Australian Opera, and \$70 000 is to be allocated this year. That applies also to the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. It is a continuing grant towards tours of those companies and takes into account the escalating costs of the two major national companies in relation to their providing tours in South Australia. It is, in comparison with what is given elsewhere in Australia, not an over-generous amount, but it is as much as I considered we could manage.

Last year \$15 000 was allocated to the Adelaide Film Festival, and the same amount is to be allocated this year. Last year \$7 350 was allocated and this year \$7 300 has been allocated for the South Australian Bands Association. In each of the two years \$1 500 has been made available for the school bands competition. Last year \$4 420 was allocated to the fellowship we have given to a South Australian composer, Mr. Richard Meale. This is the first of the fellowships to resident artists, and he is to be paid at, I think, the level of a senior lecturer or a reader to act as a resident composer. He is bringing great note and attention to South Australia, and this has enabled him sufficient time apart from his teaching duties to do his work of composition. I believe that, as the result of fellowships of this kind, we will develop in South Australia one of the two major contemporary music schools in composition in the world. The other is at York University, in England.

Grants to new applicants last year totalled \$15 592, but this year \$92 000 is to be allocated to new applicants recommended by the Arts Grants Advisory Committee. The committee has rejected other applications requested, which exceeded \$480 000. We have confined the amount to new applicants to \$92 000. Last year \$5 500 was spent on the regional arts centres, and this year the amount is to be \$51 500, including \$25 000 as the balance of the

Government grant towards the improvement of the Millicent centre, \$6 500 towards architects' reports and the balance for the possible regional arts centres at Port Lincoln and Mount Gambier, and \$20 000 for architects' fees for preliminary plans and estimates for the Whyalla cultural centre. An unallocated reserve of \$64 018 is to be made available for additional grants to arts bodies and for other contingencies that may arise during the year. That is the total of those grants.

Mr. CUMBE: The document read by the Treasurer is most valuable and would be of considerable assistance to members. Perhaps such a document could be supplied to members with details in a readily digestible form instead of our having to study the *Hansard* report. It would be most useful. I realise that Carclew must be restored, but I do not think any grant has been made to the Bunyip Children's Theatre, although allocations have been made in previous years, nor does it appear that the Repertory Theatre is to receive a grant. I should like these matters clarified.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think the application of the Bunyip Children's Theatre is still being considered. Accounting matters require to be cleared up before any decision is made in relation to a further grant to the theatre. Unfortunately, at this stage those matters have not been properly cleared up. Until that is done (and that we require of any body) we cannot proceed further. There have been unfortunate disagreements between the management of the theatre and the board, which is a board representative of people prominent in theatre and management in South Australia. These are not matters that I enter into personally, and I hope they can be resolved. I shall obtain details to give a full reply in relation to the Repertory Theatre. I think the original proposal for the provision of \$2 000 a year to the Repertory Theatre was against the mortgage payments by the theatre for the building of the Arts Theatre. I think that has now been discharged. However, I shall check the matter. Normally we do not give grants to amateur theatre.

Mr. Becker: Why not?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Because we must concentrate our grants in the areas of professional and semi-professional work. If we do not, we are taking from the work we are doing in building up professional and semi-professional groups. If we started taking from that money (it is not a bottomless barrel) to give largesse to amateur theatre groups, there would be no stopping. We have from the outset, on making grants to theatres, said quite specifically that the money will go to professional groups or those that can qualify to become professional groups. We are not giving grants to all semi-professional groups in South Australia. We are giving them to those groups that can qualify as regional theatre or performing arts companies with the Australian Council for the Arts. They need funding both from us and from the Australian council to be able to become viable companies in the professional sense. It is essential for us to build up companies of world standard. That is what we are concentrating on doing, and I believe the South Australian Theatre Company has already reached that standard.

Mr. Cumbe: When these allocations are made, are the Commonwealth grants taken into account?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. We consult with the Australian Council for the Arts. There is quite close consultation in order to see that the funding is there. The South Australian Theatre Company is our major

theatre company, and we had to undertake to the Australian Council for the Arts that the State would be responsible for the residual expenses of this company. This was a considerable undertaking, but I believe it has paid off in real terms. That company is now performing at world standard. The critics agree. We really have a first-class company in South Australia as a result.

Mr. Coumbe: Will you make the figures available?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Dr. EASTICK: Although no allocation was made in 1973-74 for the State Energy Study Committee a payment of \$657 was made, and there is to be an allocation this year of \$1 000. What is the reason for the existence of the committee, what work has it carried out, what is expected of it, and is \$1 000 a realistic figure for the forthcoming year? The amount for "Official openings—expenses" has been increased from an expenditure of \$4 860 last year to a proposed expenditure of \$32 000. I have attended several of these functions at which I believe there was a wanton waste of taxpayers' money on catering. I accept that major projects have to be officially opened and some recognition made of the occasion, but, as there are demands for more hospitals, housing, and assistance for worthwhile organisations, can the Treasurer say why this massive increase is necessary?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The State Energy Study Committee consists entirely of members of the Public Service, so that no major expense is involved other than for reports, correspondence, etc. I will obtain these details for the honourable member. Concerning expenses for official openings, in October there will be three openings at the festival complex on successive days. In addition to the expenses involved with the openings, advertising and publicity will be involved in publicising what is considered to be the best complex of its kind in the world. Such expenses are included in this sum. The amount spent on advertising in this State is a ruddy sight less than that spent by any other State in Australia. In this case we will be able to secure much free advertising and, by spending this money, we consider that we will receive the necessary promotion.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: How is the \$35 000 allocated to the Public Service Inquiry Committee to be spent? The members of this committee work for the Government anyway.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Some members of the committee work for the Government, and others are paid an appropriate fee. In addition, they travel to other States and overseas to inquire about the organisation of the Public Service. The cost of gathering this information has been carefully considered by the Government, and it is fully justified.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I refer to the item "Reimbursement of incentive payment to establish factory at Mt. Gambier, \$12 600". What is the nature of this reimbursement?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The reimbursement is to Fletcher Jones and Staff for pay-roll tax, which was an incentive specifically given to this company to come to this State.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I do not disagree with the general policy of incentives, because we need new companies and those in the State need to decentralise, but can any company that now wishes to come to South Australia, or one that wishes to decentralise in this State, expect the same sort of assistance in relation to pay-roll tax? Also, is this all the pay-roll tax or part of it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We do not make a list of all the offers that the Government would be willing to make to any company that would come to this State; otherwise, we may be taken for a ride, and we do not see why we should give away taxpayers' money. However, in the case of this company its choice was establishing at Warrnambool or at Mt. Gambier. Under Victorian legislation, a complicated formula is used by which assistance is given to certain companies by way of remission of pay-roll tax, and we decided, as we were in competition with Victoria, to offer such a reimbursement to this company. We do not say that any company coming to this State will necessarily receive this offer, because we examine the financial position of the company before any decision is made.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Was this all the pay-roll tax or part of it?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As far as I am aware, it is the entire tax, but I will check for the honourable member. We have not been willing to say to companies that, regardless of their financial position, if they establish in South Australia the Government will remit pay-roll tax. We do not say that; we say there are some flexible areas in which the Government is prepared to negotiate to give assistance for the establishment of country industries. No Government in the history of this State has given the amount of money for the establishment of country industries that this one has.

Mr. Dean Brown: The Victorian Government has.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Victorian Government has not done as well as all that in the establishment of country industries. This Government has spent considerable sums of money on the establishment and extension of country industries—so successfully in the case of Fletcher Jones that it has trebled its original establishment. If the honourable member likes to refer to his colleague, the member for Murray, when he returns, he will find out that we were able to save employment in Mannum by Government expenditure. Employment in that town has continued to expand, and that could not have happened without the money granted by the Government. We have been prepared to assist decentralised industries markedly. On the other hand, we do not simply say that firms that come to South Australia can get this list of benefits and goodies regardless of their existing circumstances or inducements, but we do say we will examine the need for assistance to any industry seeking to establish in this State and, if the need is proved, it will get a very good deal from us.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Will the Treasurer furnish me with information on what major industries have established in the country areas of South Australia in the last 4½ years, and perhaps information on what sort of assistance his Government has given?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Mr. BECKER: I refer to the South Australian Craft Industry Authority, which was voted \$90 000 last year but actually spent \$49 947. This year we are proposing to allocate that body \$148 000. Why is there such a large increase of about \$100 000? Also, I should like an assurance from the Treasurer, in regard to the increased allocation of \$100 000 to this authority, that the method of producing vouchers for payments can be improved. At page 310 of his report, the Auditor-General has this to say about the South Australian Craft Authority:

Vouchers could not be produced to support a number of payments.

Why could they not be produced? What method of accounting was adopted by the authority in



paying its accounts? Can it be guaranteed that that method has been attended to and that there will be no recurrence of that situation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: During last year the South Australian Craft Industry Authority was established; it was only in its early establishment stages. It was not possible then to provide for the workshops or the grants to master craftsmen envisaged in the original craft industry report. That is now happening. In the early stages of the development of the authority, the full staff had not been appointed. Consequently, the necessary financial controls were not as good as they might have been, but that has now been remedied. Mr. Blackall and his staff are working effectively at the moment. We have leased a large workshop area from the Commonwealth Government; it has been refurbished and grants have been made to a number of leading craftsmen, who are training master craftsmen at the centre. There will be a major expenditure later this year on the work on the master craftsmen in the authority. I am sure the honourable member would appreciate just how far South Australia is ahead of any other part of Australia in developing this important area of industry.

When I was in Sweden, I was able to visit the craft industry authorities there; a number of them in Sweden give grants to master craftsmen in workshops and arrange proper marketing. Sweden has an export income of some \$35 000 000 from its craft activities. I believe we shall be able to reach a similar situation. Already in the master craftsmen engaged, we have one of the world's leading craftsmen in glass working at the centre. He was previously the leading craftsman in glass in England. He is an American by origin but was in charge of the senior technical work in London, and was training people in glass. He is now here. Then we have the Hemmingsens, who were the major designers for the Jensen factory in Scandinavia. They are now here as our leading silversmiths. That is the sort of thing that is being established under the authority. Necessarily, if we are to establish this sort of thing, there will be an increase in expenses, but I invite the honourable member, as soon as he likes, to go out to the jam factory, which is the centre of the craft authority's area at the moment, and he will see the kind of work being done there and the market potential. It is on the Payneham Road, in a district very well represented.

Mr. EVANS: I refer to some earlier points made by the Treasurer, in overall grants to the arts. I will draw some comparisons. No doubt, we shall spend more time on these lines concerning the arts than on the total business interests of the State, and we shall do that because we see a substantial increase in the allocations in this area—more than in any other area. The regional arts centres will have an allocation this year of \$51 000, as against \$5 500 last year, covering the areas of Port Lincoln, Mt. Gambier, Whyalla, and Millicent. It may be all right to spend money there in good times, but is it necessary to spend money there in bad times? For last year for Festival of Arts illuminations and decorations there was no special line: there was just a grant from the general overall grant—\$4 733 being the figure used by the Treasurer. This year we have a special line of \$2 900. I take it that is because someone overspent on the money that was available last year. For Theatre 62, which the Treasurer admits has not been able to budget properly and whose accountancy is bad, we have to allocate \$40 000 to get it out of financial difficulty. That is \$40 000 of money that belongs to the people.

I say all this with the idea of drawing a comparison at the end of my remarks. In many other fields of the

arts the Treasurer has said that there has been an increase in the cost of operation because of wage and salary increases, and other general overhead expenditure; yet, in this Budget we are decreasing the amount of money spent on sewerage by 20 per cent in one area. What sort of comparison can we draw? We grant money for a composer, Richard Meale, to take a senior music fellowship. If he will compose a tune, the people in my district will compose the words about the sewage in the Mitcham Hills area that flows into the streets. What sort of priorities do we have? Does the Treasurer really believe that, when the State is in economic strife, we should nearly double the sums made available to the arts? Is that the trend we can expect from the Government next year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not expect vast increases next year, but there will be increases in accordance with the on-going establishment of measures we have undertaken, and there will be measures that will allow for increases in awards, wages, and the like. I point out that this community spends on matters of this kind far less than comparable communities elsewhere in the world spend. A comparison between our city and any comparable European city makes us look as though we are simply not interested in this area. I am talking about places of comparable population.

Mr. Goldsworthy: What do they do about sewerage?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They manage with that. The city of Mannheim with a population of 365 000 has an arts centre as large as ours and three full companies, more than we have.

Mr. Goldsworthy: They've been going a bit longer than us.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, and for a long time they have been spending more than we have.

Mr. Mathwin: Even when Chopin was there practising on his piano.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, and people then thought that that was important, and people here think it is important now. While Richard Meale is here practising the piano, I suggest to the member for Fisher that he write something special for organ and sewer flute so that he can have that composed by Mr. Meale.

Mr. EVANS: I thank the Treasurer for that offer; at least then people in my area would get something for their money, whereas now they get nothing. I hope that the Treasurer realises that he is comparing old and established countries that have sewerage facilities, roads, schools, and an established population with this country, which does not. I believe in the arts.

Mr. Jennings: Man doesn't live by bread alone.

Mr. EVANS: True and, unless we have good quality water also, we may not live at all. We should look at the priorities. This is the wrong year in which to start doubling the allocation to the arts.

The Hon. G. R. Broomhill: You always say that.

Mr. EVANS: That is not so; last year there was no general complaint. I seek an assurance from the Treasurer that the Government will not take this ridiculous approach to budgetary measures next year.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: How will the Industrial Research Institute spend its allocation of \$120 000, and what sort of growth can we expect? Industrial research is an important area, although throughout Australia not enough attention is paid to it. That is why Australia is a backwater when it comes to industrial development.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I very much appreciate the honourable member's support for this activity, as this

was originally a proposal of mine; I was the Minister responsible for setting up this institute. I will obtain for the honourable member a schedule of the research work so far done and presently being undertaken.

Mr. EVANS: Last year, the allocation to the South Australian Film Corporation was \$466 275, the expenditure being substantially more at \$505 362, an increase of about \$50 000. This year, the allocation is \$1 005 000, plus \$285 000 to produce films (I take it that that is for Government departments). I admit that last year we permitted departments which wanted films produced to have them produced, with the sum involved being about \$285 000. Now we find an increase in this area of between \$800 000 and \$1 300 000. What films of major significance will be produced this year? How much did the film *Stacey's Gym* cost? Were the moneys to produce it borrowed and, if they were, from whom were they borrowed and what were the terms of the loan? Where is that film being shown and what royalties have been received? Has the film *Sunday Too Far Away* been completed? What was the contract price to complete it? Were the moneys borrowed to complete it, and, if they were, what were the terms of the loan? What other films were produced by the corporation during the financial year 1973-74? What was the accepted contract price for films let out to tender? What was the subsequent price charged to the department or organisation that bought the film through the corporation?

I am told that the mark-up price charged by the corporation allows a margin of 30 per cent to 50 per cent. I believe anyone could make a go of a business if the guarantee from the people was \$780 000, as was the case last year with the corporation, and if there was a mark up of 30 per cent to 50 per cent on the contract price. In such a case, there would be no chance of failure. We have given this group a little too much freedom. Was not the charter of the film corporation designed so that it would produce films and encourage the film industry in South Australia without trying to bleed it, beating people down to the lowest possible price, then making a large profit? Can the Treasurer justify the massive increase in the allocation to this organisation? The cost of wage and salary increases would have no greater effect on this body than they would have on the Engineering and Water Supply Department or any other department. How can this increased allocation of 60 per cent to 70 per cent be given to this corporation when some departments have had their allocation reduced and others have been kept at the same level?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The allocation of \$1 005 000 actually includes \$475 000 of commercial earnings by the corporation. The actual contribution from Government sources is in fact only \$530 000. The point is that the corporation has been allowed to retain its commercial earnings, in the same way as does the Forestry Department, in order to proceed with its on-going film production. At present, it has about 60 films in production.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Will it ever show a profit?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Eventually, in about 10 years, it will be self-funding. Some of the things it is doing are of a service nature. I refer, for instance, to the running of the film library. How on earth it could make a profit on that, I do not know. The Education Department did not make a profit with it, and this organisation has had to take it over and upgrade it. While some of these things are of a service nature and receive a substantial State subsidy, the corporation is going extremely well. Indeed, the honourable member is incorrect when he says that it is getting a vast extra Government allocation this year, because

it is not. Regarding the other questions the honourable member asked, I do not have the information with me. However, I will obtain a full schedule of current productions for him, and answers to the questions he has raised.

Mr. Evans: What about its original charter?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That included the production of films. What it has done has been markedly to encourage the establishment of the film industry in this State. It is utterly absurd for anyone to suggest that, when we did not have a substantial film industry in this State and only a few people who had extensive experience in film work, we could recruit everyone for such an industry from South Australia. What we had to do was to provide conditions under which we could attract the best workmen here, and the corporation has bent over backwards to try to give contracts to people who were already in South Australia.

Mr. Goldsworthy: You don't think it is spreading the wings too wide?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No.

Mr. Goldsworthy: What about Mannheim?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is only a city, not a State. There is a considerable film industry in Germany and in Sweden, and both are subsidised.

Mr. Mathwin: They've also got one in Denmark.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I did not see that, but perhaps the honourable member can tell me about that from his own experience.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Will the Treasurer give the Committee information regarding the Regional Growth Centres Liaison Group. How will its allocation of \$25 000 be spent this year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This group has been established to undertake necessary studies to ensure that work done within and outside of the Government is co-ordinated, in order to enable submissions to be made to the Commonwealth Government regarding acceptance of the regional growth centres of the iron triangle and the green triangle. I should have thought that the allocation of \$25 000 was not a large one for that purpose. However, I will try to obtain a breakdown of the allocation for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: Will the Treasurer also ascertain who retains the copyrights of films produced by the South Australian Film Corporation? Also, how many projects have been let to tender to film companies or groups established in other States? Will he also say how much work the corporation sends to other States for editing or other purposes, and is he aware that those persons who operate in the private film-making sector in this State are still in a depressed situation? The Treasurer has said that it was the corporation's charter to get the industry established here with the best possible personnel. I agree that persons might have to be brought to South Australia from other States, but not for the corporation. When the Premier originally introduced legislation regarding the corporation, he said (and this can be found in *Hansard*) that it was intended to encourage film-makers already established in South Australia. Surely we should be giving them enough work at the right price and bringing in persons from other States to work for them, not setting up another great bureaucracy under the Government's control.

I accept that the allocation to the corporation is not as high as it appears to be. However, the money that is made available to it is interest-free, and it pays interest on the money it borrows. The Treasurer has said that he will give details of the terms of borrowings and the amounts

paid. I take it this comes, in the main, from the corporation; if not, he will no doubt tell me. I cannot accept that the corporation should march merrily on while the few companies that are trying to make films in the private sector are left aside. I say that, forgetting all the other priorities in our community such as sewerage, and so on. There is not much benefit in one's going to see a film if one is dying from a disease contracted as a result of lack of sewerage facilities.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The Treasurer has several times referred to the new accounting procedures that are being adopted. Indeed, in his annual report the Auditor-General has called for certain Government departments to adopt new accounting procedures.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: To which line is the honourable member referring?

Mr. DEAN BROWN: To that dealing with the South Australian Film Corporation. I heard with much interest the Treasurer tell the member for Fisher that the corporation's allocation included a substantial sum received from the sale of films. I do not decry this, as it is a fairly realistic sort of accounting procedure. However, I am surprised that the revenue received by most Government departments is not returned to those departments but is channelled into general revenue. In this respect, I refer particularly to the Agriculture Department as I knew it at Northfield. Irrespective of the revenue raised from the sale of products there, the money received went to general revenue. The milk produced at the dairy farm might just as well have been poured down the drain, as no incentive was given to those at the centre to be more efficient in relation to production. One would have hoped that the same procedure would be adopted in relation to other departments. I make a plea on behalf of the Agriculture Department in this respect. Certain Government departments must collect revenue.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! Does the honourable member intend to relate his remarks to the Estimates?

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I am referring to the South Australian Film Corporation and its accounting procedures. The Commonwealth Government has been realistic in this regard and has said that in certain research fields day-to-day funds can be established whereby any revenue collected can be used by the authority concerned to meet its commitments. It is about time this Government adopted the same procedure.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am afraid I cannot promise the honourable member that any department that has a commercial return can retain its earnings. That would make the business of allocating priorities in the Treasury quite impossible. It is only in exceptional cases that the course is undertaken, as with the forestry and film corporation undertakings, that the commercial returns may be retained by the organisation.

Mr. Dean Brown: Why are those undertakings exceptional?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As a major undertaking within the State it would be impossible for the corporation to operate commercially on any other basis. The honourable member knows that the Agriculture Department's

dairy-farming activities were not really undertaken for commercial purposes. It would be impossible for me to do what the honourable member suggests, and the Treasury would greatly resist any such course.

Mr. Dean Brown: There are certain areas where it could be looked at.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will suggest it to the Under Treasurer.

Dr. EASTICK: Regarding the \$15 000 allocation for Port Augusta development, consultant's fees and expenses, is that sum associated with the Redcliff project and will it be recouped from the Commonwealth Government, having regard to the Commonwealth sum that will be involved in the whole exercise?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes it is, and it includes an element with regard to the Redcliff project, but I cannot say whether it will be recouped from the Commonwealth. I am consulting later with the Minister for Urban and Regional Development.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Will the Treasurer explain the \$90 000 allocation for the Monarto Steering Committee last year; \$64 257 was spent, but there is no allocation this year.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Monarto Development Commission has since been appointed.

Mr. Goldsworthy: The steering committee is finished?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Mr. MATHWIN: Will the Treasurer explain the \$13 100 allocation for Carclew restoration expenses? The sum of \$12 700 was spent last year and, added to this year's allocation, it amounts to \$25 800. Is it expected that more renovations will be carried out to Carclew?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As we will be carrying out only normal maintenance on the building, it is not expected that any large sum will be spent.

Mr. McANANEY: Regarding the \$12 600 allocation for reimbursement of incentive payment to establish a factory at Mt. Gambier, is it to establish a factory there? I point out that the tannery at Mt. Barker is experiencing difficulties. Is any incentive likely to be given to assist a decentralised factory in the country?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have discussed certain problems with the management of the Mt. Barker tannery and it appears that they could not be solved by an allocation of this kind, but we will certainly be pursuing any way in which we can assist the management to maintain its tannery.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Regarding the \$6 000 allocation for earthquakes and seismic risk investigation, why was that expenditure incurred?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That sum was paid to Mr. K. McCue to carry out a project, in connection with the University of Adelaide, on earthquake possibilities.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Do you know the result?

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

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 5.18 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 17, at 2 p.m.