

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, September 7, 1976

The SPEAKER (Hon. E. Connelly) took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

EIGHT MILE CREEK SETTLEMENT (DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the Bill.

RUNDLE STREET MALL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

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

HOUSING ADVANCES BILL

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

PETITION: FLINDERS HIGHWAY

Mr. GUNN presented a petition signed by 99 residents of South Australia, praying that the House would urge the Government immediately to allocate funds to have the Flinders Highway to Venus Bay road sealed after the completion of the Talia to Streaky Bay section of the highway.

Petition received.

PETITIONS: SEXUAL OFFENCES

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON presented a petition signed by 57 electors of South Australia, praying that the House would reject or amend any legislation to abolish the crime of incest or to lower the age of consent in respect of sexual offences.

Dr. EASTICK presented a similar petition signed by 11 electors of South Australia.

Mr. WARDLE presented a similar petition signed by 39 electors of South Australia.

Mr. WOTTON presented a similar petition signed by 179 electors of South Australia.

Mr. MILLHOUSE presented a similar petition signed by 138 electors of South Australia.

Mrs. BYRNE presented a similar petition signed by 51 electors of South Australia.

Mr. BECKER presented a similar petition signed by 433 electors of South Australia.

Mr. OLSON presented a similar petition signed by 64 electors of South Australia.

Petitions received.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

The SPEAKER laid on the table the Auditor-General's Report for the financial year ended June 30, 1976.

Ordered that report be printed.

STATE BANK REPORT

The SPEAKER laid on the table the annual report of the State Bank for the year ended June 30, 1976, together with profit and loss account and balance sheets.

Ordered that report be printed.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE REDEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER laid on the table the report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence, on Parliament House Redevelopment (Phase II).

Ordered that report be printed.

QUESTIONS

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

SUCCESSION DUTIES

In reply to Mr. BOUNDY (August 10).

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: During the second reading speech on the Bill to amend the Succession Duties Act, 1929-73, I stated on October 16, 1975:

The concessions proposed in relation to rural property are generous. All previous limitations under which the rebate was reduced as the value of successions increased have been swept away. Rural property will be assessed for duty at half the rate applicable to other property. Moreover, the existing provisions under which no rebate is allowable where the property is held jointly or in common have been removed. In their place a new provision is inserted providing for a proportionate rebate where rural property is held in this form of tenure.

I believe the meaning of section 55g and 55j (which provide for the rural rebate) is quite clear. Where the property is bequeathed to a beneficiary referred to in the section, a rebate of one half of the value of that interest is allowed. Where the deceased owned the property jointly or in common with any other person or persons, a proportionate rebate only applies. This is the case where rural land is owned by a partnership. The quotation by the honourable member from *Hansard* has been taken out of context. The question to which the Minister was replying at that time arose from a concern that a restrictive interpretation could be placed on that section, rendering it ineffective where land was held by a husband and wife as tenants in common and comprised a partnership asset. The Minister gave an assurance that the Government's intention was otherwise. As I announced in the House on August 4, 1976, bequests of property to the spouse of a deceased, whose death occurred on or after July 1, 1976, will not be subject to succession duty. This exemption will, of course, apply to bequests of rural land to spouses.

PORT ADELAIDE REDEVELOPMENT

In reply to Mr. WHITTEN (July 28).

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: A draft report of stage 1 of the Port Adelaide study has been completed by the Monarto Development Commission and is currently being considered by the State Planning Authority. However, as part of the planning process to involve public participation an exhibition of the planning study, including the stage 1 report, has been placed on public exhibition in

Port Adelaide. The final report to be prepared by the Monarto Development Commission is due for presentation to the State Planning Authority by December 20, 1976.

At this stage, the Government has not been able to give any figure to its commitment to the redevelopment of Port Adelaide. The Government is meeting the cost of the study, \$80 000, but further decisions cannot be made until the final recommendations of the study have been made available to the Government. The honourable member will appreciate that it is difficult for the Government to specify funds in the absence of a final agreed scheme for redevelopment. However, the good faith of the Government towards Port Adelaide has been shown by the Government's providing a team from the commission to undertake the studies and prepare alternative schemes for the area.

A further indication of the Government's degree of commitment is the recent establishment of the Urban Renewal Unit, which means that manpower resources will be available to work on the implementation of the scheme. Another form of evidence of the Government's commitment to this project is the considerable resources that have been made available in an effort to stimulate public awareness of the redevelopment exercise and in gathering ideas from citizens on the types of improvement they would like to see in the Port Adelaide area. Some 700 man-hours (of State and local government employees) were involved in the organisation, mounting and manning of a mobile display van that toured the schools (13) and shopping centres (four) in the Port Adelaide area during April. I can assure the honourable member that, when the final report is presented in December, it will be given serious consideration by the Government.

TRANSPORT FOR HANDICAPPED

In reply to Mr. LANGLEY (August 5).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: If the front row of seats on buses was reserved for handicapped people there could be many buses on which no handicapped people were travelling and where seats remained unoccupied while other passengers were compelled to stand. Handicapped people and mothers with babies needing assistance are permitted to alight from the front door of buses, and travellers at most times do relinquish their seats for handicapped people. It is considered that the present arrangements work satisfactorily and that there is no need to establish special reserved seats for the handicapped.

FENCING REGULATIONS

In reply to the Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (August 11).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The control of the construction of fences at intersections is administered by councils by means of by-law. In some cases, councils have adopted the model by-law and in others have made their own by-laws to exercise this control. In 1970, the model by-law was amended to reduce the height of fences at intersections from 4 feet to 3 feet. It appears that not all councils have amended their adoption of the model by-law or amended their own by-laws to reduce the height from 4 feet to 3 feet, but most councils have certainly done so. There are three councils within the metropolitan area, namely the Corporations of Kensington and Norwood, Marion and Salisbury, which do not have by-laws to control the height of fences at intersections.

PINERA BRIDGE

In reply to Mr. EVANS (August 4).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The accident involving two children on the Pinera bridge between Belair and Blackwood on August 4, 1976 did not occur as a result of any deficiency of the bridge, in particular, the absence of barriers between the pavement and footpaths. The children were crossing the roadway from one footwalk to the other near the centre of the bridge. There is no record of accidents involving pedestrians using the footwalks on the Pinera bridge and there is generally a very low incidence of such accidents. In the circumstances, there appears to be no need for the provision of barriers at Pinera.

STEEL SLEEPERS

In reply to Mr. NANKIVELL (August 10).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The Rail Division of the State Transport Authority has entered into a contract for the manufacture and supply of 100 000 steel sleepers for use on the Pinnaroo line. To date, about 7 700 sleepers have been delivered to the work site. The design of these sleepers permits their use with 27 kilogram or 36 kilogram rail on broad-gauge track. Difficulties are associated with the use of steel sleepers where track circuits are involved, and their use is therefore limited.

RIDGEHAVEN SECONDARY SCHOOL

In reply to Mrs. BYRNE (August 10).

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Demographic surveys of the population growth in the Tea Tree Gully local government area indicate that there will be a need for a secondary school in Surrey Downs. However, the only site reserved for educational purposes in that area was originally intended for a technical college. Consequently, consideration is being given to the disposal of the department's Ridgehaven site to the Further Education Department for use in the establishment of a community college, and the acquisition of the Surrey Downs site by the Education Department for a high school, which will probably be required within the next few years.

FRASER PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

In reply to Mr. WARDLE (August 18).

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Current advice from the Public Buildings Department indicates that it is not possible to advance the anticipated completion date of Fraser Park stage 2 from March, 1977, to the beginning of the 1977 school year. Documentation is proceeding to schedule to the stage where the project team leader has applied for the approval of funds. Every effort has been made to ensure that the second stage will be provided as soon as possible in order that the school will experience minimum inconvenience. Facilities to be provided are a four-teacher open-space unit in Demac and additional storage facilities for the existing activity complex. Provisions have been made for an additional four-teacher unit, which will be provided at a future date if required.

GLADSTONE HIGH SCHOOL

In reply to Mr. VENNING (August 12).

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The Public Buildings Department has examined the fire-fighting facilities at the Gladstone High School and found that the proposal of the local E.F.S. to extend existing mains so that connections could be made into the pipework of the oval and garden watering system would not be satisfactory. It will be necessary to lay a separate main from the existing street services and to provide standard South Australian Fire Brigade valves in three points near the main building. This work is expected to cost \$10 000. In addition, because the E.F.S. trucks do not carry adequate hoses, 30 metre lengths of canvas hose with attachments will have to be provided at each hydrant. This will cost about \$2 000. Steps have been taken to provide the required facilities, and it is expected that the work will be carried out soon.

MEDIA MONITORING

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Has the media monitoring unit been upgraded during the past 12 months, and, if so, to what extent?
2. What is the annual cost of maintaining this unit?
3. Will further improvements and additional equipment be required in future, and, if so, to what extent?
4. Is a record kept, and are assessments made, of Ministers and members of Parliament interviewed on television and radio, and, if so, what classifications, gradings, or assessments have been made of all members of Parliament so monitored during the operation of the unit?

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

1. No.
2. \$7 779 a year.
3. Yes; plans in hand to monitor 5CL, 5UV, 5AA.
4. A daily record is kept of news items concerning State political events. The summaries are given to the Parliamentary Library for use by all members of Parliament. No classifications, gradings or assessments are made.

BOXING

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What is the policy and attitude of the Government to tent boxing in South Australia?
2. If there is no policy or attitude:
 - (a) why not; and
 - (h) will the Government have an inquiry into the subject?
3. Did the Government inquire into the Boxing Show at the Old Lion Hotel on July 28, 1976, and, if so:
 - (a) what were the findings; and
 - (b) if an inquiry was not held, why not?
4. Does the Government intend to introduce controls on professional boxing, and, if not, why not?

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

1. Boxing is specifically defined as "public entertainment" in the Places of Public Entertainment Act, and tent boxing is subject to the same control as any other form of entertainment. Very little tent boxing is conducted in South Australia.

2. (a) The Government is aware of the 1973 report by a subcommittee of the National Health and Medical

Research Council on the health hazards of boxing, wherein certain recommendations were made for statutory controls and control of boxing contests. The Government is also watching the operation of the recent Victorian legislation. However, because professional boxing is virtually non-existent in South Australia and amateur bouts are well organised and controlled, it has not been considered necessary to introduce these controls in South Australia at present.

(b) No. Refer to 2 (a).

3. No formal inquiry was conducted. However, the Superintendent of Licensed Premises, on being made aware of the proposed Boxing Show at the Old Lion Hotel, spoke to the hotel manager, who agreed not to hold any further boxing matches at the hotel.

4. No. It is the Government's view that there is not sufficient interest in professional boxing in South Australia to warrant consideration being given to any form of Government control.

CEDUNA OFFICE

Mr. GUNN (on notice): Will the Government consider establishing an office of the Prices and Consumer Affairs Department in Ceduna?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The Government is aware of the need to provide the people of Ceduna and thereabouts with assistance and advice in consumer affairs as well as in other areas of Government, and is currently investigating how best this can be achieved. However, at this stage I am unable to indicate what form such a service might take.

FERRIES

Mr. NANKIVELL (on notice):

1. What was the last annual contract price for the operation by private contractors of each of the ferries at Narrung, Wellington, Jervois, Walkers Flat and Swan Reach?
2. What is the estimated annual cost to the Highways Department, and how many persons are employed, in operating each of these ferries with departmental staff?
3. Why was the change made from that of contract operation to one of departmental operation?
4. Will the Government, in view of the important communication link provided by these ferries, give an assurance that they will not be closed in the event of any future national strike?

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

1. The amounts paid to the respective ferry contractors for 1975-76 are as follows:

	\$
Narrung.....	34 900
Jervois.....	32 800
Wellington.....	54 500
Walkers Flat.....	48 800
Swan Reach.....	47 600

Overhead costs incurred by councils and the Highways Department are not included in the above figures.

2. The estimated annual cost to the Highways Department, excluding overhead costs but allowing for inflationary trends, is \$50 000 a ferry for 1976-77. Five persons are employed on each ferry.

3. Departmental operation was adopted for improved service, for uniformity in control, operation and administration, for improved communications, particularly relating to

flooding and emergencies, for better control in operational safety, and for improved working conditions for personnel.

4. No such assurance can be given. However, in a recent stoppage, operation of the ferries was exempted by the union concerned.

GRAZING

Mr. GUNN (on notice): Will the Government give urgent consideration to the proposal that farmers be permitted to graze stock on the reserves north of Ceduna, thereby enabling them to mitigate some of the effects of the present severe drought conditions?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: The Government has already given consideration to the proposal that farmers be permitted to graze stock on reserves north of Ceduna (principally, Yumbarra Conservation Park) but, having regard to the purpose of constituting such reserves as areas for the conservation of wildlife, regrets that it is unable to accede to this proposal.

MONARTO

Mr. WOTTON (on notice):

1. Who are the members of the Monarto Development Commission?

2. When is it expected that the commission will commence its study of ways to preserve the Adelaide Hills?

3. How long is it expected this study will take?

4. What are the terms of reference for the study?

5. Is it the intention of the Government to augment the commission for the purpose of this study, and, if so:

(a) how many extra persons will be engaged;

(b) have these people already been engaged;

(c) if they have, who are they, and why were they selected; and

(d) if they have not been engaged, when is it expected that they will be?

6. If it is not the intention of the Government to augment the commission for this study, will a special team be set up to work under, or with, the commission, and who will constitute this team?

7. Is it the intention of the commission to invite submissions from councils and other interested groups to assist with this study, and if so:

(a) how does the commission intend advising these people when they should make submissions; and

(b) when is it expected that the commission will be ready to receive such submissions?

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

1. Mr. A. W. Richardson, full-time Chairman and Chief Executive; Mr. N. J. Flatten, part-time Commissioner; and Mr. J. H. Mant, part-time Commissioner.

2. The study has already commenced, and initial contact has been made with the local authorities in the area and other interested groups. Further contacts with other bodies and with the general public will be made during the course of the study. Because of the commission's other commitments on the Monarto and Port Adelaide projects, however, the major part of the study will not be undertaken until after Christmas, 1976.

3. About 18 months; that is, it will be completed on or before the end of the financial year, 1977-78.

4. The Monarto Development Commission is to establish a working party of commission staff to undertake an independent, wide-ranging and detailed investigation of

the effective implementation of Government conservation policies for the Adelaide Hills. These are outlined in general terms in the Outer Metropolitan Area Development Plan as authorised by the Governor on March 20th, 1975. Within the context of these policies to conserve water catchments, productive agricultural land, areas of scenic beauty, and natural areas, but not to such an extent to compromise them, some development will be allowed. Policies in the Metropolitan Development Plan: Supplementary Development Plan No. 5, authorised on February, 26th, 1976, are also consistent with these commitments. With this background, the working party will:

- (1) investigate the need for and recommend on the appropriate form and composition of any future statutory authority for the area;
- (2) evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of existing legislation relevant to the area;
- (3) define the area over which special administration and controls should apply;
- (4) evaluate the reinforcing effect of economic issues on Government policies for the area;
- (5) define the problem areas needing more urgent investigation and formulate strategies for management of these.

Work will be carried out in two stages. Stage 1 will involve the formulation of an administrative and management system for Government discussion and decision. Stage 2 will involve the detailed investigation of issues identified during stage one.

5. (a), (b), (c) Yes. The commission will have a team of three people engaged on the study under the direction of the Chairman. Other inputs will be made as appropriate by other members of the commission's staff. In addition, it will be necessary for the commission to engage outside consultants on some aspects of the work, but the persons or organisations that may be employed in this manner have not as yet been determined.

(d) It is expected that the engagement of outside consultants will be finalised early in 1977.

6. See 5 above.

7. Yes.

(a) As indicated above, contact has already been made with the councils concerned, and arrangements are being made for discussions to take place and for submissions to be received.

(b) The commission is ready now to receive submissions, and the initial discussions mentioned above have been arranged to facilitate this process.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. How much money has the Government sought from the Commonwealth Government for the present financial year for the Monarto project?

2. How much, if any, has been received to date?

3. How much more is it expected to receive, and when?

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

1. Approval for support over a five-year programme was submitted in November, 1975. That proposal is still current, and assumes certain levels of support from any commencement date for the ensuing five years.

2. See above.

3. See above.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): With which Government authorities is the Monarto Development Commission negotiating in relation to various proposals, and what are those proposals?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Until the negotiations have been completed they must remain confidential.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dr. EASTICK (on notice): Has the Minister adopted an attitude to requests made for an amendment to the Local Government Act which would guarantee a council protection from frequent annexure proposals by any one or more of its neighbours?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: It is not proposed to amend the present provisions contained in the Local Government Act unless evidence can be produced showing misuse of the intention of the Act.

SALT DAMP

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. For each of the financial years since June 30, 1970:

- (a) what contracts has the Government entered into to treat salt damp in Government buildings;
- (b) what has been the success rate of the treatments in each case;
- (c) what were the names of the firms involved in each contract; and
- (d) what was the amount involved in each contract?

2. If the treatments were not successful, has the Government undertaken further cosmetic building work to cover the problem areas and, if so, what was the cost involved in the extra work in each case?

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

1. (a), (c), (d).

Year	Asset	Firm	Cost \$
1970	Port Pirie Technical College residence, 403 Anzac Road.....	P. Sayner	293
1971	Struan House.....	W. A. Flick & Son	6 401
1972	Walleroo Hospital . . .	Bonney's Pty. Ltd.	7 000
	Port Pirie High School residence, 23 Meadow Crescent	J. Pasculli	66
	Port Pirie High School residence, 187 Balmoral Road.....	J. Pasculli	30
	Port Pirie High School residence, 187 Balmoral Road.....	J. Pasculli	450
	Adelaide Gaol.....	Bonney's Pty. Ltd.	17 000
1973	Port Pirie Primary School residence . . .	M. Woolford	250
1974	Port Pirie Primary School.....	J. Pasculli	800
1976	Hillcrest store.....	Lawlors Pty. Ltd.	7 000

1. (b) In each of the above contracts the result of the work is considered successful, with the exception of that at Struan and Adelaide Gaol. These are regarded as partially successful.

2. No.

KINGOONYA-WIRRULLA ROAD

Mr. GUNN (on notice): Does the Government intend to upgrade the Kingoonya-Wirrulla road and, if so, when, and how much does it intend to spend on this road?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: At present, there are no plans to upgrade this road.

HOUSING TRUST RENTALS

Mr. EVANS (on notice):

1. Have Housing Trust rentals been increased recently, and, if so:

- (a) what will be the annual return from these increases; and
- (b) what are the criteria used to establish these rental increases?

2. How often is a family or individual income statement required from trust tenants?

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

1. Yes.

(a) In a full year \$3 500 000.

(b) The need for the South Australian Housing Trust to cover costs, and a desire to ensure that any increases were met by those best able to pay.

2. For tenants who receive rental rebate, a review occurs at least annually.

STURT ROAD TRIANGLE

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. What interest does the Minister, or any of the authorities under his Ministerial direction, have in any portion of the Sturt Road triangle, that is, the area bounded by Marion, Sturt and South Roads?

2. What short, medium or long-term arrangements, respectively, exist for altering the current land use of any such interest?

3. Is any land currently under the control of the Minister likely to be surplus to departmental needs, and, if so, how and when will it be released?

4. Does any contemplated action in this area depend upon the acquisition of any additional property within the triangle or within 200 metres of the boundary of the triangle?

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

1. The Highways Department holds land in three categories:

- (a) As a permanent depot site;
- (b) For the future Noarlunga transportation corridor, if needed;
- (c) Surplus land in the process of being transferred to the Sturt College of Advanced Education and the Flinders University.

The drainage reserve for the Sturt River is held in the name of the Minister of Local Government.

2. Surplus Highways land is being transferred as mentioned in 1 (c). The land held for the transportation corridor contains a disused church, house and vines and this land use will change in the long term if it is required to construct the transportation corridor.

3. When the transfers currently being undertaken are completed, there will be no surplus land.

4. No additional land is required in the Sturt triangle, but should it be necessary to proceed with the transportation corridor, additional land outside the triangle would be required.

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. What interest does the Minister have in any portion of the Sturt Road triangle, that is, the area bounded by Marion, Sturt, and South Roads?

2. What short, medium or long-term arrangements, respectively, exist for altering the current land use of any such interest?

3. Is any land currently under the control of the Minister likely to be surplus to departmental needs, and if so, how and when will it be released?

4. Does any contemplated action in this area depend upon the acquisition of any additional property within the triangle or within 200 metres of the boundary of the triangle?

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

1. As at September 7, 1976, the Minister of Education owns two parcels of land in the triangle, C.T. 3037/105 of 21.75 acres in the north-west section with frontages to Marion Road and Sturt Road, and C.T. 3037/106, of 11.02 acres in the southern corner with frontages to Marion Road and South Road.

2. and 3. All of the land currently under control of the Minister is surplus to the needs of the Education Department. Transfer documents have been executed and lodged in the Lands Titles Office (as at September 7, 1976) and will be registered in that office within a few days which will have the effect of transferring—

- (1) portions of both parcels of land referred to above to the Commissioner of Highways for the purpose of a proposed transportation corridor (freeway);
- (2) the whole of the remainder of C.T. 3037/106 and the portion of C.T. 3037/105 south of the transportation corridor to the Flinders University;
- (3) these documents will also have the effect of transferring a portion of C.T. 3547/86 in the north-eastern corner of the triangle with frontages to Sturt Road and South Road from Flinders University to the Commissioner of Highways, and a portion to the Sturt College of Advanced Education, with a portion being retained by the University; and
- (4) a portion of C.T. 3672/127 south of the transportation corridor from the Commissioner of Highways to the Sturt College of Advanced Education, and a portion to the Flinders University.

These exchanges have been undertaken to provide for the whole of the transportation corridor to be held by the Commissioner of Highways and to meet outstanding commitments for the provision of playing fields to the Sturt College and the Flinders University, arising in part from the transfer of land from the Flinders University to the Flinders Medical Centre.

4. It is possible that the Minister may seek to acquire a house property owned by Mrs. L. G. Franklin in the southern section of the triangle fronting South Road, which juts into the land to become Flinders University playing fields, with a view to its subsequent transfer to Flinders University. Such action will not, however, be taken for several years unless the property should come on the market in the near future. No other acquisitions are contemplated in the triangle or anywhere within 200 metres of the boundary of the triangle.

RURAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. NANKIVELL (on notice):

1. How many applications have been received pursuant to the Rural Industry Assistance (Special Provisions) Act for debt adjustment finance and, of these applications:

- (a) how many have been approved;

- (b) how much in total has been advanced on approved applications; and
- (c) what are the current terms on these loans for interest rates and repayment, respectively?

2. How many applications have been approved, pursuant to the Act, for farm build-up loans and:

- (a) in what regions do these applications reside;
- (b) how much in total has been advanced on approved loans;
- (c) what are the current terms on these loans for interest rates and repayment, respectively?

3. How many persons who received debt adjustment finance or farm build-up loans were in arrears on repayment as at July, 31, 1976?

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

1. Applications received pursuant to the Rural Industry Assistance (Special Provisions) Act, 1971, for debt adjustment finance.....		\$
(a) Approved.....		1 044
(b) Total advanced to date		358
(c) Terms—		12 231 542.12
(i) Consolidation of debt:		
Interest rates	From 4 per cent (normal practice 4-6.25 per cent)	
Repayment period . .	10 to 20 years (determined having regard to nature of assistance and applicants ability to repay)	
(ii) Carry on finance:		
Interest rate.....	8 per cent	
Repayment.....	On demand	
2. Applications pursuant to farm build-up provisions of the Act:		
Received.....		765
Approved.....		490
(a) From what regions . .	Whole of the State	
(b) Advanced on approved loans.....		\$14 534 086.23
(c) Terms—		
Interest rate	6.25 per cent p.a.	
Repayment.....	15 to 30 years	
3. How many persons who received debt adjustment finance or farm build-up loans were in arrears of repayment on July 31, 1976		66

STATE BANK

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. How and where does the State Bank invest its liquid assets?

2. Is there a more positive means of supporting the market for Government securities, and, if so, why is that method not supported?

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

1. The bank's investible funds, surplus to expected requirements in the normal course of business from day to day, are invested principally in secured money market deposits and bank convertible certificates of deposit. The bank also holds \$12 700 000 of Commonwealth bonds.

2. The existing investment practices ensure ready access to funds at call or at short term to meet fluctuating requirements of customers and provide a return on average generally more favourable than is available by operations in the bond market. Consequently the bank does not presently propose to deal more extensively in Government securities. If the honourable member has in mind short-term support for the market price of bonds, the Government sees this clearly as an activity of the Reserve Bank and not one in which the State Bank needs to be involved. If, on the other hand, he is referring to support for local statutory authority borrowing programmes, since the amounts required for these programmes are limited, it has been possible, to date, to fill them without the need to call upon the State Bank for assistance.

SAVINGS BANK

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. How and where does the Savings Bank invest its liquid assets?

2. Are there other means of investment, and, if there are, why are they not used?

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

1. Investments are made in accordance with the bank's powers under The Savings Bank of South Australia Act, 1929-1975, viz.:

- (1) Section 31 authorises loans by way of mortgage of any land or estate or interest in land situated within South Australia.
- (2) Section 31a authorises personal loans in accordance with the provisions set out in the section.
- (3) Section 32 authorises the trustees to invest and lend the funds of the bank in or upon:
 - (a) any securities of or guaranteed by the Government of South Australia, or of or guaranteed by the Government or any other State in the Commonwealth of Australia;
 - (b) any securities of or guaranteed by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia;
 - (c) the bonds, debentures, mortgages, or other securities of any municipal corporation in the State of South Australia;
 - (d) deposit in any other bank carrying on business in the State;
 - (e) deposit in the Treasury at Adelaide upon such terms and conditions as may be arranged by and between the Governor in Council and the trustees;
 - (f) the bonds, debentures, mortgages, or other securities of any district council in the State;
 - (g) any bonds, debentures, mortgages, or other securities guaranteed by any district council or municipality corporation in the State, whether severally or jointly with others;
 - (h) any bonds, debentures, mortgages, or other securities of or guaranteed by any board, commissioners, or local authority in the State constituted by Act of Parliament;
 - (i) any investments in which any trustee is pursuant to section 5 of the Trustee Act, 1936-1968, authorised to invest trust funds.

Provided that the trustees shall not invest any funds of the bank in any security of or guaranteed by the Government of any other State in the Commonwealth of Australia without first giving the Government of South Australia the option of selling them securities for such funds at a rate and on conditions which are not less favourable than those applying at the time in respect of the said security of or guaranteed by the Government of such other State.

- (4) Section 32a authorises the bank to make overdraft advances to municipal corporations or district councils.

2. Answered by 1 above.

GRANTS COMMISSION

Mr. COUMBE (on notice): As a result of South Australia ceasing to be a claimant State to the Australian Grants Commission following the signing of the Railway Transfer Agreement:

- (a) what completion grants or payments were received in 1975-76; and
- (b) what payments, if any, are expected during the present financial year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At the time South Australia ceased to be a claimant State the Grants Commission was making its detailed assessment of the State's financial needs for 1973-74. As part of the arrangements for our cessation of claimancy it was agreed that the commission's investigations should proceed and the recommended completion grant be paid in the normal way. The specific answers to the honourable member's questions are:

- (a) \$2 500 000 (in respect of 1973-74);
- (b) Nil.

POISONING

Mr. WOTTON (on notice):

1. During 1975-76, how many children were treated at the Adelaide Children's Hospital for accidental poisoning, and of these children:

- (a) how many were admitted to hospital; and
- (b) how many were treated as a result of taking drugs and medicaments?

2. Can the Minister state how many telephone inquiries were received at the Poison Information Centre of this hospital during 1975-76?

3. How many children died in South Australia during 1975-76 as a result of accidental poisoning?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The replies are as follows:

1. A total of 829 children was admitted to the Adelaide Children's Hospital for accidental poisoning:

- (a) 185.
- (b) 456.

2. 2 598.

3. Nil.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Mr. WOTTON (on notice):

1. In South Australia during 1975-76 as a result of accidents:

- (a) how many deaths were recorded and, of these deaths, how many were as a result of road accidents; and

- (b) how many people were admitted to hospital and, of those admitted, how many were as a result of road accidents?

2. In what age group did the majority of deaths occur from road accidents?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The replies are as follows:

1. (a) A total of 601 deaths were recorded as a result of accidents. Of these, 331 were as a result of road accidents.

(b) A total of 240 699 people were admitted to hospital. The figure relating to the number of people admitted as a result of accidents is unavailable.

2. Between 15 and 24 years.

These figures relate to the year 1975 only. Figures relating to 1975-76 are unavailable at this stage.

DEATH STATISTICS

Mr. WOTTON (on notice): How many deaths were recorded in South Australia during 1975-76 and of these deaths how many were as a result, respectively, of: physical illness, infectious diseases, poisoning, homicide, and suicide?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The replies are as follows: A total of 9 947 deaths was recorded in South Australia during 1975. The South Australian office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics does not produce the statistics in the form requested.

BUSH FIRE FUNDS

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. What is the source of funds within the Bush Fires Equipment Subsidies Fund?

2. What amounts have been distributed each year since 1970?

3. Have all funds available been distributed each year and, if not, what amounts have been held over?

4. Who are the current members of the Bush Fires Subsidies Committee?

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

1. In terms of section 21 of the Bush Fires Act, 1960-1972, the fund consists of moneys contributed annually

	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Booleroo Centre District Hospital Inc.....	8 075	7 626	11 125	179 341	57 163
Clare and District Hospital Inc.....	12 563	39 126	209 008	148 773	17 765
Crystal Brook District Hospital Inc.....	28 025	65 480	108 332	403 136	108 600

COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOLS

Mr. VENNING (on notice):

1. What was the total cost, respectively, of the Clare High School and the Gladstone High School?

2. What has been the total cost of repairs and painting at the Orroroo High School?

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

1. The total cost of the Clare High School was \$968 000; this figure does not include the provision of an additional six transportable rooms. These rooms cost about \$12 000 each, so the total building cost of the Clare High School could be regarded as \$1 040 000. The cost of the Gladstone High School was \$739 000.

2. Repairs and painting at the Orroroo Area School cost \$29 600.

on a \$1 for \$1 basis by the Treasurer and insurance companies, on the recommendation of the Bush Fires Equipment Subsidies Committee.

2.

Year	Amount \$
1970	113 620
1971	95 118
1972	112 395
1973	93 231
1974	97 632
1975	135 411
1976	195 600

3. No.

	\$
1970	7 698
1971	32 351
1972	39 610
1973	66 537
1974	88 973
1975	73 197
1976	7 679

4. Mr. R. D. Walkerden (Secretary, Minister of Agriculture), Chairman; Mr. M. J. Tizzard, representing the Insurance Council of Australia, and Mr. F. L. Kerr, Director, Emergency Fire Services.

COUNTRY HOSPITALS

Mr. VENNING (on notice):

1. What was the total cost of the new Port Broughton Hospital?

2. What has been the total expenditure on repairs and additions in each of the last five years on each of the following hospitals: Booleroo Centre, Clare, and Crystal Brook?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The replies are as follows:

1. \$688 294.

2. For the 1971 to 1975 period the figures below show payments for maintenance, repairs and replacements and payments to contractors and suppliers (including equipment). The figures for 1975-76 do not include new or replacement equipment:

MOUNT GAMBIER HOUSING

Mr. ALLISON (on notice):

1. How many South Australian Housing Trust units were completed for rental and purchase, respectively, in Mount Gambier during each year from 1971 to 1975, inclusive?

2. How many rental and purchase units, respectively, are currently being built in Mount Gambier and what are the planned completion dates for these units?

3. Is the Housing Trust to construct homes on the Land Commission allotments on part section 1180, north of the Fletcher Jones factory, and if so:

- when will contracts be let for construction;
- will local contractors be expected to tender; and
- what are the planned commencement and completion dates of these units?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: There are no plans to legislate for the licensing of insurance brokers.

INCOME

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): Will the Premier list all of the schemes under which persons who are not employed by the State Public Service or a State instrumentality are able to receive a regular income from public funds?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The question is a little vague but I believe the schemes listed fit the description given. They are all schemes in which the South Australian Government is involved but some are funded in part by the Commonwealth. They are as follows: (1) unemployment relief programme; (2) financial assistance to needy persons programme; (3) childhood services programme—Kindergarten Union affiliates and community based organisations; (4) schools commission programme—non-government schools; (5) Medibank hospital programme—non-government hospitals; (6) domiciliary care scheme; and (7) community health programme. In addition, there are many institutions and voluntary agencies which receive grants from the Government. Those grants could be regarded as assisting the recipients to pay wages and salaries.

MEDIBANK STRIKE

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): Is it the policy of the Government to protect employees of the Highways Department who worked during the Medibank strike from unions which have imposed or threatened to impose fines upon the employees concerned?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: It is not the policy of the Government to involve itself with the internal operations of unions.

INFLUENZA VACCINE

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): What action has the Government taken to ensure that in future aged persons and persons with the greatest need will receive priority in obtaining influenza vaccine?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: As this vaccine is distributed through the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, this matter was discussed at the 1976 Australian Health Ministers' Conference, when the Commonwealth Minister for Health agreed to convene a working party comprising representatives of the Commonwealth and each State to advise on the rationalisation of distribution of the influenza vaccine in future years.

PROSECUTIONS

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): How many successful prosecutions have there been in each of the last six financial years for offences pursuant to each of sections 28 and 29 of the Police Offences Act?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: These offences are counted under the same heading and are as follows:

Statistics of Successful Prosecutions for Offences**Relating to Brothels**

	Persons Charged		Persons Convicted	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1970-1971	-	6	-	5
1971-1972 13		20	11	18
1972-1973 9		5	6	4
1973-1974 4		3	4	3
1974-1975 3		7	3	4
1975-1976 3		15	2	11

ELECTRICITY TRUST

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Is the Electricity Trust to rent space in the building known as the Grenfell Towers, and, if so:

- (a) how much space;
- (b) at what rental; and
- (c) for what purpose?

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

- (a) 236.6 square metres.
- (b) \$35 657.64 a year.
- (c) As a city office for payment of electricity accounts by consumers and for dealing with inquiries from the general public on the supply and use of electricity.

RABBITS

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Are there rabbits in the Belair National Park and, if so, what action, if any, is being taken to eradicate them?

2. What such action has been taken in the past, and with what success?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: The replies are as follows:

1. Yes. Shooting, with a shotgun, on the golf course approximately three hours a month, since the problem is not serious except on that part of the recreation park where rabbits have destroyed new trees and affect the greens.

2. See 1.

POSSUMS

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Is it the practice to destroy possums in the Belair National Park?

2. Have possums there ever been destroyed and, if so:

- (a) how many;
- (b) when;
- (c) for what reason; and
- (d) by what method?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: The replies are as follows:

1. No.

2. No.

SOUTH AFRICAN DAISY

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Is there South African Daisy in the Belair National Park and, if so, what action, if any, is being taken to destroy it?

2. If no such action is being taken, why not?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: The replies are as follows:

1. Yes. None.

2. Previous extensive control work, carried out at considerable cost, proved ineffective because of the ecology of the plant. Because of the lack of staff a more vigorous attack is not possible.

STATE LIBRARY

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Is the air-conditioning system in the State Library building considered satisfactory and, if not:

- (a) what action, if any, is proposed to make it satisfactory; and
- (b) when will this action be taken?

2. Have any tests of this system been carried out and, if so, when, and with what result?

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

1. The air-conditioning system in the State Library may be described as satisfactory in general terms and in comparison with other systems elsewhere. It is acknowledged that any system is unlikely to be considered satisfactory by every individual occupant or user of the building.

2. In October, 1974, the Public Buildings Department reported on investigations, following complaints from the Staff Association of the Libraries Department made originally in 1972. As a result of these investigations and other tests made from time to time, the following remedial actions have been taken: (1) exhaust fans have been fitted in two areas; (2) external tinted glass screens erected; (3) external metal louvres erected; (4) air movement increased; (5) modifications made to thermostatic controls; (6) a new complete chiller unit installed to supplement the original single unit.

Also in October, 1974, the Public Health Department was asked about the likelihood of transmittal of fibreglass and bacteria through the air-conditioning system. Following an inspection of the air-conditioning plant room, air filtration system, and the duct work, a detailed report was made by a Scientific Officer of that department. In comment upon that report, the Principal Medical Officer (Occupational Health) stated that the transport of contaminants through the air-conditioning system was not considered to represent a health hazard. Following distribution to all library staff in February, 1975, of a descriptive note on the air-conditioning system, no formal complaint has been received concerning air-conditioning in the State Library.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What are the rules regarding smoking in the State Library?

2. Are these rules enforced and, if so, how; if not, why not?

The Hon. D. I. HOPGOOD: The replies are as follows:

1. Regulation 17(7) under the Libraries and Institutes Act, gazetted on November, 28, 1974, states:

No person shall smoke or consume any food or refreshment on the premises of the board, except with the permission of the Librarian.

2. The regulation is enforced with respect to the public areas of the State Library, and to the archives stack area. Smoking is permitted in non-public offices and work rooms. Any staff member or Public Buildings Department Security Officer stationed at the library is empowered to request members of the public to refrain from smoking in public areas.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Have applications been called for the position of Assistant State Librarian and, if so, when, and what was the closing date for applications?

2. Has an appointment yet been made and, if so, who has been appointed and, if not, when is it expected that an appointment will be made?

The Hon. D. I. HOPGOOD: The replies are as follows:

1. Applications were called on May 22, 1976, for this position. The closing date for applications was June 9, 1976.

2. An appointment has not yet been made. The Public Service Board has reclassified the position at a higher level and it is expected that it will be readvertised shortly.

KINGS PARK SPECIAL SCHOOL

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. When is it now expected that the premises of the former Kings Park Special School will be put to use, and what use is proposed?

2. When was this school closed?

3. Why has the sign "Kings Park Special School" not yet been taken down, and when will it be?

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

1. The premises have been used for some months by a small group of guidance officers. A larger group will move in when projected alterations are complete. The general purpose of the building will be to provide offices for guidance officers, social workers and, later, speech therapists, to serve the south-western area of Adelaide.

2. At the end of 1975.

3. The "Kings Park Special School" sign will be removed and replaced when renovations are undertaken. The small group of guidance officers using the building are, in effect, a "caretaker" group to ensure the building is not abused during the period it has taken to assign funds for upgrading.

MINISTERIAL CARS

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): For how long have the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition been entitled to the use of a Ministerial motor car, and what are the reasons for such entitlement?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The replies are as follows: Deputy Speaker from August 18, 1975. Deputy Leader of the Opposition from October 20, 1975. As both the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition are required to deputise for the Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition respectively from time to time, the provision of a car is, in the opinion of the Government, warranted.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. What is the estimated capital value of the 24 motor cars in the Ministerial car pool?

2. What was the total capital cost of these motor cars?

3. Are these motor cars driven by drivers employed at the Government Motor Garage and, if so, what is the estimated total amount to be paid in salaries to such drivers during the present financial year?

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

1. \$136 000.

2. \$151 600.

3. Yes. \$285 000 (which includes overtime).

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): What steps are to be taken to implement the policy that justices of the peace should not sit in court after attaining the age of 70 years, and when will the first of such steps be taken?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: It has been the Government's policy for a number of years that justices of the peace should not sit in court after attaining the age of 70 years and this policy will continue to be implemented where possible. My officers are at present conducting a survey of courts of summary jurisdiction to establish the effect of the implementation of Government policy to date and to ascertain what effect it is likely to have on each court

district in the future. Action will then be taken on the basis of this information to ensure that additional justices of the quorum are available to ensure the full implementation of the policy.

GROWTH CENTRES

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): When is it expected that next there will be discussions between the State and Federal Governments about growth centres?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It is expected that a Ministerial meeting will take place in either late September or early October.

RAILWAY STATION SIGN

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. When was the contract made for the advertising sign on the Adelaide Railway Station with Royal Insurance
2. Was it approved by the Minister before it was made and, if so, on what grounds was it approved?
3. If it was not so approved, why not, and who did approve it?
4. Is it proposed that after expiration of this contract any other sign be erected in that position and if so, why?

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

1. The contract with Claude Neon Ltd. was entered into in April, 1976.
2. No.
3. In accordance with normal practice, it was approved by the responsible officer in the State Transport Authority:
4. This question is still under consideration.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Is it expected that the size of the Public Service will increase during this financial year and if so:
 - (a) by how much;
 - (b) why is there to be such increase; and
 - (c) in which departments will the increases be made?
2. What has been the increase in the Public Service in each of the last six financial years?

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

1. It is expected that the size of the Public Service will increase in the 1976-77 financial year:
 - (a) while the actual increase has yet to be finalised, the preliminary target has been fixed at 4 per cent;
 - (b) to cope with increased demands for services and to implement new Government policies and initiatives;
 - (c) throughout all departments, the principal increases being in the following departments: Hospitals/Health, Community Welfare, Engineering and Water Supply, and Transport.
2. The increase in the Public Service in the last six financial years is as follows:

	Increase %	
1970-71	727	7.09
1971-72	664	6.05
1972-73	940	8.07
1973-74	1 589	12.63
1974-75	695	4.9
1975-76	799	5.38

NOTE: The above figures do not include personnel for the Flinders Medical Centre.

MASSAGE PARLOURS

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. How many prosecutions arising out of the operations of massage parlours have been instituted in each of the last three financial years and to date in this financial year, and how many have been successful?

2. For what offences have these prosecutions been instituted?

3. How many prosecutions, if any, are pending, and for what offences?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The replies are as follows:

1. Statistical records are not maintained on prosecutions specifically arising out of the operations of massage parlours.

2. See 1.

3. See 1.

T.A.B.

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What is the estimated total cost to the T.A.B. of the acquisition of a computer for off-course betting?

2. How will the purchase or lease of this equipment be financed, and what are the terms and conditions?

3. Will the minimum T.A.B. investment be increased from 50c to \$1 and, if so, why?

4. Has consideration been given to increasing commission turn-over on totalisator and bookmakers, and, if so, why?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: The replies are as follows:

1. Estimated total cost for purchase of off-course computer equipment is \$5 500 000.

2. Financing will be partly periodical term loans to meet cash flow commitments at prevailing public authorities approved interest rates with additional amounts through overdraft facilities provided by the board's bankers.

3. No.

4. An additional ½ per cent of turnover will be deducted from on and off-course totalisator investments principally to provide funds to the South Australian Totalisator Agency Board for capital development including computerisation.

ADELAIDE RAILWAY STATION

Mr. BECKER (on notice): What was the total amount of fees paid to Hassell and Partners for sketch, design, and all work associated with the Adelaide Railway Station redevelopment?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The amount is \$32 893.73.

WEST BEACH TRUST

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. How much unemployment relief money has been allocated to the West Beach Trust, and for what projects?

2. How many persons have been employed on such projects and for how long?

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

1. \$736 200 for the following projects:

1974-75 Financial Year	\$
1. Tree planting and associated irrigation systems.....	80 161
2. Coast protection work (sandhill erosion control).....	18 799
3. General works and maintenance (painting, fencing, building alterations, etc.).....	185 295
4. Minor building construction and sewerage installation.....	12 209
	<hr/> \$296 464
1975-76 Financial Year	
1. Tree planting and landscaping	8 470
2. General maintenance and renovation works (including upgrading of Patawalonga golf links).....	142 027
3. Establishment of animal viewing areas	97 944
4. Improved filtration system at Marineland	102 795
	<hr/> \$351 236
1976-77 Financial Year	
1. Complete filtration plant construction	45 000
2. Building alterations to Marineland fascia and entrance.....	43 500
	<hr/> \$88 500

2. Although the Government has information, it will take an unreasonable amount of work to extract it from the records.

K.E.S.A.B.

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Has the K.E.S.A.B. campaign been successful and, if so, why; if not, why not?

2. What plans does the Government have to extend the campaign for the next 12 months to ensure a thorough clean-up effort is made throughout South Australia?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The replies are as follows: As members will know, Clean-up Week occurred during August 14 to 22. It was the culmination of three months preparation by the State Government, the Litter Control Council and K.E.S.A.B., all of which supported the campaign fully. Clean-up Week helped to fulfil a promise made by the Labor Party prior to the last election. It had two aims—first, to educate the public for the need to be more litter-conscious and, secondly, to prepare South Australians for the introduction of the so-called on-the-spot litter fines, which came into force on September 1. Clean-up Week must, therefore, be seen as a promotional activity and any assessment of its success must have this fact in mind.

1. It is too early to measure the success of the campaign in terms of a reduction in the amount of litter throughout the State. However, K.E.S.A.B. conducts regular litter counts throughout the State and this information should be available at a later date. The Government, however, expects that following Clean-up Week, South Australians will be more aware of the need to dispose of refuse thoughtfully and that the amount of litter deposited will be reduced accordingly. In terms of success as a promotional campaign the Government, the Litter Control Council and K.E.S.A.B. all consider the campaign to have been an unqualified success. The media supported it fully, as the following will show:

(1) The *News* carried 28 Clean-up Week stories both prior to and during the week.

- (2) The *Advertiser* carried nine stories and a special three-page supplement.
- (3) The *Australian* carried one story.
- (4) The *Sunday Mail* carried three stories, also a children's colouring and slogan competition that attracted hundreds of entries, even some from outside South Australia.
- (5) Throughout the week the television stations usually carried at least two stories between them, nightly.
- (6) Co-operation was received from programmes, such as *Today at One*, *This Day Tonight* and the *Jay Walton Show*, as well as the children's programmes on television.
- (7) There was wide media coverage in country newspapers and the Messenger Press.
- (8) The "Pick it up" jingle was played on all commercial radio stations and the A.B.C., and the television commercials, prepared for the campaign, appeared on all T.V. stations, including the country stations.

In addition, between the end of Clean-up Week and the introduction of the \$20 litter tickets, radio, television and the *News* conducted a "litter countdown", warning people each day of the number of days remaining before the fines were to be introduced. Community involvement in Clean-up Week was also an unqualified success. Over six hundred (600) organisations supported the campaign. This comprised three hundred and fifty (350) schools and two hundred and seventy (270) community service groups, councils, progress associations, youth groups and business and industry. Activities included clean-ups, the distribution of litter bags and bumper stickers to motorists and displays in stores and shopping centres. These activities occurred throughout the metropolitan area and such widespread country centres as Ceduna, Mount Gambier, and Renmark.

During Clean-up Week the following material was distributed: over 100 000 car litter bags, 20 000 schoolbag and book stickers, 18 000 posters, and 15 000 car stickers. In addition, large billboard posters and bus back signs proclaiming "South Australia. Too Lovely to Litter" are being used on both a paid for or a free of charge basis by advertising agencies that regard the campaign as a most worthwhile community project. From both the publicity aspect and the high level of community involvement there are very few people in South Australia who would not be aware of the message behind the campaign and the introduction of the new anti-litter penalties. This was the Government's intention. Clean-up Week was a promotional and community involvement exercise and was a great success.

2. The Government sees its anti-litter campaign as an on-going programme. It proposes to sponsor at least two other periods of intense activity similar to "Clean-up Week" within the next year, during the summer holiday season, and at Easter. There will also be other activities, such as a school banner competition, which will operate between these specific periods.

LOTTERY AND GAMING ACT

Mr. BECKER (on notice): When will legislation be introduced to amend the Lottery and Gaming Act, and what amendments are proposed?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: A new Racing Act has been proposed for this session of Parliament. It involves major drafting and, for this reason, may not be available this session. If this occurs, necessary amendments to

the Lottery and Gaming Act in respect of capital funds, including computerisation for the South Australian Totalizator Agency Board, racing finances, and racing dates will be introduced.

NOVAR GARDENS HOUSING

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. How many flats and/or rental accommodation has the Housing Trust built at Novar Gardens during the past two financial years?

2. What was the total cost of the project?

3. What are the minimum, maximum and average rents charged, respectively?

4. What are the council rates, water and sewerage rates and land tax, respectively, payable by the trust on these properties?

5. How much unemployment relief money was allocated to landscaping of the project and any other works on the project and:

(a) how many persons were employed?

(b) for how long?

6. What is the capital return on the project, and how does this percentage compare with similar projects?

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

1. 101.

2. Approximately \$2 000 000. This figure includes \$16 298.72 unemployment relief money expended on landscaping and other works.

3. Rents:

Maximum rents (excluding cottage flats).

Two-bedroom single-storey units (villa flats), \$30 a week.

Three-bedroom single-storey units, \$32.

Three-bedroom two-storey units, \$30 a week.

Rents are assessed principally on the incomes of the tenants in accordance with the basic rent scale. The majority of the tenants, however, are paying the maximum rents outlined above.

4. Council, water and sewerage rates, and land tax.

Rates payable by trust for 1976-77 year.

West Torrens Council E. & W.S. Dept.

	\$	\$
"Stott Court" (51 units)	3 100	4 985.80
"Livingston" (50 units)	3 100	4 015.80
Total.....	6 200	9 001.60

The trust is not assessed for land tax.

5. Unemployment Relief Allocations:

As pointed out above, \$16 298.72 unemployment relief money was expended on landscaping and other work associated with the rental estates at Novar Gardens. The unemployment relief money includes payment for 10 men, who worked a total of 2 146 hours. The work was carried out between April 29 and June 9, 1976.

6. Capital returns:

The trust does not cost its work project by project, but works to an overall balanced programme.

E. & W.S. DEPARTMENT

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. How many persons are employed within the Engineering and Water Supply Department for the purpose of reading water meters, and what is the total remuneration paid to these employees?

2. What is the total amount of revenue received by the department in payment for the use of excess water?

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

1. There are 25 personnel who read water meters within the greater metropolitan area, and they are paid a total of \$165 158. Meters in the remainder of the State are read by maintenance personnel.

2. Additional water rates (excess) rendered for 1975-76 totalled \$12 245 318.

FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. Does the Minister or Director of the Emergency Fire Service know of any members of that organisation who have been requested to join the Fire Fighters' Association, and, if so, in which district were these persons members?

2. Is it Government policy to encourage members of the Emergency Fire Service to join the Fire Fighters' Association?

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

1. No.

2. The Government has no policy on this matter, as the Emergency Fire Service is essentially a voluntary organisation.

FIRE BRIGADE AREAS

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): Does the Government have plans or proposals to include under the control of the South Australian Fire Brigade urban areas not currently under the control of the board and, if so:

(a) what are the other areas;

(b) when will these areas be brought under the control of the board; and

(c) what will be the cost involved?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is not the role of the Government to designate areas, urban or otherwise, that should be under the control of the South Australian Fire Brigade. In accordance with section 6 (1A) and 6 (1B) of the Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1976, this is the responsibility of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board.

SALISBURY FIRE SERVICES

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. What will be the total cost for a full financial year of the new fire services for the Salisbury area, to be operated by the South Australian Fire Brigade in place of the Salisbury Emergency Fire Service?

2. What is the standard and type of service being offered by the board in this area?

3. What is the total revenue the board expects to collect in a full financial year from the Salisbury area?

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

1. \$398 653.

2. Fire station housing two appliances manned for 24 hours a day.

3. \$75 372 from the Salisbury City Council for fire services provided to the whole of the Salisbury district.

PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. Is the Government still negotiating with overseas companies for the establishment of a petro-chemical

complex at Redcliff Point and, if so, when does the Government expect to be able to make an announcement on the result of these negotiations?

2. What companies are involved in any such negotiations?

3. What other proposed uses for liquids from the Cooper Basin are currently under examination by the Government?

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

1. Discussions have recently occurred with the Dow Chemical Company, and are continuing.

2. See 1.

3. A modified liquids scheme involving the processing of propane butane and the heavier fractions is also being assessed in detail.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF GRANTS

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. What is the total amount paid out in unemployment relief grants to State Government, semi-government and local government authorities, respectively, during 1975-76 and to date in 1976-77?

2. What Government departments, statutory authorities, and local government bodies received grants in each period, and how much did each receive?

3. For what reasons was responsibility for these grants transferred to the Minister of Labour and Industry?

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

1.	Amounts paid out 1975-1976 \$	Approved to date for 1976-1977 \$
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State Government Departments
Semi-Government Authorities .
Local Government Authorities

2. State Unemployment Relief Scheme Grants—

Authority	Received 1975-1976 \$	Approved to date 1976-1977 \$
State Government Departments—		
Agriculture and Fisheries Department.....	24 276	72 000
Correctional Services Department.....	2 230	
Community Welfare Department.....	134 677	10 000
Engineering and Water Supply Department . . .	60 185	28 000
Environment Department . .	90 717	79 000
Education Department . . .	77 334	31 000
Further Education Department.....	74 780	93 000
Highways Department . . .	118 803	
Lands Department.....	51 793	20 000
Mines Department.....	2 409	2 900
Public Buildings Department	8 465	15 000
Public Health Department .	15 150	8 000
State Library.....	33 309	28 000
State Supply Department . .	27 328	23 000
Tourism, Recreation and Sport Department.....	154 539	
Woods and Forests Department.....	13 107	12 000
TOTAL	\$889 102	\$421 900

	Received 1975-1976 \$	Approved to date 1976-1977 \$
Semi-Government Authorities—		
Australian Mineral Development Laboratories Monarto Development Commission.....	8 846	11 600
Royal Zoological Society . .	38 361	29 000
S.A. Board of Advanced Education.....	258 412	35 000
S.A. Council for Educational Planning and Research ..	71 978	72 700
S.A. Film Corporation	7 316	
S.A. Housing Trust.....	122 615	28 000
S.A. Meat Corporation . . .	264 776	
State Transport Authority— Bus and Tram Division ..	182 451	44 000
West Beach Trust.....	46 461	
TOTAL	\$1 352 452	\$265 300

Local Government Authorities—		
Adelaide C.C.....	155 000	24 000
Brighton C.C.....	96 806	
Burnside C.C.....	205 569	42 000
Campbelltown C.C.....	257 092	49 500
Enfield C.C.....	83 300	13 500
Glenelg C.T.....	72 638	35 000
Henley & Grange.....	70 062	18 000
Hindmarsh C.T.....	96 133	15 000
Kensington & Norwood	58 200	10 000
Marion C.C.....	189 218	100 000
Mitcham C.C.....	177 747	32 000
Munno Para D.C.....	96 183	34 000
Payneham C.C.....	89 089	8 600
Noarlunga D.C.....	57 677	45 000
Prospect C.T.....	131 345	25 000
Port Adelaide.....	116 585	35 000
St. Peters.....	40 238	20 000
Salisbury C.C.....	135 000	90 000
Tea Tree Gully.....	346 013	100 000
Thebarton.....	169 584	48 000
Unley.....	143 806	35 000
Walkerville C.T.....	14 979	9 600
West Torrens.....	197 739	4 700
Woodville.....	179 697	
East Torrens.....	5 683	
Meadows.....	39 045	12 000
Mount Barker.....	50 322	15 000
Mount Gambier D.C.....	262 001	30 000
Onkaparinga.....	20 000	
Stirling.....	50 000	
Willunga.....	33 909	14 200
Whyalla.....	224 511	72 000
Port Augusta.....	140 141	32 000
Naracoorte.....	80 087	25 000
Elizabeth.....	92 917	42 000
Port Elliot & Goolwa	3 439	
Mount Gambier C.C.....	242 574	35 000
Port Lincoln.....	55 877	14 600
Port Pirie C.C.....	119 196	
Pirie D.C.....	6 525	
Millicent.....	180 000	40 000
Eudunda	8 000	
TOTAL	\$4 793 927	\$1 168 000

3. The desirability, in the interests of efficiency, for the same Minister to be responsible for unemployment relief grants as for youth employment schemes and because of the close working relationship in various fields between the State Labour and Industry Department and the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations (of which department the Commonwealth Employment Service is a part).

RAILWAY CROSSINGS

Dr. EASTICK (on notice): What decisions have been taken in respect of railway crossing warning devices to be installed in the 1976-77 financial year?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:

1. Automatic half-arm booms will be installed at six level crossings between Adelaide and Christie Downs thus completing at all level crossings on the route the installation of bells, flashing lights and half-arm booms.

2. The installation of flashing lights and bells, or improvements to existing installations, will be made at 12 other locations, 11 of which are in country areas.

3. Nineteen other locations are currently under consideration subject to the availability of sufficient funds.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Dr. EASTICK (on notice): What decisions have been taken relative to the installation of traffic lights throughout the State for the 1976-77 financial year?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: In 1976-77, the Highways Department estimates the installation of about double the number of traffic signals installed last financial year. The 1976-77 programme provides for the following: (a) new intersection signals at 33 locations; (b) improvements to signals at 28 locations; (c) new pedestrian signals at 13 locations; (d) improvements to pedestrian signals at two locations; (e) co-ordination of traffic signals at 11 sections of arterial road; and (f) new school crossings at 15 locations.

TAX INDEXATION

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): Did the statement issued by the Minister to the Australian Broadcasting Commission, in which the Minister expressed opposition to the personal taxation indexation announced by the Federal Government, relate to his portfolio as Minister of Mines and Energy, and, if so:

- (a) do the Minister's opinions on this subject represent those of the Government; and
- (b) is the Minister still opposed to the concept of personal taxation indexation?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The replies are as follows: In an address in Melbourne on May 11, 1976, I pointed out that, under the new federalism, tax indexation reduced the income tax reimbursement to the States and that as a consequence some States might be forced to raise their own income taxes. To the extent that Federal Government policies forced a tax from the States to replace reimbursement moneys forgone by the introduction of tax indexation, tax indexation would turn out to be a fraud on the public at large. The Melbourne address was the Buntine Oration to the Australian College of Education,

an engagement I had accepted while I was Minister of Education. The statements made dealt with matters of fact that arise from the Fraser Government's attitude to federalism, rather than from tax indexation as such.

SPECIAL TEACHING

Mr. WARDLE (on notice):

1. How many children in the school system are regarded as being in need of special teaching?

2. How many teachers are at present undergoing training in special education in this State?

3. How many teachers will be appointed to special education within the State in 1977, and in what areas of disability?

4. What is being done by the department to encourage teachers to enter this particular field of education?

5. Is it Government policy that only teachers with actual teaching experience will be accepted for special training or can teachers be appointed straight from training college and given some form of in-service training?

6. How many special teachers are likely to be appointed to the Murray Bridge area in 1977?

7. Is there a core curriculum designed for use by special schools and, if not, why not?

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

1. The answer depends upon the meaning of "special teaching". Clearly every child needs teaching according to his needs. A recent conference of heads of special education from Australian States accepted the definition of special education as "the provision of services to children needing assistance beyond that available in their regular classrooms and neighbourhood schools". The implication of this definition is that upgrading the competence of regular classroom teachers should reduce the need for special education. The department is taking a number of steps to produce this result. The number of children currently receiving different or additional assistance to that available in regular classrooms is currently a little over 5 000, the assistance ranging from full-time special schools, through full-time and part-time special classes, to occasional assistance in regular classrooms. These numbers do not include many hundreds of other children receiving special assistance from, for example, more than 100 reading teachers in secondary schools.

2. Full-time one-year courses are being undertaken by 66 teachers at present. Release time scholarships for 70 teachers have been approved for 1977.

3. There are currently a little over 450 teachers in all forms of special education in South Australia, including positions of principal and deputy. At least that number will be teaching in those areas in 1977 and, if it is at all possible, a small additional number. The "areas of disability" within which the teachers are appointed can be misleading since the department does not accept that "area of disability" represents, necessarily, "form of education". Children with different disabilities often have the same educational needs, and children with similar disabilities often have quite different needs. Nevertheless, data is kept on the disposition of specialist teachers in the areas of learning disabilities, physically handicapped, hearing handicapped, visual handicapped, deaf-blind, emotionally handicapped, socially disadvantaged, hospitalised, mentally retarded.

Definitions of these terms often refer to administrative arrangements rather than to characteristics of children, for example, children attend special schools for physically handicapped primarily because they have associated medical and para-medical services. When the latter are not required, physically handicapped children would ordinarily be in regular classrooms.

4. The department offers about 70 full-time one-year scholarships each year, currently on full pay. In recent years, promotion positions within special education have been increased to the point where, in a number of areas they are as numerous or more so, as promotion positions in ordinary schools. An allowance of \$280 a year is paid to teachers in special education, although it is considered that in some respects this allowance might be counter-productive.

5. Release time scholarships in special education are given only to teachers with actual experience, as well as basic teacher training. In some cases where teachers entered the service some years ago without full training, such teachers are offered scholarships to upgrade their qualifications. Not all teachers in special education are given additional training, but the proportion who receive it is now climbing rapidly.

6. Data is at present being assembled about likely enrolments at the Murray Bridge Special School in 1977. When this is available a decision will be made about additional appointments. With respect to special classes and other support services in primary and secondary schools in the Lower Murray area, funds may not make it possible to increase the small service currently available. In proportion to the population of the area, Murray Bridge is marginally worse off than some areas of the State, and better off than some others. If additional teaching appointments are to be made in special education, areas of greatest need will have first option.

7. Some special schools, for example, the school at Regency Park, follow ordinary curricula according to the abilities and needs of the children. There is no core "curriculum" for special schools for mentally retarded children, but there are shared goals and intentions. With moderately to severely retarded students, a common curriculum would be virtually impossible to devise. All special schools for retarded children, however, are concerned with the development of independence, self-help skills, communication skills, personal-social and physical development, basic academic skills, vocational skills, and the development of self-initiated recreational activities. At present there is an on-going dialogue occurring between the Special Schools Councils Association and departmental officers about the ways in which progress along the pathways to the above goals can be described and shared between teachers and parents. The curriculum framework within which children's development occurs differs somewhat between special schools. At Murray Bridge, the Principal of the special school (Mr. Maskell) would be happy to inform local parents and other interested people of the local situation.

PREMIER'S RECORDING

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General institute an immediate inquiry into the promotion of the Premier's poetry recording by the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau's office in Sydney to determine whether this is in breach of the South Australian Constitution? This is a most serious matter. It has been reliably reported to me that the Sydney office of the South Australian

Government Tourist Bureau has displayed on its front window numerous covers of the Premier's poetry recording. People asking about the record are being directed to record stores. There can be no doubt that the record is being promoted by this display, and that taxpayers' money is involved in the promotion. Section 49 of the Constitution, paraphrased, provides that anyone who directly or indirectly undertakes, executes, holds or enjoys any contract, agreement or commission made or entered into with any persons for or on account of the Government of the State shall be incapable of being elected or sitting or voting as a member of the Parliament during the time he enjoys such contract, agreement or commission or any benefit arising from the same. Apparently, the bureau has agreed to display the record, and the Premier, or someone on his behalf, has agreed to this being done, since it could not have been displayed otherwise. All members are well aware of the serious consequences to their positions of holding an office of profit or gain under the Crown. An inquiry into this matter is necessary.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I am somewhat amused that the Leader has taken it on himself to use his valuable time for questions on such a trivial matter. When I was in Sydney the week before last I went to the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau office, and I did not notice any such advertisement on the window. In fact, on the window at that time was a display relating to one of the tourist areas of South Australia. I do not know to what period the Leader is referring. He certainly has not indicated whether this display is still there, or whether it was there some time ago. Moreover, he has not disclosed the source of the information on which he has brought this matter to the attention of this House. I do not intend to investigate this matter. I think the Leader has simply raised this matter in the typical petty fashion in which he so often raises matters and takes up the time of this House. If he or any other member wishes to bring to my attention and give full details about matters of serious consequence to this State, I will always be willing to have such matters investigated. However, when these matters are brought to the attention of the House in the way in which the Leader has done it this afternoon (by mere hearsay, nothing more or nothing less, and with no details), I do not intend to conduct any investigation into them.

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As members well know, some time ago the South Australian Film Corporation asked me to make several tourist films promoting South Australia, which I did at no expense to the Government, and these films have been shown extensively on television in other States. Reports we have received from our offices in other States indicate that these films have been extremely successful, and members have been told of the increased tourist trade that has resulted from a series of tourist promotions of this kind. Recently, I was asked by the Tourist Bureau, because these tourist films had been shown widely in Sydney, whether I objected to the record, which I made and which is on sale, being displayed in the office window of the Tourist Bureau in Sydney, at no cost to the Government, in order to attract people to South Australia. Opposition members are not terribly much known to the public in other States, but it happens that it was the recommendation of the manager of the office that a display should be used for a limited period in order to attract business to the office, and he believed that it would. I said, "I do not object as long as there is no cost to the

Government in the matter." It is no different from other efforts I have made in order to attract business to South Australia. The suggestion that this has been some use of Government money for my personal financial benefit is the sort of thing the Leader is capable of and the depth to which he is willing to sink. I have given not only the normal Parliamentary services but also professional services in promoting South Australia, without cost to the State and with some benefit to it.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Because of the Leader's question regarding the constitutional ramifications of the display of the Premier's recording in tourist bureaux in other States, will the Premier ensure that this commercial display is withdrawn? This is not a matter of levity. It would seem that a serious breach of the South Australian Constitution could have occurred and that the Premier could be debarred from speaking or voting in this House. Despite what he may say, the Attorney-General is happy to have an inquiry into the price of pies and pasties, but a serious constitutional matter is brushed aside.

The Hon. Peter Duncan: That is not true.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The recordings are on display, and people are being directed from the bureau to the nearest record shop to buy a record. It has been estimated that about 40 covers of the recording are in the window. Serious constitutional ramifications are involved and, because of the Attorney-General's statement, will the Premier, to protect himself, ensure that this commercial display is withdrawn?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is not a commercial display, and certainly not one from which I gain any advantage in any way. If the honourable member wants me to take an opinion on the subject of whether it is a breach of the Constitution, I can, for 6s. 8d., give him one right now, as a Queen's Counsel: it is not.

Mr. GUNN: Will the Premier receive any royalties from the sale of his record now being displayed in the Tourist Bureau office in New South Wales? When the Premier launched this record he indicated that he would be benefiting financially from its sale.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At this stage of proceedings, I do not know.

Dr. TONKIN: My question is directed to you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Premier has not denied that he is aware that his record has been displayed in the Sydney office of the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau or that he will receive financial benefit from the sale of this record, will you now rule that he is in breach of section 49 of the Constitution and so ineligible at this time to sit or vote in this House?

The SPEAKER: I have no evidence whatsoever to rule on anything.

ROYAL SHOW

Mr. WELLS: Can the Minister of Prices and Consumer Affairs do anything to stop patrons of the Royal Show being exploited? My office has been inundated with calls from irate parents who have taken their children to the show only to have them exposed to rip-offs. My district is essentially a working-class area from which children look forward to going to the show and their parents are determined that their children shall be given the latitude and advantages that other children enjoy who attend the show. When they discovered the price of food at the show, they were astounded.

Mr. Dean Brown: Why don't you seek leave to explain?

Mr. WELLS: Why does the honourable member not wake up? I sought leave to explain the situation, dope; and I can improve on that.

Dr. TONKIN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the honourable member should accuse you of being asleep.

Mr. WELLS: You're asleep, too.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Florey must carry on with the question.

Mr. WELLS: When parents wanted to buy food for their children to eat during the day or evening, they were confronted with atrocious prices. For instance, a small cardboard carton of chip potatoes (a carton similar to that which is available at the drinking fountains in Parliament House) containing a small handful of chip potatoes cost 50c. Pies and pasties cost 29c each, and sauce cost extra. I believe that the price charged for pies and pasties is beyond the permitted price in South Australia. Chiko rolls, which normally sell for 35c or 36c, cost 50c each. Drinks, consisting of water and cordial, cost the atrocious prices of 20c to 25c for a small carton. In addition, admission prices for children in the amusement area were similar to the prices for adults. It cost \$1.50 each for a man and a young child to ride on the Ghost Train: no reduction for children! That is an atrocious situation, so I therefore ask the Attorney-General whether it is possible to take action against people who are deliberately exploiting the children of this State who go to the show for an enjoyable day.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I shall be pleased to have the matter investigated. The matters quite rightly brought to the attention of the House by the honourable member are of considerable concern. I can say for his benefit, and for the benefit of other members, that the prices that he has indicated were being charged for some products, especially pies, exceed the price allowed to be charged under price control in this State, and I will certainly investigate that matter.

Mr. Evans: The same prices are charged at football matches.

Mr. Wells: Why don't you get up and complain then?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The prices charged at football matches will be investigated, too. Prices charged for pies in this State are an indication of the success of South Australia's price control legislation and its application by my dedicated officers. If one goes to other States, one finds that the prices charged for pies and similar items in South Australia are much cheaper than are those charged in other States. In some cases items are up to 8c cheaper in this State. In one place I visited in New South Wales a meat pie with sauce cost 75c. That price is absolutely outrageous, even to a greater degree than the prices indicated by the honourable member. That shows the effectiveness of South Australia's price control legislation and its administration. The matters raised by the honourable member are well worth investigation, and if any proof of over-charging can be obtained then, most certainly, the Government will not be tardy in bringing prosecutions against the guilty parties concerned.

The honourable member's question has raised a broader issue, an issue I noted recently on my return to South Australia about the prices charged for take-away food in this State. I believe it is long overdue that prices charged by some organisations for this type of food should be investigated. Although a leading member of the Liberal Party, Mr. Chick Hanson, suggests in this morning's newspaper that prices for this type of food are not

excessive when compared to prices charged by supermarkets, the prices are certainly excessive when compared to comparable establishments, such as small delicatessens and the like, in which prices are considerably less than those charged by these so-called "fast-food" establishments. The Government will certainly study the price of items being sold in "fast-food" organisations in order to ascertain whether the profits being made are excessive. A full investigation will be made, and I shall tell the honourable member what are the results of that investigation.

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Does the Premier intend to allow the staff-management joint consultative council of the Premier's Department to determine, or at least to have a say in, who will be appointed to the positions of Permanent Head and Deputy Director-General of the department, or does he intend to reserve such decisions for himself? A report in yesterday's *Australian* by Mr. Peter Ward, a former executive officer of the Premier, indicated that the staff and management of the Premier's Department were divided over whether the consultative council should have a say in who is appointed to the positions of Permanent Head and Deputy Director-General. I understand there is widespread resentment within the department caused by the probable appointments of Mr. Graham Inns and Mr. H. R. Bachmann to these positions. Public servants within the department are being by-passed for these appointments.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There is far too much interjection.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: This whole incident is the tip of a major dissatisfaction with the way in which appointments are being made to senior positions within the Public Service.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not know what the honourable member is referring to when he speaks of the way in which appointments are being made to senior positions in the Public Service. The way in which appointments are being made is that required by the provisions of the Constitution and the Public Service Act and the necessary Statutes which apply. That position has not changed. Within my department, as in other departments, consultative councils have been set up in order to have a greater involvement by public servants concerned in matters affecting the life and activity of the department. This is something I have encouraged in accordance with the industrial democracy programme of the Government. The consultative council in my department has discussed the question of whether, on the panel which interviews candidates for senior positions in the department, there should be some representative from the consultative council: it is a matter upon which differences of opinion have occurred within the consultative council. Those differences of opinion are quite natural, and are part of the process of worker participation in the activity of the department. If there were to be meetings of consultative councils at which there were no disagreements or differing viewpoints, the whole process would not be working. There have been disagreements on this matter, and I will be discussing proposals with the consultative council at a meeting to take place soon.

Dr. Tonkin: I wonder whose will will prevail.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Obviously enough, in a final determination of policy as laid down in the policy document the Leader apparently has not read, Ministers must maintain the position that they are responsible publicly for final decisions on policy matters.

Dr. Tonkin: The consultative councils have not really got much say in it at all.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes, they have. So that they do have, I propose to say to the consultative council that, in relation to all positions under that of the head of the department, I believe they should be represented on the panel.

Mr. Dean Brown: But not for the head of the department?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No.

Dr. Tonkin: It wouldn't do. When things are different, they are not the same.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member believes, given the attitude that members opposite have taken to worker participation and consultation, that the consultative council should be represented on a panel choosing the head of any department, I hope he will make that statement publicly.

Dr. Tonkin: I don't, but you do.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: He doesn't believe it, but he wants you to say it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: What an absolutely fantastic instance of the hypocrisy of members opposite that they condemn us for not taking the point of view of the consultative council, and then say that of course they would not do it either.

Mr. CUMBE: Does the Premier intend to appoint Mr. Graham Inns as the new Permanent Head of the Premier's Department and Mr. Bachmann as Deputy Director-General of the same department? Because of considerable speculation on these appointments, both within his department and publicly, will the Premier clarify the position?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member, as a former Minister and long-standing member of this House, must know perfectly well (and I am surprised that he should have asked the question in this way) that there is no possibility of my making an announcement of an intention to appoint anyone specifically to those positions because of the provisions of the Public Service Act. The positions must be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and applications for those positions have not yet been called.

Mr. Coumbe: When will they be called?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: They will be called. The position of Deputy Director-General of the department has not yet been created by Executive Council. In those circumstances, the honourable member must know perfectly well that his question is quite improper.

Mr. Dean Brown: You say the press speculation is incorrect?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member must know the nature of press speculation.

EVAPORATION BASINS

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Minister of Works say what progress, if any, has been made in removing evaporation basins in the Riverland from the Murray River valley? The editorial in the *Loxton News* of Wednesday, August 25, 1976, states:

Although the Dunstan Government was not responsible for the siting of the Katarapko basin it is time it accepted the responsibility of correcting the situation and made a

firm declaration of its intention on this issue. Areas such as Katarapko Island should be improved, not despoiled.

The removal of drainage water and other effluent from throughout the Riverland will continue to be a problem until the Government takes the bull by the horns and proceeds with the proposed construction of one large basin, well away from the river at a site such as Noora, as has been suggested.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will obtain a full report from my department for the honourable member. As every resident relying on evaporation basins along the Murray River will know, this is the best of a set of poor solutions to the problem, and that any alternative solution will be expensive. With the attitude of the present Federal Government towards this State and the money needed to rehabilitate systems such as the one to which he referred, not only Katarapko but other evaporation basins along the Murray River, the honourable member knows that the State itself cannot provide the financial resources required to do the work in the short term if not in the long term. The Government will need assistance from the Federal Government if it is to succeed in the attempts it is now undertaking to resolve the problem. Unless we get a more sympathetic deal in the future from the Australian Government than we are experiencing at the moment, the solution to these problems is a long way away. The honourable member wants to remember that when he is traipsing around the countryside and speaking about the good job the present Government is doing for this State, and every other State, when it is not doing a good job at all.

Mr. Arnold: Why didn't you get it from the Whitlam Government?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The Whitlam Government gave this State more than any previous Liberal Government has given it, and this present Liberal Government is taking away many of the gains we made under the Whitlam Government. What a foolish thing for the honourable member to say. We received from the Whitlam Government assistance in many areas of need that were neglected for 23 years by Liberal Governments in Canberra. What a ridiculous thing to say. I will obtain the report I promised for the honourable member, but I want him to remember, when he is speaking to people living along the Murray River, what I have said about the financial resources of this State, because every cent we are deprived of by the Commonwealth Government to which we are rightfully due will have an affect on the work we do in that area.

ADOPTION

Mr. SLATER: Has the Minister of Community Welfare further information about his announcement that a committee has been appointed to investigate the methods of assessing applications from persons wishing to adopt children?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: This serious matter is of considerable concern to many people in South Australia but, apparently, it is of no concern to Opposition members who represent many South Australians. I am surprised that they are not willing to listen to questions when they are asked by Government members. We hear much from them about the value of Question Time and that they cannot get time to ask questions but, when a sensible question is asked from this side, one cannot get a reasonable courtesy from them so that a reply can be given.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There are far too many interjections.

The Hon R. G. PAYNE: The present imbalance between prospective adopters and the number of babies becoming available for adoption in South Australia is certainly a matter for considerable concern. I hope members opposite will listen on behalf of their constituents, because my reply may contain information of benefit to those persons. I do not wish in any way to pre-empt the work of the committee which, under the chairmanship of Dr. Peter Eisen, will handle this question in a satisfactory way. It may be of benefit to the people of South Australia to understand the magnitude of the problem of the task that has been given to this committee. The existing waiting list of 1 070, includes 550 applicants with no children, 368 with one child, and 152 applicants with two or more children. Those figures do not include applications by relatives; they are applications for "unknown" children. It may be that this is an aspect the committee will have to examine closely in order to relieve the anguish suffered by many people in South Australia who wish to adopt a child and who have to spend many years on a waiting list with not much hope in sight. At least in the future some of those people might not be put in that position. I think members opposite now realise that this is a matter of concern to people of South Australia.

One other statistic which might be of interest illustrates the magnitude of the problem faced by persons wishing to adopt. Over the past five years the average age of the man has been about 34 or 35 years and the woman 31 or 32 years. Many people would consider that to be an ideal age for adopting children and the largest number of applications come from that age group. There has been a discernible change in the past 12 to 18 months in the type of persons wishing to adopt. I am sure prospective adoptive parents do not consider this matter to be amusing, although the member for Davenport seems to think it is.

Mr. EVANS: I rise on a point of order. When Question Time was changed to one hour, the general agreement was that neither the person asking the question nor the person replying would deliberately waste time. Whether or not the member for Davenport is smiling does not matter. The Minister is deliberately setting out to waste time, and I have to take a point of order and waste more time now, because this is an example of time wasting taking place. Although it is not dealt with in the Standing Orders, every member of this House knows that there was a gentlemen's agreement (and if we cannot stick to that sort of agreement there is no alternative but to take a point of order), and I ask you to give some direction to members who abuse our procedures.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. It is up to Ministers how they answer questions. However, I point out to all members on both sides, as I have so often done, that often their interjections delay the time taken by a Minister to answer a question.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I strongly deny that I am attempting to waste the time of the House. The information I am giving to the House is of vital importance to many people in this State who are either on the adoption waiting list or considering going on to that list, and to suggest that that is a waste of time is disgraceful. There is no way that that kind of information could be considered to be a waste of time.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: In an endeavour not to waste further time, I will ignore the many interjections and carry on with the information I wish to give to the House to illustrate that there has been a change in this matter. To save time, I will give the figures for only the past three years. In 1974 there were 755 applications for what could be termed secret adoptions. In 1975 the number fell to 639 and (I think this figure would surprise many people) in 1976 the number had fallen dramatically to 476. It will be clear from the information I have been able to give, in between answering the many and long interjections from the other side, that the committee has a difficult task, but I am sure it will do an excellent job.

MAGISTRATES

Dr. EASTICK: Will the Attorney-General now admit to the House that action he promoted that placed magistrates and prosecutors in the one department did, in fact, compromise the position of the magistrates? Members will be aware that on August 4 I brought to the attention of the Attorney-General the real problem which existed and which amounted to a compromise of the position of the magistrates. I drew the parallel of the statement made in this House by Mr. Justice King in relation to a similar matter associated with justices. In the answer recorded in *Hansard* the Attorney-General said that he had not compromised the position of the magistrates, and then went on with a number of other comments. As a result of the action taken in the Supreme Court of this State, it is quite obvious that the magistrates' position was compromised. In view of the very important role that the Attorney-General plays in this State, will he insist that, in the future, actions emanating from his department will clearly show not only that justice is being done but that it is being seen to be done.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: A preliminary matter that needs to be cleared up is that the re-organisation of Government departments which has been taking place over the past several months and which will continue to take place in accordance with the Government's programme was not instituted by me, as stated by the Leader, but resulted from the recommendations made in the Corbett report. The Government as a whole accepted those recommendations to a large extent, and the establishment and development of the new Legal Services Department by the incorporation of a number of smaller departments resulted from the recommendations in that report.

I will now deal with the matters the honourable member has raised. I do not in any way retract the statement I made initially that it is my belief that the magistrates were not compromised in their position. In fact, the Supreme Court has not found that magistrates were compromised: it has determined that there is a possibility that magistrates could be compromised, and that is quite a different thing. The court has said that it is desirable, in order to ensure that compromising situations do not arise, that the magistrates be in a different department from that of Crown Law officers. As honourable members know, the magistrates have now, pursuant to a notice that appeared in an extraordinary edition of the *Government Gazette*, been placed in the Premier's Department. That situation has overcome the difficulties which the Supreme Court saw and which the court in its wisdom stated in its judgment. That is the present position, and it has overcome the difficulties that were raised in a majority decision in the Supreme Court in this matter. That will be the administrative situation, which will continue.

QUARRY RECLAMATION

The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL: Can the Minister of Mines and Energy provide information about the success or otherwise of the programme whereby the quarries on the Hills face zone are being sprayed to disguise them? I am aware that the department is now requiring development plans for quarry work in the Hills face zone, which will mean, over a relatively short time, that quarry scarring on the Hills face zone can be developed in such a way that plantings will obscure most of the visual problems associated with quarrying. I have noticed from what can be seen in Adelaide that the spraying programme has had some impact on one quarry, and I should like to know whether it is too early to establish whether this project will be successful in covering up the scars caused by quarrying on the Hills face zone.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The Stonyfell quarry of Quarry Industries Limited has had a large section of its face sprayed with a bitumen emulsion. The State Government, with the co-operation of Amdel, has been experimenting with various ways of spraying quarry faces. The spraying that has occurred at Stonyfell is of an experimental nature. We are hopeful that it will last for a long enough period and will oxidise to a colour that will blend in satisfactorily with the general Hills face to ensure that this method can be adopted permanently. Whether or not the project will be economical will depend on the frequency with which the faces will have to be resprayed. In addition, a certain amount depends on the oxidation of the bitumen over a period of a few months. The normal colour of the bitumen when it is first sprayed is very black and shiny, and I think that most people would say that the colour that has been produced at Stonyfell is too black. What the situation will be in a few months is important to any assessment of the overall effectiveness of this programme. I add, in this overall connection, that the revegetation of quarry faces can take place only over a relatively long period of time if the quarry is to have a long life, because the revegetation will occur from the top of the quarry downwards as the quarry is worked out at a level and is progressively benched. The Stonyfell situation involves a long-term plan of benching at 7-metre intervals from the top of the quarry down and, as it is gradually worked out, those benches will be revegetated.

Experiments that have already taken place at Stonyfell have demonstrated clearly that, within two years, bare rock face can be effectively revegetated. In the meantime, a large amount of stone is to come out of Stonyfell and it will be a long time (probably as long as 40 years) before the entire area is revegetated. So, without action such as the spraying, the scars would be visible for a long time. One of the most relevant aspects of the whole matter is that the spraying is associated with a new method of working quarries whereby successively slots will be cut into the quarry face, and the main area of working will be behind the face that is visible from the plain. By the time the face that is visible from the plain is removed, the area at the back of the quarry will again have been sprayed, and the change will not be noticeable in the plains area. The spraying of the quarry face, of its own, is not significant without the proposed new method of working, which, I think I can say, will be just as economical as the old method and which will enable the vast bulk of the area that has been worked at Stonyfell to be worked without being viewed from the plains. However, it is too early, in general, to determine precisely how successful the new procedure will be.

Mr. Venning: It sounds like a lot of—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: It might sound like a lot of things to the honourable member. The only likelihood of this statement is that I hope that most members might think that there was some overall sense in the project. I hope that, within a few months, it will be possible to make a better assessment of the likely long-term effectiveness of this method of approach. It is an interesting change and, if it works, it is one for which I think that Quarry Industries Limited, the Mines Department and Amdel can take much credit.

LAND TAX

Mr. EVANS: Can the Premier say whether land that has been zoned Hills face, rural, or country living within the Adelaide metropolitan planning area will be exempt from land tax under the new modifications the Government is to make to the land tax legislation? From press reports, it seems that the Premier has referred to reductions in the Adelaide metropolitan planning area (in general, land tax for housing properties) but there has been no reference to the rural and country zones or to Hills face land which falls into that area. It is of major concern to the community that we preserve the rural and open space and natural characteristics of the Hills area, to which much criticism has been directed recently.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The proposal is that the exemption in rural land tax will extend to the existing declared rural area and to those properties which presently attract the \$40 000 rural exemption.

Mr. Evans: That doesn't pick them all up, unfortunately.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Well, it will cover all genuine farmers in South Australia.

Mr. Evans: What about the scrub land?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The proposal the Government has for rural land tax came out of discussions with the farming organisations, which have expressed great appreciation to me for acceding to their requests. The proposal applies to all farmers in South Australia who presently attract the \$40 000 exemption; in other words, it applies to nearly 4 000 farmers who gain their living from farming.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Mainly.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The substantial proportion of their income must come from farming. They are the people we sought to relieve, and that is what has happened.

HIGHBURY TRAFFIC

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Transport obtain for me a report on whether the Highways Department has any plans for making the intersection of the Lower North-East and Valley Roads, Highbury, safer, possibly by the installation of traffic lights, and, if it has, when this work will be carried out? Minor safety improvements have already been made to this intersection but, as it is on the brow of a hill adjacent to a hotel, where visibility for a reasonable distance is poor, there is need for more safety improvements as soon as possible, certainly before the duplication of this section of the Lower North-East Road, which is not expected to be reconstructed before 1981. The increased population, which has resulted in an increase in the number of motor vehicles using the intersection, is also a factor that should be considered.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: I shall be pleased to discuss this matter with the Commissioner of Highways and bring down the information for the honourable member.

INTERSTATE VEHICLE PLATES

Mr. RODDA: My question, which I direct to the Minister of Transport, deals with the use of interstate plates within South Australia. I have received several complaints from truck operators who are paying full tote odds for registration and for road maintenance and who allege that many trucks operate on interstate plates. They pick up freights and, provided they do that in another State, they can operate anywhere in South Australia. However, they cannot pick up freight within the State and cart it to a destination within the State. These people have told me that what I have described occurs, but they will have to bring documentation of these allegations to the Minister. I ask the Minister whether he has received such reports, because this matter is causing great concern to people who are paying high registration fees and road maintenance charges and who are finding it difficult to make ends meet because of this kind of opposition.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The complaints have not been directed to my attention. I am concerned that, if activities of this nature are occurring, this practice has not been brought either to my attention or, preferably, to the attention of the Commissioner of Police. It is an offence under the Act, as the honourable member has said, for an operator to use an I. S. plate other than for interstate operation because, regrettably, under the Constitution we are unable to collect a registration fee.

Mr. Rodda: We're all getting soaked.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Yes. It is in the interests of all South Australians that the practice to which the honourable member has referred does not continue. If he can provide, preferably to the Commissioner of Police direct or, alternatively, to me, any pertinent details, I will hand the information on to the Commissioner for him to take appropriate action.

MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

Mr. LANGLEY: Can the Premier say whether the Government will consider legislating for compulsory third party property insurance for motorists who do not hold comprehensive insurance? It has come to my notice that several motorists who have either comprehensive or third party insurance cover have been involved in accidents with vehicles for which there has been no cover. In several cases, it has taken some time for them to recover damages; in some cases, the drivers concerned have received nothing.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will certainly have the matter examined. I believe it would be difficult for us to increase the required premium on compulsory third party motor vehicle insurance to ensure that everyone was covered for third party property damage as well as for personal injury. However, I will get a report for the honourable member.

LAND VALUATION

Mr. VANDEPEER: Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Lands why the Lands Department will not supply to settlers at Eight Mile Creek criteria used to assess

the unimproved and annual values of their blocks? These settlers are all dairy farmers who have been struggling for some time to make ends meet. Valuations on their blocks seem to bear no relationship to productivity and/or sale value. A request for a full report on the formula used for these assessments has been made, but that request has been refused.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague. As far as I am aware, it is not the practice of any valuer in the Valuation Department to disclose his method of valuation or the criteria used in arriving at a valuation of any property for taxing purposes.

Mr. Vandepeer: But they answer questions fairly well at public meetings. Why don't they put it down on paper?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: If the honourable member will let me finish, I will explain it to him. Everyone who is subject to a valuation has the right of appeal against the valuation. A person can go to court for that purpose. The valuer is then in the dock, so to speak, defending his valuation. He must satisfy the judge or magistrate, or whoever may be hearing that appeal, that his valuation will stand up.

Mr. Chapman: You know very well that most people cannot afford to go to that extreme.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I did not know that any great cost was involved in appealing against a valuation. I do not believe that the honourable member would say that is so. People may be put to some inconvenience, but no great cost is involved. It is not a legally technical matter. However, I will ask the Minister to consider the matter. As long as I have been associated with this Government and its valuations, that has been the situation. I do not see any reason why it should change.

WINGFIELD DUMP

Mr. WHITTEN: Can the Minister for the Environment say whether any control can be placed on the Wingfield dump that will control the emission of smoke and noxious fumes?

Mr. Jennings: I always ask that one.

Mr. WHITTEN: I know the member for Ross Smith often refers to the matter: his district borders mine. I receive numerous telephone calls from people in the Rosewater area who complain about noxious fumes and smoke emitted from Wingfield dump.

Mr. Jennings: I get the complaints when the wind blows the other way.

Mr. WHITTEN: I am certainly getting much criticism, and so is the Minister for the Environment, for not controlling these activities. I am asking whether there is any way that burning at the dump can be controlled so that no noxious fumes and smoke blow into the Price District from the Ross Smith District.

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: Several problems are associated with this area which, as honourable members know, is a noxious trades area. So far as the Wingfield dump is concerned, the situation is unsatisfactory because of a High Court decision earlier this year that invalidated regulations brought down by the Health Department in order to control burning at that dump. An examination is being made of ways to get around that legal difficulty. With some justification, the member for Ross Smith interjected because he, too, has problems in this regard. Some of the problems outside the dump would blow in the direction of the district of the member for Price. I have

looked at a major problem in the area in the past few weeks that relates to an industry that properly operates in the noxious trades area. Unfortunately, the industry does not keep its emissions within the area. It is difficult for it to do so. As a result, the Health Department has asked a fertiliser factory, which is responsible for particularly obnoxious smells that blow towards Mansfield Park school, not to burn chicken manure, which I believe is the worst offender in relation to smell, unless the wind is blowing not towards the honourable member's district but to areas that are uninhabited.

Mr. Jennings: Winds can change.

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: In addition, plant is to be installed which, I hope, by the end of the year will reduce considerably the smells caused by this operation. However, I believe that many of the odours emanating from this area are caused by the stockpiling in the open of materials that are obnoxious, especially when they are wet. These materials include old prawns, dead poultry, sludge from the Bolivar treatment works, and so on. It is unsatisfactory that these materials should be stockpiled in large quantities in the open so that the sun and rain cause smells that blow into surrounding areas. It is a difficult problem, but I will let the honourable member know as soon as a way has been found to get around the problems associated with the Wingfield dump and the fertiliser industry.

At 3.12 p.m., the bells having been rung:

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 3) 1976

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended the House of Assembly to make appropriation of such amounts of the general revenue of the State as were required for all purposes set forth in the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1976-77 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 3), 1976.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act for the appropriation of revenue of the State for the financial year ending June 30, 1977, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

In doing so, I present the Government's Revenue Budget proposals for 1976-77, which forecast a balanced Budget result after making provision for two special allocations totalling \$27 000 000. Aggregate receipts and aggregate payments are each expected to be about \$1 171 000 000. The forecast of payments comprises detailed provisions for normal running expenses of \$1 090 000 000 at salary and wage rates and approximate price levels estimated to be effective at June 30, 1976, a round sum of \$43 000 000 for the possible cost of new salary and wage rate approvals that may become effective during the course of the year, a round sum of \$11 000 000 for the possible cost of further increases during the year in prices of supplies and services, and the special allocations of \$27 000 000.

The necessary detailed appropriations for future wage awards will be arranged under a special provision, which is included in the main Appropriation Bill each year. Regarding supplies and services, where departments can demonstrate that cost increases are greater than the allowances included

in their detailed appropriations, extra funds will be made available from the round sum of \$11 000 000. There is no special provision in the Appropriation Bill to cover this procedure, so that it will be necessary to call on the authority of the Governor's Appropriation Fund and eventually of Supplementary Estimates. The special allocations of \$27 000 000 are for two major provisions, one of \$15 000 000 to support the 1976-77 operations of the Loan Account and one of \$12 000 000 to augment development and exploration activities in the Cooper Basin gasfields. I shall return to both of these matters in a moment.

Consolidated Revenue Account: As to the longer term movements and trends in the Consolidated Revenue Account, I reported to the House 12 months ago that there was an accumulated surplus at June 30, 1975, of \$22 800 000, and that a completion grant of \$2 500 000 was expected as a result of a Grants Commission recommendation in respect of the 1973-74 financial year. That completion grant was received and, accordingly, we commenced the 1975-76 financial year with an effective surplus of \$25 300 000. The Revenue Budget for 1975-76, as introduced to Parliament on August 28, 1975, forecast a balanced result for the year. It took into account a possible increase of 21 per cent in the level of average wages which was based on the assessment made by the Commonwealth Government when notifying the estimated level of the Financial Assistance Grants to the States for 1975-76. It also took into account that increased salary and wage rates could be expected to be accompanied by higher prices for supplies and services. Accordingly, after taking into consideration the provisions built into departmental estimates of payments to cover the carry over effect of salary and wages awards and price rises which became operative in 1974-75, it was estimated that round sum allowances of \$82 000 000 and \$160 000 000 would give safe protection against future salary and wage rate increases and price increases respectively.

By the end of 1975, it had become apparent that the Revenue Budget was progressing towards a more favourable result than had been forecast originally. There was evidence that wage indexation was starting to have a moderating influence on wage increases, some revenues were improving, and departments were generally exercising a tight control over their expenditures. In February, when it became necessary to ask Parliament to consider Supplementary Estimates, I gave an explanation of the main financial trends which had occurred, and indicated that a surplus of as much as \$25 000 000 could result from the year's operations. The situation continued to improve, despite a rather large wage indexation movement for the March quarter, and, by the time I introduced the second set of Supplementary Estimates in June, it was clear that a Budget surplus of over \$50 000 000 was in prospect. All of the earlier favourable indications had strengthened and further it seemed that the Medibank arrangements would be more favourable than expected originally.

However, the Commonwealth Treasurer's May 20 statement gave an indication of impending problems, in particular for our capital works programmes, and I informed the House when presenting those Supplementary Estimates that it was the Government's intention to appropriate from the prospective surplus, sums of \$20 000 000 towards the capital works programme, \$20 000 000 to urban public transport projects and \$10 000 000 to assist employment. When I learned at the Premiers' Conference on June 10 that money for welfare housing in 1976-77 would be held at the same money amount as for 1975-76, which in turn had been held to the same money amount as for 1974-75,

I arranged immediately for the \$20 000 000 for the capital works programme to be made available to housing. I will return in a moment to the problems which arise from the present financial policies of the Commonwealth Government. As a result of those actions, the recorded surplus for 1975-76 was \$2 300 000, which took the accumulated surplus on Consolidated Revenue Account at June 30, 1976, to \$27 600 000. All the major movements for 1975-76 in both receipts and payments are documented fully in Attachment I to the printed Financial Statement.

Loan Account: In respect to Loan Account, I introduced the Public Purposes Loan Bill and the Loan Estimates for 1976-77 to this House about four week ago. The Loan documents showed that at June 30, 1976, there was an accumulated deficit on Loan Account of \$8 900 000. The proposals for the State's capital programme envisaged the use of all new borrowings and all recoveries expected to become available during the year. However, as the availability of new funds through general Loan programmes supported by the Commonwealth Government is well below the level required to meet expected cost increases, and as the Commonwealth is holding specific purpose funds to a very low level, it has been necessary to allow the accumulated deficit on Loan Account to remain unrecovered in 1976-77 and to make further demands on the Revenue Budget in order to maintain the essential level of public works, while providing for a balance on the 1976-77 operations of the Loan Account.

Accordingly, an amount of \$15 000 000 is to be appropriated from Revenue Account for capital purposes. The accumulated deficit on Loan Account is expected to remain at \$8 900 000 at June 30, 1977, and to be recouped progressively over the next two financial years.

Tax Sharing: The most significant event that has occurred in recent times in the Commonwealth-State financial field has been the arrangement between the Commonwealth Government and all State Governments for the sharing of personal income tax collections. This new arrangement came into effect on July 1, 1976, and replaced the long-standing practice of applying increments in average wages, movements in population and a general betterment factor to a predetermined base in order to establish each State's Financial Assistance Grant for a financial year. The principles involved in this new arrangement and the events which led to their adoption are set out in Attachment II to the printed Financial Statement. Although I do not propose to take up members' time now with a detailed explanation of those principles and events, I do wish to draw attention to three matters which make me apprehensive about the future of the tax-sharing arrangements as an effective replacement for the Financial Assistance Grants formula. They are:

1. Lack of consultation on the part of the Commonwealth Government. The decision of the Commonwealth Government, announced on May 20, to introduce full indexation of personal income tax in the first year, to introduce a Medibank levy and to change child endowment arrangements and income tax rebates for dependent children was an example of that Government's departure from what I believed was a responsibility to consult with the States on matters which might affect their share of personal income tax collections.

2. The Commonwealth Government's refusal to provide the States with an assurance beyond June 30, 1980, that funds under the tax sharing arrangement will be at least as great as those which would have resulted from a continuation of the formula. In seeking a long-term guaranteed arrangement, I and

other Premiers had in mind the possibility that the Commonwealth Government might place less emphasis in the future on income tax as a revenue source.

3. Introduction of the Medibank levy, a long-term income taxing measure and not just a device for short-term economic management. In this the Commonwealth has demonstrated that it does not feel obliged to share with the States all the personal income tax it collects.

Dr. Tonkin: It is hardly personal income tax.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is. It is a tax levied on personal incomes specifically. The Leader can call it a levy or what he likes. It is a charge on personal incomes. There is the possibility, of course, that such special levies could be used more and more in future, to the possible detriment of the States' surcharge powers. In effect, the Commonwealth, having agreed to a specific proportion of the collections on personal income tax, has now started to make exceptions from what are personal income taxes.

Mr. Coumbe: Without affecting the basis.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: But affecting the return to the States out of it, and by making these exceptions there is no indication for the future that the States' share of personal income tax returns is going to be in fact a fixed percentage of what are taxes on personal incomes.

Those matters lead me to believe that the States face the prospect, after 1980, of having to rely heavily on their surcharging powers or of using existing taxing measures to make good any short-fall if the Commonwealth Government places relatively less emphasis on income tax as a revenue raising measure. As it is unlikely that the Commonwealth Government will permit the States to enter the income tax field in other than a marginal way, for fear of weakening its powers of economic management, the burden could well fall back on the States' traditional taxation fields. The present estimate of South Australia's entitlement under the new tax-sharing arrangements for 1976-77 is \$438 300 000. However, in recent years actual collections from personal income tax have varied significantly from the original estimates. A 1 per cent variation in the 1976-77 estimate would vary South Australia's share under the arrangement by more than \$4 000 000. The estimated guaranteed minimum is \$428 500 000, being the estimated amount which a continuation of the Financial Assistance Grants arrangements would have yielded.

Cooper Basin: I referred earlier to a special allocation of \$12 000 000 to augment development and exploration in the Cooper Basin gasfields. The South Australian Government's main concern is the level of exploration which needs to be undertaken in order to assess the extent of the reserves and to permit planning of their future use. In particular, we wish to ensure that adequate gas supplies will be available to Adelaide consumers beyond 1987. I am sure that members would be well aware of the financial difficulties and protracted negotiations which have faced members of the producer consortium developing this important energy resource. The previous Commonwealth Government took an equity interest in the project at the time when some consortium members were seeking to overcome their financing problems. The present Commonwealth Government now seems anxious to divest itself of the equity interest.

The South Australian Government has made an offer to acquire this equity as the most effective avenue of assisting the producer consortium to achieve an adequate level of exploration, and also of obtaining a voice in the management of the Cooper Basin resources. In these Estimates

it is proposed to set aside \$12 000 000 as a contribution to the Pipelines Authority of South Australia, \$9 500 000 being to finance the acquisition from the Commonwealth Government and \$2 500 000 being to provide some funds for exploration. Further significant allocations of funds will be required from time to time for exploration and development, and information concerning this will be put before Parliament, of course.

Forward planning: On previous occasions I have stressed the benefits to be obtained from the long-term planning of our financial resources and the desirability of considering each year as only one step in that long-term planning process. In case anyone wishes to refer back, I spelled this out in my 1974 Budget speech. That concept was introduced formally to our capital works Budget some five years ago, and I believe that the planning of those works on a three-year rolling programme has been of considerable benefit in achieving effective use of resources. Further, it has assisted in cushioning the adverse impact of the recent economic decisions taken by the Commonwealth Government.

At this stage, forward financial planning on Revenue Account is less firmly established and is limited in an overall sense to an assessment by departments, each April, of their programmes for the ensuing financial year. There is, of course, no less need for long-term planning in this area than for capital works but, for reasons I have explained previously, it is more difficult to implement. In view of the uncertainties we now face and are likely to face in the future, the need for longer term planning in some detail is becoming more urgent, and I believe that it would be desirable for departments to project their forecasts for a further financial year; that is, to develop a two-year forward planning programme in detail for Revenue Account. I have asked my Treasury officers to take this matter up with the heads of all departments with a view to having it implemented for the 1977-78 and 1978-79 financial years. My objective is that, as departments develop the necessary staff resources and experience, the detailed planning process on Revenue Account should be extended to a future period of three years.

Perhaps I could refer briefly to two matters to give members some idea of the Government's purpose in this matter. First, in education, where there is likely to be a decline in primary and secondary enrolments over the next 10 years, it is vital that planning initiatives be taken now so that school-leavers do not embark on a tertiary course in the expectation that employment in the teaching profession will be readily available in either Government or non-government schools. For this reason, officers of the Education Department and Treasury have commenced a co-operative exercise to assess what resources may be required to ensure acceptable standards in primary and secondary schooling, what intakes of students may be required to meet prospective needs for teachers, and what funds are likely to be available. Secondly, the rapidly expanding call on our hospital facilities and the increasing cost of operating those facilities makes forward planning of staffing and associated needs imperative. The Government's present planning in this area will now be incorporated in a co-operative exercise with the Commonwealth in proposed forward Budget plans as part of the new Medibank arrangements for hospital financing.

A further related matter is a review of the Government's accounting systems to facilitate the development by Treasury and departments of budgets and financial management systems which place greater emphasis on responsibility and accountability for heads of departments. Members

will recall that this approach to financial management was supported by the Committee of Inquiry into the Public Service, and has been the subject of comment in recent reports of the Auditor-General. Treasury, in its review of methods and procedures, is having regard also to the growing use of automatic data processing, to developments such as planning, programming, budgeting systems and to steps taken by the United Nations and other authorities to bring about standard presentation of Government financial material. As a result of this work it may be necessary to ask Parliament, at some later stage, to consider modifications to the presentation of formal financial information in Budget papers and Treasurer's Statements.

Summary of major financial factors: In looking at the major financial factors which influenced this 1976-77 Revenue Budget, the most important is the financial policy of the Commonwealth Government and the ill effects flowing from that policy. We all know that the Commonwealth Government is strenuously pursuing a policy of reduced public spending both in its own area and that of the States. I have said several times both publicly and to the Prime Minister himself, that I believe this policy can only increase unemployment beyond the already high and unacceptable level, reduce consumer confidence, discourage private investment and generally lead to an overall economic decline. It ignores the present plight of the building and construction industry which is operating at about only 75 per cent of its effective capacity in this State and which is in even worse straits in some other States. I have already mentioned welfare housing and the acute lack of funds in this area. Suffice it to say now that the adverse effects of the Commonwealth policy can be measured against the background in this State of a waiting list of over two years for a State Bank loan and, with the exception of a few country areas, a waiting list in excess of three years for a Housing Trust rental house.

In respect to public transport, sewerage works, hospital and school buildings, and a variety of other public works and services it fails to recognise several urgent needs. It is a policy which is insensitive to the needs of people, particularly the Aboriginal people. In trying to look into the future and to plan for it, we do not know how long the Commonwealth will persist with its present policies, and we certainly do not know how tough that Government will be in its approach to specific purpose grants to the States and to support of Loan programmes in 1977-78.

These factors, together with other uncertainties such as our ultimate share of personal income tax collections above the guaranteed level and changes to Medibank which have made it difficult once again to estimate receipts from this major source, suggest that it would be prudent to try to maintain a balanced Budget for 1976-77, and thus to retain our accumulated reserves of \$27 600 000 in order to cushion the effects of any adverse moves in the future. Further, the holding of those reserves will improve our chances of avoiding taxation increases in 1977-78. While the recent actions of the Commonwealth Government have not allowed us to go as far as we would have liked, I am pleased to say that, by careful planning and a firm control of expenditures, the Government believes it can offer some relief to the South Australian taxpayer and still achieve a balanced Budget in 1976-77.

I have already announced that the Government will introduce legislation during this session to exempt from succession duty the property passing to a surviving spouse. It is intended that this legislation take effect from July 1, 1976, and apply to property passing to a surviving spouse as a result of a death on or after that date. The cost

to the Budget in a full year is estimated to be about \$4 000 000 to \$5 000 000. As to land tax, I had stated some weeks ago that the Government would forgo the increasing revenues which would have followed automatically from higher valuations, and that legislation would be introduced this session to hold land tax collections in 1976-77 to the same money amount as for 1975-76. Following further Cabinet consideration, it was my pleasure to announce last week that the Government would remove some increments in tax rates from the higher end of the progressive scale, give relief in the middle of the scale, and eliminate rural land tax. As a result we estimate that land tax collections in 1976-77 will be only about \$18 600 000 compared to more than \$19 800 000 in 1975-76.

Concerning pay-roll tax, there has been a very useful practice of consultation between the States before making adjustments to rates and exemptions. The aim has been to try to keep the pay-roll tax legislation as uniform as practicable. As a result of recent informal consultation, there seems to be a general acceptance among State Governments that exemption levels should be raised to take account of increasing wage levels. I am pleased to announce that in South Australia the present exemption levels will be raised by about 15 per cent as from January 1, 1977. The cost to the Revenue Budget is estimated at about \$1 000 000 in a full year, and \$500 000 in 1976-77. On the subject of pay-roll tax, the Government intends to provide, within approved guidelines, a range of incentives to industries wishing to establish or expand their operations in South Australia. An amount of \$160 000 is provided for this purpose.

We propose also to amend the Stamp Duties Act this session in order to reduce the level of stamp duty on conveyances and to provide some relief to purchasers of blocks of land, houses, and small business properties. The measure which will reduce the stamp duty bill on modest transactions by up to 22 per cent is expected to cost \$3 000 000 or more in a full year, and about \$2 000 000 in 1976-77. The remarks I have just made about tax concessions have given me much pleasure. Now, it is with sadness that I must comment briefly on the shocking seasonal conditions which South Australia and large areas in other States are going through. We are in the grip of one of the worst droughts on record, and there are no prospects of relief. The Government expresses its sympathy to all of the rural community affected. As a practical token of our concern we have included in this Budget total appropriation for drought relief of \$11 500 000, of which we expect the Commonwealth to provide \$10 000 000 and the State \$1 500 000 in accordance with established guidelines. I have written to the Prime Minister seeking urgent consideration of our submission for assistance and I will make a further announcement immediately I hear further from him. I am happy to report that a reply has been received from the Prime Minister, who has indicated that his Government will support freight rebates for the transport of fodder and stock and carry-on loans for drought-affected primary producers in certain circumstances. In respect to stock disposal, transport of water and drought-generated unemployment relief measures, the Prime Minister has stated that urgent consideration is still being given to these matters. However, because of the serious plight of the farmers and their families and the prompt attention which the Commonwealth Government has already given to our initial request (indeed, the Prime Minister phoned me at home last Friday concerning the matter), I am hopeful that a quick and satisfactory solution will be found to any problems which may be associated with these urgently needed relief measures.

Despite the adverse seasonal conditions, I believe it is fitting to repeat my thoughts of last year and to say that South Australia has entered 1976-77 in a better financial situation than has any other State. We propose to keep a firm control of expenditure within the limits approved, to improve our forward planning and budgeting still further, to maintain flexibility so that we may cope with changing circumstances, and to continue to keep long-term financial stability as one of our major aims.

The rest of the information relates to details of the estimates of revenue and expenditure. Before I seek leave to have it inserted in *Hansard*, I want to pay a tribute once again to South Australia's Treasury officers, who are the envy of the Governments of other States. Indeed, I find that our Treasury officers are not infrequently called on to advise other States on how those States may deal with Treasury problems which South Australia is coping with so satisfactorily. We could not possibly do the job that has been done in the Treasury in South Australia without the sterling work of our officers, and I give them my personal thanks and, I think, the thanks of all honourable members. I seek leave to have the remainder of the explanation of the Bill inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

RECEIPTS

In 1976-77 receipts are expected to amount to \$1 171 000 000. I shall now give some detail of the main areas of interest.

Taxation: In the normal course, revenue from land tax would have increased by about 25 per cent in 1976-77 as a result of rising land prices and thus higher valuations. However, having regard to the growth which has occurred in these receipts in recent years, to the desirability of giving relief to taxpayers, if possible, and to the present favourable Budget position, the Government has decided to give substantial concessions in land tax rates and exemptions. In looking at the prospective effect of continuing the existing provisions we were very conscious of the probable impact in two particular areas; the city of Adelaide and the rural areas. In deciding how to give concessions we had in mind the special problems in these areas. Accordingly, we decided to remove from the progressive scale of rates the top five increments above 28c for \$10, to reduce by 1c each of the 12 steps from 6c to 28c for \$10 and finally to remove land tax on primary producing properties. In the absence of these measures, it is likely that the receipts of just over \$19 800 000 last year would have grown to almost \$25 000 000. With the proposed measures, which will operate for all of 1976-77 tax of course, receipts from land tax are expected to be only about \$18 600 000.

The Government also intends to reduce the rates of stamp duty now levied on conveyances where the transactions involve comparatively modest amounts. In this area a simple comparison with New South Wales and Victoria suggests that similar transactions are presently taxed rather more severely in this State. In view of the differences between the States in the cost of comparable real estate, I have some reservations about the validity of such comparisons but, nevertheless, the Government has decided that, in the interests of providing some relief to both prospective home owners and the business community, it should make some modest concessions in this area. The cost of the proposed concessions will be more than \$3 000 000 in a full year and about \$2 000 000 in 1976-77. Overall, however, receipts from stamp duties are expected to rise from \$65 000 000 to about \$74 000 000.

Last year the Government amended the Succession Duties Act to provide relief for widows and widowers and to increase the rural rebate. However, few of the estates finalised during the year were eligible for assessment under the new legislation, and so the cost of the changes was not felt by the Revenue Budget in 1975-76. This year the impact will be much greater, and receipts would not have been expected to increase to any great extent for this reason alone. Now, of course, the Government has announced its intention of abolishing succession duties between spouses with effect from July 1 last. The full cost of this decision, estimated at between \$4 000 000 and \$5 000 000 a year, will not be felt until 1977-78, but there is expected to be at least some impact in 1976-77 and, accordingly, provision is made for a nominal increase only in succession duty receipts this year.

Given no changes in the legislation in respect of rates and exemptions, it is likely that receipts from pay-roll tax would have increased from \$119 500 000 to about \$136 500 000. However, as I have mentioned, informal consultation between the States indicates a general view that exemption levels should be increased to take account of rising wage levels. As a result, the South Australian Government has decided to increase exemption levels by about 15 per cent. The present level of \$41 600 is to be increased to \$48 000 and it will taper down to \$24 000 (now \$20 800) at pay-roll level of \$84 000 (now \$72 800). These amendments will be effective from January 1, 1977. They are expected to cost about \$1 000 000 in a full year and about \$500 000 this year. Estimated receipts for 1976-77 are thus shown at \$136 000 000. The franchise tax on the sale of petroleum products operated for the first quarter of 1975-76 and produced revenue of \$4 700 000. The passage of the railway transfer legislation placed the State finances in such a sound position that the Government decided to abolish the levy and nothing will be received on this account in 1976-77.

Public Undertakings: Bulk handling charges imposed by the Marine and Harbors Department were raised on January 1, 1975, but wharfage charges, conservancy dues, pilotage and tonnage rates have not changed since July, 1973. The Government is becoming concerned about the increasing impact which the operations of the department are having on the Budget and, therefore, has decided to raise those charges which have remained unaltered for three years. The full year's yield from the increase in rates is estimated at more than \$3 000 000. It is expected that in 1976-77, receipts will increase from \$10 700 000 to about \$13 300 000. Earnings of the Produce Branch of the Services and Supply Department are expected to fall from \$1 500 000 to \$900 000. The decision to transfer responsibility for the Port Lincoln freezing works from the department to the South Australian Meat Corporation is responsible for this decline. In future the operations of the rail division of the State Transport Authority will be treated in the same manner as the operations of the bus and tram division, and only the net impact will be reflected in the Budget. For this reason, no provision is made in the Estimates of Revenue for the receipts of the railway undertaking. However, the relevant information is given by way of an inset to the appropriation authority contained in the Minister of Transport—Miscellaneous section of the Estimates of Expenditure.

The Government has already announced that water and sewer rates will rise by an average of about 15 per cent in 1976-77. Together with the natural growth in the number of consumers, this will increase the revenue of the Engineering and Water Supply Department by about \$7 100 000 to about \$68 800 000. There is no need for

me to recite once again the difficulties which South Australia faces in the area of water supply nor the reasons for the losses which occur in the provision of water to country areas. In view of the adverse criticism which the decision to raise these rates has attracted, however, I point out that it would be a senseless deception for the Government to freeze these charges, and to allow the deficit of the water supply and sewerage undertaking to grow continually. Ultimately, the cost must be borne by the community, either by increased charges elsewhere in the Budget or by a reduction in the level of services provided by the Government. The Savings Bank of South Australia experienced a buoyant year in 1975-76, in which income from all sources showed a significant increase. This improvement is reflected in its contribution to the Revenue Budget for 1976-77. On the other hand the contribution from the State Bank of South Australia for 1976-77 is down on the previous year mainly as a result of increased interest payments and the cost of renovations to the bank's premises.

Recoveries of debt services: One of the consequences of treating the rail division of the State Transport Authority as an entity which operates outside the State Revenue Budget is to alter the manner in which its debt charges are shown in the State accounts. In the past, interest and sinking fund have been allocated to the division from the total payments made by the Government and appropriated under the Special Acts section of the Estimates. In this way the full extent of the division's operating losses has been made apparent in the Auditor-General's Report. Now that the rail division is to be treated as part of a statutory authority it is appropriate that it be made specifically responsible for the debt incurred on its behalf and for the interest and sinking fund charges arising from this debt. The operating results of the division will in no way be altered but the State accounts will now show a payment of interest by the division (reflected in the transfer towards its deficit) and a corresponding recovery of interest by the Government. It is this change in presentation which gives rise to the increase from \$1 200 000 to \$3 300 000 in the recovery of interest from the State Transport Authority and the increase from \$100 000 to \$300 000 in the recovery of sinking fund from the same source.

Other departmental fees and recoveries: The estimates of receipts from Commonwealth grants for education purposes have been based on the information contained in the recent Commonwealth Budget. From pronouncements made by the Commonwealth Treasurer it would seem that these allocations are designed to provide for schools a 2 per cent growth in real terms and for technical and further education institutions a 7.5 per cent growth in real terms. Both these figures relate to the suggested increase in funds for 1977 over the programme approved for 1976. Because these figures are for calendar years rather than financial years and because certain payments in respect of 1974-75 were received in 1975-76, it is not possible to apply the percentages to actual receipts last year to derive this year's expected receipts. As members will note, the grants towards the schools programme are expected to rise from \$21 100 000 to \$23 500 000, and the grants towards the further education programme to fall from \$4 800 000 to \$4 600 000.

For the pre-school and child care programmes the Commonwealth Government has decided to increase grants to the States from \$49 000 000 in 1975-76 to \$54 000 000 in 1976-77. It is also giving consideration to changes in the programme designed to place greater emphasis on the child-care component. As yet the Childhood Services Council does not have sufficient information from the

Commonwealth to be able to assess the likely impact of these changes on its 1976-77 budget. Therefore, the Government has adopted a rather conservative approach and has allowed for an increase from \$7 300 000 to only \$7 700 000 in grants for these purposes.

Receipts from other activities of the Education Department are expected to decline from \$2 900 000 to \$1 600 000. The main reason for this is the loss of income from the rent of school residences. Since July 1 last all such rents have been paid to the Teacher Housing Authority which has taken over responsibility for constructing and maintaining residences occupied by teachers. In the past the cost of providing housing for teachers has been spread between the Education and the Public Buildings Departments. One of the advantages of the new system will be to bring together into one place all the costs associated with this activity and thereby to permit a more accurate comparison of these costs with the rents charged to teachers. The 20 per cent rent subsidy paid by the Education Department will continue and it is hoped that this, together with the rentals paid by teachers, will be sufficient to cover the costs incurred by the new authority.

In May, 1976, the Commonwealth Government altered the basis of its Medibank contributions and ceased to distinguish between payments to the States on the basis of patient bed-days and payments representing the Commonwealth's share of hospital net operating costs. For 1976-77, therefore, all Medibank contributions by the Commonwealth have been treated as payments of the Commonwealth Government's share of net operating costs. Taking as the basis of comparison the combined bed-day and operating costs contributions in 1975-76, these payments are expected to increase from \$62 000 000 to \$84 000 000. Part of this increase is due to the fact that bed-day payments formerly made direct to subsidised hospitals are now channelled through the State Budget, as Commonwealth contributions towards the cost to the State of subsidising these institutions. A corresponding increase has taken place, of course, on the payments side of the Budget. The balance of the increase is a reflection of the substantial increase expected to occur in the costs of operating both Government and non-Government hospitals in 1976-77 and of the opening of the new Flinders Medical Centre.

Revenue from fees charged to hospital patients is expected to rise from \$12 200 000 to \$16 300 000. After consultation with the Commonwealth Government it was decided to increase fees in Government hospitals by varying amounts from October 1, 1976, in order to reduce the anomalies which were emerging between charges in public and private hospitals. The grant from the Commonwealth Government under the community health scheme is expected to increase from \$2 400 000 to \$4 300 000. A total of \$5 100 000 has been made available to the State for 1976-77 in the form of a block grant to cover both capital and recurrent costs. The Government has decided to take the bulk of the funds to the Revenue Budget to help meet the costs of adequately staffing the new centres established over the last two or three years.

As from August 1, fees for the registration of private motor vehicles were raised by 25 per cent and those for the registration of commercial vehicles were raised by 30 per cent. From July 7, the fee for a driver's licence was increased from \$5 to \$6 a year and a start made on the introduction of a three-year licence system to replace the present annual system. These higher rates, together with the normal annual growth in the number of vehicles and the number of drivers, are expected to increase receipts from \$32 100 000 to \$45 000 000. After certain administration

expenses have been deducted, the balance of these funds will be transferred to the Highways Fund and spent on the construction and maintenance of roads. The Commonwealth Government has offered the States rather less money for roads than is required to maintain the present level of work, and has made such grants conditional upon the States' finding more from their own resources. In order to attract these extra funds and to avoid a deterioration in road construction and maintenance programmes, the Government has been obliged to increase its charges.

The transfer from the Hospitals Fund towards the costs of operating and maintaining hospitals is expected to increase from \$11 500 000 to \$12 500 000. Turnover tax from the Totalizator Agency Board is expected to grow at much the same modest rate as was experienced in 1975-76, but the surplus of the Lotteries Commission should continue to climb in line with the growing popularity of crosslotto.

Commonwealth Grants: In Attachment II, I have explained at some length the new tax-sharing arrangements which are to replace the Financial Assistance Grants. The latest information available from the Commonwealth Government is that personal income tax receipts for 1976-77 are estimated to total about \$11 060 000 000 of which South Australia's share is expected to be some \$438 300 000. It is relevant here to mention that the present estimate of South Australia's guaranteed minimum, calculated in accordance with the Financial Assistance Grants formula, is \$428 500 000. The estimate of the recovery from the Commonwealth Government of the loss on the non-metropolitan railways has been calculated, for the purposes of simplicity, on the assumption that the State continues to operate the system for the whole of 1976-77, although it is our aim to have the transfer of responsibility for the non-metropolitan system completed well before the end of the financial year. The non-metropolitan deficit for 1976-77 is expected to be about \$35 000 000 and it seems that the loss on non-metropolitan operations in 1975-76 will turn out to be about \$3 500 000 higher than the amount so far recovered from the Commonwealth. We have budgeted in the expectation of recoving the whole \$38 500 000 in 1976-77.

PAYMENTS

Payments from Revenue Account in 1976-77 are expected to rise by \$136 000 000 to \$1 171 000 000. Included in the total is an allowance of \$43 000 000 for future wage and salary awards, a provision of \$11 000 000 to cover the effects of likely price increases for supplies and services, and special allocations of \$27 000 000 as previously mentioned.

Special Acts: The provision for the Government contribution to the South Australian Superannuation Fund has increased from \$14 600 000 to \$15 300 000. For 1976-77, an amount of \$5 700 000, which would otherwise have been shown against this line, has been appropriated under Part XIII Minister of Transport—Miscellaneous as part of the contribution towards the deficit of the rail division of the State Transport Authority. This change is, of course, consequent upon the alteration to the method of presentation of the rail division in the State accounts. The transfer to the Highways Fund is expected to increase by \$11 100 000 to \$23 100 000. As explained earlier, the Government has been obliged to raise motor taxation quite sharply in order to provide a reasonable programme of construction and maintenance of roads. The rapid increase in this item is simply a reflection of that fact.

The reduction in the contribution to the National Debt Sinking Fund from \$16 100 000 to \$15 700 000 results from the transfer of \$124 000 000 of State debt to the Commonwealth under the terms of the rail transfer agreement. A sinking fund contribution was required in respect of this amount last year because of a technical problem concerned with the Financial Agreement but no such contribution will be necessary in the future. The 1975-76 contribution was recovered from the Commonwealth.

Payment of interest on the \$124 000 000 did not have to be made last year, however. The increase of \$16 200 000 in the State's interest bill, therefore, is a true reflection of the extent to which our liability in this regard has grown. There are several reasons for this increase. In the first place the State's indebtedness rises from year to year as the Government, through the Loan Council, borrows from the public and from financial institutions to finance its capital works programme. Even if interest rates were much lower, the interest bill would rise on this account. As it is, however, interest rates are at historically high levels. This factor has two effects. It forces up the cost of new borrowings raised to finance the Government's works programme, and in addition, has a considerable impact through the extra burden which it imposes when maturing debt is converted. Frequently, the amounts converted have been borrowed at rates ruling five, 10 or 15 years ago. Naturally, when these borrowings are converted into stock bearing present rates the State's interest burden rises sharply.

Education—Education Department: Expenditure by the Education Department is expected to increase from \$226 700 000 in 1975-76 to \$243 500 000. This expenditure is financed principally from the State's general purpose funds. In recent years, however, the allocation from the Commonwealth Government on the recommendation of the Schools Commission has become increasingly important, particularly as it has enabled the State to improve the standard of education in its schools rather than simply to keep pace with rising enrolments. For this reason the recent report of the Schools Commission has great significance in assessing the funds which the State will be able to allocate to the Education Department this year and in the immediate future. Commenting on the guidelines given to it by the Commonwealth Government for the 1977-79 triennium, the commission points out the inherent conflict between providing for growth in expenditure of 2 per cent in real terms and, at the same time, directing the commission's attention to needs not now being met. To quote the report:

"It is important to realise that the guidelines cannot be met in full; the objectives of maintaining existing standards while also undertaking initiatives, though modest and directed towards immediate needs, are ambitious within the funds allocated."

The commission has also reacted with concern to the advice from the Commonwealth Government that the present cost supplementation arrangements are to be abandoned in favour of less automatic provisions. As the commission points out:

"... systems cannot plan unless they know how to allow for inflation and when cost supplementation will occur. The basis of cost supplementation must be established quickly and publicised widely so that the true value of basic grants can be assessed and administered accordingly."

Against this rather forbidding background and bearing in mind the small increase in Commonwealth funds overall and the need to avoid tax increases, the South Australian

Government has decided that 1976-77 should be a year in which the Education Department maintains its present relatively high level of operations, but has little expansion and few new initiatives.

Further Education: The allocation to the Further Education Department for 1976-77 is \$29 500 000 as compared to \$25 400 000 actually spent last year. The Government is concerned about the growing evidence that the number of new tradesmen entering the workforce is proving insufficient to replace those leaving their trades because of age and other circumstances. In the past the skilled workforce has been supplemented to a significant extent through immigration, but more recently the flow of tradesmen into Australia has tended to abate. This, of course, has thrown a greater burden on our training institutions, and has been responsible for the rapid growth which has taken place in the area of technical and further education.

It is in this context that the report of the Technical and Further Education Commission must be read. Although the rate of increase in the funds made available to the commission is somewhat greater than for schools and for other post-secondary institutions the commission has stated in its report that: "The proper development of T.A.F.E. cannot be accommodated within the minimum growth rates in Commonwealth expenditure guaranteed by the present guidelines." With the strict limitation imposed on the rate of increase of the State's overall funds, we have been obliged to provide for a comparatively modest increase in the resources allocated to technical and further education. It is to be hoped that in future years a rate of increase more appropriate to the needs of the community will be possible. Apart from the commencement of activities at the Regency Park Community College of Further Education, with the transfer there of the School of Food and Catering, there will be very little expansion in real terms. The withdrawal of Commonwealth support for the training of teachers to staff the new integrated child-care facilities, established as part of the childhood services programme, has made it necessary for the State to allocate some of its own resources to ensure the continuation of this essential task. Courses in the fields of nutrition and home management will commence in 1977 but programmes such as the improvement of adult literacy will of necessity proceed at a slower rate than is desirable.

Independent Schools: The provision for grants to independent schools has increased from less than \$5 000 000 in 1975-76 to \$6 300 000 in 1976-77. Actual expenditure in 1974-75 was \$2 600 000, so that over a two-year period the South Australian Government has raised its contribution by almost 150 per cent. A submission by the Advisory Committee on Special Grants for Independent Schools for an alteration to the method of calculation of the total sum made available to the committee was accepted by the Government, with the result that this amount is now determined on basis of 20 per cent of the most recent estimate of the cost of educating a child in a Government school.

Pre-school Education: The manner in which funds for pre-school education and early childhood care have been made available to the States by the Commonwealth Government has been the subject of frequent and lengthy discussions between members of the Interim Committee of the Children's Commission and the Childhood Services Council and between officers of the Commonwealth and State Public Services. Despite the difficulties which changes of ground by the Commonwealth authorities have caused, the Childhood Services Council has succeeded in attracting considerable funds to South Australia for these purposes,

and particularly for facilities which provide a range of integrated services. The council is now concerned that there may be yet another change of policy in this area and that funds for the integrated facilities which the council has fostered will be cut back and greater emphasis given to centres providing a more fundamental child minding function. Of course, the extent to which Commonwealth funds are made available to help finance existing centres will have considerable influence on the rate at which the State Government can carry out its undertaking to provide one year of free pre-school education for all children in the State. Until more is known of the intentions of the Commonwealth Government, the council will be greatly inhibited in its planning. For its part the South Australian Government has endeavoured to alleviate some of the council's problems by increasing the allocation to the childhood services programme from \$10 200 000 in 1975-76 to \$13 300 000 this year. If the Commonwealth Government does not raise its contribution to South Australia in line with the total increase provided for in this area in the Commonwealth Budget, the impact on the State will be quite severe in a year when other activities are being held under tight control.

Health—Hospitals: By now members will be well aware of the changes which the Commonwealth Government has made to the Medibank arrangements. The precise effect of these changes cannot be estimated with any accuracy, but to the extent that the introduction of the Medibank levy induces people to take out extra health insurance there will be a saving to the Budget in the net cost of providing health care. For Government hospitals this will come directly in the form of extra fee revenue from insured patients and some small reduction in payments for professional services. For non-government hospitals the effect will be the same but the saving to the State Budget will come through a reduced need for Government subsidies to cover operating losses. Expenditure by the Hospitals Department is expected to increase from \$144 900 000 in 1975-76 to \$173 000 000 this year. Considerable extra expense will be incurred at the Flinders Medical Centre where it is anticipated that by the end of the year 326 beds will have been commissioned. In addition to this, there will be pre-commissioning costs associated with the plan to have a bed capacity of 520 by the end of 1977-78. Significant developments will also be taking place at the Ru Rua Nursing Home where it is expected that an additional 63 beds will be commissioned. Last year saw further progress in the development of community health facilities with the commencement of services in a number of areas. Costs will rise markedly in 1976-77 as these services operate for a full year and are brought up to a level to match the likely demand.

Appropriations under "Minister of Health—Miscellaneous" for non-government hospitals have been affected by the decision of the Commonwealth Government to do away with direct payments to all hospitals of \$16 per patient bed day. As explained in the Budget speech last year, these payments had the effect of reducing the level of State Government subsidy required. Now that these payments are to be made to State Governments for passing on to the subsidised hospitals, it is, of course, necessary to provide extra appropriation authority, although the net cost to the Budget is not affected. It is expected that this will be offset to some extent by a tendency for patients to choose to take out private health insurance under the new Medibank arrangements. If this change eventuates, it will boost the revenues of subsidised hospitals and, at the same time, reduce their payments for professional services.

Assistance for current maintenance to organisations shown in Appendix III to the Estimates of Expenditure is expected to increase from \$11 900 000 to \$14 100 000. State Government support for the Home for Incurables is expected to total \$2 600 000, for the Mothers and Babies Health Association \$2 200 000, for the South Australian Blood Transfusion Service \$1 300 000 and for Minda Home \$900 000.

Public Health: Expenditure by the Public Health Department is expected to increase from \$6 300 000 to \$7 900 000. The department continues to assist local authorities in the design and supervision of construction of common effluent drainage systems in country towns. Since local authorities first saw the advantages of this system of drainage in removing insanitary conditions and upgrading the environment, more than 40 towns have been assisted. Work at Williamstown, Kadina and Crystal Brook is expected to proceed this year and plans are being prepared for schemes in a number of other localities. The department is also engaged in investigating proposals for the satisfactory disposal of solid wastes in the metropolitan area. The training of dental therapists is continuing at the Hindmarsh Square and Somerton Park training schools. At present 49 students are in their first year of training and 44 in their second year with a further intake of 50 planned for 1977. An additional five mobile clinics will be commissioned this year and stationary clinics are being constructed in a further 16 schools. When these facilities are operating, it is estimated that the number of children receiving comprehensive dental care will be about 70 000.

In conjunction with officers of the Commonwealth Government and the State Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, the department is engaged in a comprehensive programme for the control of mosquitoes in the Upper Murray area aimed at prevention of an outbreak of Australian arbo-encephalitis. The Occupational Health Division is endeavouring to promote amongst employers and employees an awareness of the practices of preventive health. The establishment of area centres to serve groups of medium and small sized industries which cannot afford to provide their own occupational health services is particularly important in this regard.

Law Enforcement—Police Department: The expected increase in expenditure of \$5 700 000 by the Police Department is only a little more than is necessary to ensure the continuation of services at their existing level. There will be the normal intake of cadets and probationary constables and, in addition, it will be necessary to train 53 new constables to offset the effective reduction in strength brought about by the decision of the Industrial Commission to grant police officers an additional weeks annual leave. Provision has been made for the department to assume responsibility for the maintaining of order on Aboriginal reserves in the north-west of the State. Equipment and accommodation are being supplied by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs. It is expected that the upgrading of the country radio network will be completed in accordance with P.M.G. licensing requirements.

Correctional Services: Expenditure by the Correctional Services Department is expected to increase from \$6 500 000 to \$7 600 000 in 1976-77. Much of the increase is necessary merely to continue the present level of activity in the detention and corrective treatment of offenders sentenced by the courts. However, a few modest initiatives are planned. It is intended to take further steps towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Mitchell report relating to the caseload of probation and parole officers. Eight extra officers have been recruited for service at the Mount Gambier and Port Lincoln prisons

to improve the level of manning at those centres and additional technical staff will be sought during the year. This will permit more intensive and individual training of offenders and so enhance their prospects of finding employment when they are released from prison. During 1975-76 the department undertook a programme of growing specialised fruit and vegetables for other Government bodies. These activities will be expanded in 1976-77 and it is the intention to concentrate on exotic fruits and vegetables not commercially cultivated in South Australia in order to provide training in experimental techniques for inmates.

Welfare: The allocation to the Community Welfare Department is \$22 600 000, an increase of \$3 200 000 over 1975-76. Included in this amount is a provision of \$6 900 000 for financial assistance to people in need. Expenditure last year was \$5 400 000, but the number of people seeking assistance is expected to increase substantially over the next 12 months. In addition, rates of assistance have been increased and eligibility criteria liberalised. For the past two years a Social Planning Branch within the department has been financed by the Commonwealth Government. That assistance has now been withdrawn. The State Government does not consider that the activities of the branch should be discontinued, however, and has provided sufficient of its own funds to ensure that the benefits of such planning are not lost to the State.

During 1975-76 the department was able to fill a considerable number of the vacancies in the approved establishment of social work staff. This will permit the department to proceed with its decentralisation programme and provision has been made for new offices to be opened at Ingle Farm, Hillcrest, Kadina and Clare. Family homes will be established at Ceduna and Maitland and early childhood services centres opened at Campbelltown, Nangwarry and Brompton. The appropriation of \$6 400 000 under the heading of "Minister of Community Welfare—Miscellaneous" is for the continuation of the Government's remissions of rates and taxes to pensioners and for its programme of grants to private community welfare organisations.

Public Undertakings: With the transfer of responsibility for the non-metropolitan railways to the Commonwealth Government, the State has been relieved of a major burden on its Revenue Budget. However, the formal transfer has not yet been completed and, therefore, it has been decided to appropriate the loss on the railway system in full and to provide for a recovery of the non-metropolitan loss from the Australian National Railways Commission.

The metropolitan operations of the railway system are now under the control of the State Transport Authority in the same way as the operations of the metropolitan bus and tram system. Accordingly, it has been decided to treat them in the same way for accounting purposes. In the past, some considerable detail has been supplied in the Estimates of Expenditure to support the appropriation for the Railways Department while a separate line has been included in the "Treasurer—Miscellaneous" section of the Estimates for a grant to the Municipal Tramways Trust to cover its deficits. For the future it is proposed that the appropriation authority for the deficit of the State Transport Authority will be a single line under the "Minister of Transport—Miscellaneous" section of the Estimates. This will make the accounting treatment of the authority consistent with its status as a statutory body and, at the same time, provide the authority with additional flexibility in operating and co-ordinating both bus and rail services.

While the transfer of the non-metropolitan railways to the Commonwealth Government has resulted in a considerable benefit to the State Budget, the fact remains that of the five major State business undertakings, the Engineering and Water Supply Department, the Marine and Harbors Department, the Woods and Forests Department, the metropolitan rail service and the metropolitan bus service, only the forestry undertaking is operating profitably. The South Australian Government has never accepted the "user pays" principle in its purest form. In our view the advantages of a public transport system, for instance, are enjoyed not just by those who use the service but by the entire community and it is appropriate, therefore, that the community bear part of the cost of providing the service. Nevertheless, a judgment must be made from time to time about the extent to which these services can be subsidised from the general revenue of the State. If Governments follow the line of least resistance and hold charges steady so that deficits climb and there is a greater and greater burden thrown on to general revenue, there must come a time when taxes will have to be increased or other public services curtailed simply to pay for the operating deficits of public undertakings. It is to avoid this situation that the Government has decided this year to raise the charges imposed by the water supply and harbors undertakings.

Expenditure by the Engineering and Water Supply Department in 1976-77 is expected to increase by \$5 900 000 to \$42 600 000. Due to the extremely low level of intake into reservoirs during the winter months it has been necessary to provide for pumping costs amounting to \$5 000 000 as against actual expenditure of \$2 600 000 for 1975-76. Provision has been made also for the commissioning of the new water filtration plant at Hope Valley and for increased costs associated with the continual expansion of the water and sewerage system. The major new programme of investigation into the State's water resources, which was commenced last year, will continue in 1976-77 and provision has been made for the cost of this together with the costs of administering the recently promulgated Water Resources Act.

Other Activities—Drought Relief: The provision of \$11 500 000 for natural disaster relief recognises the serious and wide-spread drought conditions currently prevailing in this State. Most of the State's agricultural zone has been declared a drought area and the conditions show every sign of being the worst in the State's history. Serious problems now face primary producers, some of whom are experiencing their second consecutive year without a grain crop. Disposal of stock is now a major problem and a potential health hazard. On top of that is the increasing problem of unemployment in the drought area.

The proposed provision of \$11 500 000 recognises those problems and also the need, when conditions improve, for farmers in necessitous circumstances to have the availability of low interest finance in order to restock and seed their properties. It also recognises that some farmers may need financial support in the meantime so that they can provide for their families, maintain their properties and stay in the business of primary production until conditions improve. The Commonwealth Government has been approached to support the State's programme under its National Disaster Relief Scheme to the extent of \$10 000 000. In anticipation of that support an amount of \$8 500 000 has been provided as a receipt in the Estimates of Revenue for 1976-77. There may be some carry-over of the final settlement into 1977-78.

Water Hyacinth: A recent threat to Australia's major water systems is the growing incidence of water hyacinth in the Gingham water course in New South Wales. The Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Commonwealth are co-operating to overcome this problem and \$50 000 has been allocated as our share of the cost in meeting this emergency.

Amalgamation of Departments: Members will, no doubt, recall that one of the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into the Public Service was that:

The South Australian Public Service comprise fewer, stronger departments so that they can manage their affairs and be held accountable for managing.

The Government has accepted this recommendation and taken a number of steps during the last 12 months to put it into effect. The resulting changes to the Estimates of Revenue and the Estimates of Expenditure have made comparisons with last year rather difficult and to assist members in this regard I have summarised the alterations in Attachment III to this speech.

ATTACHMENT I

THE YEAR 1975-76

The Revenue Budget presented to Parliament on August 28 last forecast a balance of receipts and payments for the year 1975-76. This forecast was based on an estimated increase in the level of average wages of 21 per cent as advised by the Commonwealth Treasury. After taking into account the provisions built into departmental estimates of payments to allow for the carry-over effect of wage and salary awards which came into effect in 1974-75, it was calculated that a further \$82 000 000 would be required to give safe cover against new awards which could be expected to come into effect in 1975-76. It was also considered desirable to include a provision of \$16 000 000 against the likelihood of further price rises for supplies and services as a result of increased wage and salary rates in the private sector.

By the time departments had completed their first quarterly review for the year, it had become clear that wage indexation was working well and that continuing restraint in this area would have a favourable net impact on the Budget. In addition, the review showed that careful control was being maintained on payments and that there were some prospects of improved receipts. Further, the Commonwealth Treasury had suggested that it might be appropriate to assume an increase of only 16 per cent in the level of average wages instead of the 21 per cent advised earlier.

In February, 1976, it became necessary to present Supplementary Estimates to the House in order that the Government might have the necessary appropriation authority to cover changed circumstances in a number of areas. At that time I was able to inform members of a further significant improvement in our Budget prospects. The half-yearly review by departments had indicated the possibility of a surplus for the year of \$25 000 000. There were five main factors contributing to that situation. In the first place indexation had continued to work well and there had been a responsible and restrained approach in the community in the area of wages and salaries. The net benefit from this was estimated to be \$4 000 000.

In the second place movements in average wages in South Australian State Government employment were not consistent with those in the Australian community as a whole. Whereas in both 1973-74 and 1974-75 the actual costs to the State Budget of wage awards were considerably higher than might have been expected, given the Australia-wide experience, it was apparent in February that for 1975-76 the cost to the State Budget would be less than

might have been expected. It was estimated that this factor could have a favourable effect of about \$10 000 000. Thirdly, the favourable effect of wage restraint was moderating the rises in prices of goods and services used by departments, with the result that the special allowance for increased prices was not being called on fully. More importantly, departmental officers were controlling payments very firmly and endeavouring to avoid using the special allowance. The favourable effect of these aspects was estimated at about \$10 000 000.

Fourthly, a number of State revenues were showing some upward trend. Stamp duties in particular were buoyant and there were prospects that, in total, receipts could be \$5 000 000 above estimate. Offsetting these favourable influences to a small extent were a number of unexpected increases in payments. After allowing for savings in other areas, the net effect was expected to be an increased outlay of about \$4 000 000. As members will recall, the Government's Budget position continued to improve and in June, when presenting further Supplementary Estimates, I was able to report that a surplus of about \$50 000 000 was in prospect. Those Supplementary Estimates contained, in addition to a number of routine matters, special appropriations of \$55 000 000 designed to make effective use of surplus funds and to ensure that areas of particular concern to the Government would not be affected seriously by any cut in funds which the State might have to face in 1976-77. In the final event, the result for the year was a surplus of about \$2 300 000.

Payments totalled \$1 034 700 000 compared with the original estimate of \$1 051 000 000. The net saving of \$16 300 000 was the end product of a number of conflicting influences. In keeping with the spirit of wage restraint abroad in the community at large, the cost of new wage and salary awards was \$40 400 000, some \$41 600 000 less than the allowance of \$82 000 000 included in the Budget. Awards for which automatic appropriation was available in terms of the Appropriation Act amounted to \$34 600 000, while decisions which fell outside the scope of the legislation cost \$5 800 000.

It is significant that, of the saving of \$41 600 000, no less than \$17 000 000 was due to a smaller movement in average weekly earnings in Government employment than in the community as a whole. The balance, of course, was due to a lower than expected increase during 1975-76 in Australia generally. Last year, when reviewing the 1974-75 financial year, I mentioned the adverse effect which above average movements in Public Service rates of pay had had on the Revenue Budget. Our experience in 1975-76 has implications for the future as it lends force to the argument that such movements are temporary aberrations which are unlikely to be sustained over time.

Apart from the saving of \$41 600 000 in award costs there were further apparent savings of \$18 900 000. Of this amount, \$9 200 000 was actually in respect of interest payments on debt taken over as a result of the railways transfer arrangements. Because arrangements for the transfer were far from complete at the time of presentation of last year's Budget, I decided to retain existing appropriation procedures and provide for full recovery from the Australian National Railways Commission of the non-metropolitan deficit. In this way members were able to assess the full impact of the transfer. The State was not, of course, required to pay interest on debt taken over as a result of the railways agreement and there was a difference of \$9 200 000 on this account. A corresponding shortfall occurred in the recovery from the Australian National Railways Commission. The balance of the savings,

\$9 700 000, was spread across the whole range of Government functions. Taken together with the interest difference and the saving on award payments, they produced total reductions below estimate of \$60 500 000.

Offset against this were a number of special appropriations made during the course of the year and incorporated in Supplementary Estimates. An amount of \$20 000 000 was transferred to the State Transport Authority for expenditure on urban public transport projects, following advice from the Commonwealth Government that grants sought for these projects would not be forthcoming. A further \$20 000 000 was transferred to Loan Account for general capital purposes and subsequently allocated to housing following the decision by the Commonwealth Government at the June Premiers' Conference to provide the same money amount for housing as was made available in 1974-75 and 1975-76. Spending on unemployment relief works exceeded estimate by \$14 800 000 and included a transfer of \$10 000 000 to a special deposit account to be used to provide jobs in 1976-77. Finally, \$3 000 000 was appropriated for electricity works on Eyre Peninsula so that areas now served by local generation could be supplied from the Electricity Trust's transmission system and \$2 400 000 was transferred to the Highways Fund to enable work on the Strzelecki track serving the Moomba gasfields to proceed. In total these special items resulted in overspending of \$60 200 000. When offset against the savings outlined above they produced a net saving of \$300 000.

To date I have made no reference in my explanations to the \$16 000 000 provided at the beginning of the year for price increases. Although a number of departments were obliged to seek extra funds to cover price increases these extra allocations were more than offset by savings elsewhere within the Public Service. The figures I have given above for departmental savings are, in fact, inclusive of price increases estimated to have been of the order of \$10 000 000. On that basis the full provision of \$16 000 000 represents a further saving to the Budget and must be added to the figure of \$300 000 to arrive at a total underspending of \$16 300 000.

Budget receipts in 1975-76 amounted to \$1 037 000 000, a figure \$14 000 000 below estimate. Proceeds from State taxation exceeded estimate by \$5 800 000, principally as a result of stamp duties which yielded some \$10 000 000 more than anticipated. The major shortfall was in the area of pay-roll tax where the moderation of wage increases and the generally depressed state of the economy led to actual receipts being \$6 500 000 below estimate. Recoveries of debt services were \$3 000 000 above estimate. During the course of the year the State had more funds to invest than had been expected, and this, together with the ability to invest for the first time on the approved short-term money market, enabled \$1 900 000 more to be earned than was originally estimated.

In the general classification of other departmental fees and recoveries there were a great number of areas where receipts exceeded estimate and a considerable number where receipts fell short of estimate. The net result was a gain of \$11 300 000 to the State, with the major variations occurring in Commonwealth specific purpose payments for education and health purposes. Grants for education activities were a net \$3 300 000 above estimate while grants for Medibank and other health schemes were a net \$4 300 000 above estimate. These increases in taxation, debt service recoveries and departmental fees and recoveries, in total, produced an amount \$20 100 000 greater than anticipated.

Offsetting this were a minor shortfall of \$200 000 in territorial receipts and a major shortfall of \$33 900 000 in general purpose payments from the Commonwealth Government. The Financial Assistance Grant was \$13 200 000 below estimate due principally to the effects of wage moderation on the average wages factor, and the recovery arising from the railways transfer was \$20 700 000 below estimate. As mentioned earlier, \$9 200 000 of this was due to the provision for recovery of interest payments on \$124 000 000 of State debt taken over as a result of the railways agreement. Provision was made in the Budget papers for the payment and recovery of this amount in order that the full implications of the transfer could be shown as clearly as possible but it was not expected that either payment or recovery would be necessary. The remainder of the apparent shortfall was due to two factors. The first is that the original estimate was made on the assumption that the railway services would need to call heavily on the allowances for wage and price rises and that these costs would be recovered. In fact, the railways expenditures increased less rapidly than expected, thanks to the benefits of wage moderation. The second is that the reimbursement approved by the Commonwealth was even lower than the reduced non-metropolitan deficit as estimated late in the year. The final settlement is subject to negotiation. Apart from these major factors there were a number of other important variations which influenced the final Budget outcome in 1975-76. In some detail they are as follows:

RECEIPTS

The shortfall of \$14 000 000 in State revenues may be summarised as follows:

	\$	
<u>Taxation</u>	5 800 000	above estimate
Public undertakings		as estimated
Recoveries of debt services	3 000 000	above estimate
Departmental fees		
and recoveries.....	11.300.000	above estimate
<u>Territorial</u>	200 000	below estimate
Commonwealth Govern- ment	33 900 000	below estimate
	<u>\$14 000 000</u>	below estimate

Taxation: The effects of revaluations on receipts from land tax were a little greater than expected and resulted in actual revenues exceeding estimate by \$500 000. Stamp duty receipts were about \$10 000 000 above estimate. In 1974-75 the Government experienced a significant shortfall in receipts from stamp duties despite a number of rate increases. This was largely the result of the economic downturn which became evident during that year and in particular the very subdued level of activity in the real estate market. Estimates for 1975-76 were prepared against that background and obviously were too conservative. Revenues from duty on credit transactions and mortgages were both above estimate but the major variations were in the areas of conveyances of property and new and transferred motor vehicle registrations. Both the number and value of property transactions exceeded estimate while for motor vehicles it was mainly the continued upward movement of prices which produced the extra revenue.

Receipts from succession duties totalled \$19 100 000, a figure \$2 600 000 greater than anticipated. The rapid escalation of property values in recent years has had the effect of pushing a significant number of estates into much higher tax brackets than was considered appropriate. The Government introduced legislation during 1975 to rectify this situation by giving more generous rebates to spouses and to primary producers and by indexing most

rebates to future movements in property values and the consumer price index. It was expected that the effects of this legislation would become apparent during the second half of 1975-76 but, because of the considerable lags between the date of death, the assessment and finally the payment of duty, most of the revenues received in 1975-76 were derived from estates assessed under the old legislation. The impact of the new legislation should now be felt during 1976-77.

Pay-roll tax receipts were \$6 500 000 below estimate. Amendments to the legislation were introduced during the course of 1975-76 to widen the basis on which concessions are given and to overcome avoidance of the tax through company-splitting by employers. It is estimated that these amendments have an annual cost of about \$1 000 000. The balance of the shortfall was due largely to the rate of increase in wages and salaries being rather lower than expected. An apparent increase of \$1 100 000 in licence fees collected by the Labour and Industry Department was the result of a decision to reclassify these as taxation items rather than as fees for services.

Public Undertakings: The Marine and Harbors Department received \$400 000 more than estimated during 1975-76. Earnings from bulk handling charges were greater than expected due to a high through-put of grain and this more than offset a slight shortfall from wharfage charges. Railway receipts, on the other hand, were \$1 700 000 below estimate. A substantial shortfall in revenues from the carriage of wheat was to some extent offset by higher receipts from the carriage of barley. However, competition from road hauliers made inroads into receipts from the transport of general merchandise and this was the main reason for the deficiency. These factors affect the non-metropolitan rather than the metropolitan area and, therefore, will have no net effect on the State Budget. Charges for excess water usage were responsible for the receipts of the Engineering and Water Supply Department exceeding estimate by \$1 200 000.

Recoveries of Debt Services: During the course of the year the State's Revenue Budget position improved steadily. This naturally led to a situation in which the Government had a much greater volume of funds on hand for investment purposes than had been anticipated. Together with the Government's wider investment base, this factor was responsible for actual receipts from interest earnings exceeding expectations by \$1 900 000.

Departmental Fees and Recoveries: As explained earlier, the most significant variations in this area were in Commonwealth specific purpose payments. Grants for primary and secondary education exceeded estimate by \$1 600 000 and grants for further education were \$500 000 above expectations. In both cases the Commonwealth Government accepted State submissions for extra funds to cover cost escalation during the course of the year. This same factor was partly responsible for grants towards the childhood services programme being \$1 300 000 above estimate. In addition, however, the Commonwealth Government proved willing to accept the responsibility to contribute towards a wider range of costs than had been anticipated.

Under the Medibank arrangements, as originally negotiated, the Commonwealth met half the net costs of the operation of hospitals but incorporated in their half share was a separately identified contribution of \$16 a patient bed-day. The South Australian Budget was prepared in a manner which required these latter contributions to be credited quite separately from the rest of the Commonwealth payments. However, in May, 1976, the new Commonwealth Government ceased to make this distinction

between the two elements of the payments with the result that receipts from Medibank bed-day contributions fell \$2 300 000 short of estimate.

This was also one of the reasons for the Commonwealth contribution towards hospital operating costs exceeding estimate by \$5 400 000. There were, however, two other relevant factors. Under the original arrangements bed-day contributions to non-government hospitals were paid direct to the hospitals but cost-sharing contributions were paid through the State Budget. With the change in procedures introduced in May, the full Commonwealth contribution towards non-government hospitals passed through the Budget and receipts rose accordingly.

In preparing the estimate of receipts from patients fees for 1975-76, an assessment was made of fees outstanding and of fees for which, at that stage, an account had not been sent. The assessment of the latter item proved to be much too low and as a consequence actual receipts from this source exceeded estimate by \$2 200 000. Grants from the Commonwealth Government for domiciliary care, paramedical services, community health centres and mental health services were almost \$1 000 000 below estimate. In general, the explanation for this shortfall was that development did not proceed quite as rapidly as had been hoped.

The pharmaceutical benefits scheme has, for the most part, been subsumed within the Medibank Hospital Agreement. Amounts received in 1975-76 were therefore largely in respect of the final claim for 1974-75 plus pharmaceuticals on hand at June 30, 1975. In preparing the estimate for 1975-76 too little emphasis was given to this latter factor with the result that receipts exceeded estimate by \$800 000. For much the same reason the payment from the Commonwealth for consumable stocks on hand at the commencement of Medibank was over-estimated to the extent of \$1 200 000. Many of these items, were, in fact, eligible for subsidy under the pharmaceutical benefits scheme with the result that their net cost, and hence the Commonwealth payment under the Medibank arrangements, was much lower than anticipated.

Territorial: South Australia has only three sources of mineral royalties of any significance, coal from Leigh Creek, iron ore from the Iron Knob district and natural gas from the Cooper Basin. Revenue from Leigh Creek coal was close to estimate but royalties from the other two sources fell somewhat short of expectations. As a result, actual receipts from royalties were \$200 000 below estimate.

Commonwealth Government: The State's single most important source of revenue, the Financial Assistance Grant, fell \$13 200 000 short of estimate. The moderation in wage increases was responsible for \$11 900 000 of this through its influence on the average wages factor, while the balance of \$1 300 000 was due to a rate of population increase rather lower than anticipated.

The reimbursement from the Commonwealth Government towards the loss on the non-metropolitan railways was \$23 800 000, a figure \$20 700 000 below estimate. The estimate of the extent of the recovery was too high partly because too much allowance was made for wage and price movements. Moreover, there were two other factors which account for a large part of the shortfall. In the first place it was decided to show both the payment and the recovery of interest on debt taken over as a result of the railways agreement in order to provide Parliament with the best estimate of the responsibility assumed by the Commonwealth. This interest was neither paid nor recovered and the reimbursement was lower than indicated on this account alone by \$9 200 000. In the second place

the final calculation of the non-metropolitan deficit for 1975-76 has not yet been made. Until that exercise has been completed to the satisfaction of both parties the State's final entitlement for that year will not be known. In the meantime, the Commonwealth Government has adopted a very cautious attitude in paying to the State what we have estimated will be the final liability. There is the possibility of a final payment of about \$3 500 000.

PAYMENTS

For a number of years now the Budget has been presented in such a way that the allowance for future wage and salary awards is not distributed between departments but shown as a separate item. It is inevitable, therefore, that in a period of rising wages and costs, actual expenditure by individual departments will exceed estimate in most cases. In the explanations which follow it must be remembered that, where wage and salary costs are involved, part of the over-spending at least was provided for in the lump sum allowance for future wage and salary awards. The same comment applies in respect to increases in prices for supplies and services. A brief explanation of the major areas of difference follows.

Special Acts: Expenditure specifically authorised by Parliament fell well short of estimate. The transfer to the Highways Fund was only \$12 000 000 instead of \$13 700 000 as anticipated at the beginning of the year. Receipts from motor vehicle taxation were down on estimate while the costs deducted from these receipts before the transfer to the Highways Fund is made were greater than expected. In particular, the operating costs of the Highways Department and the Motor Registration Division of the Transport Department were above estimate.

Interest payments on the public debt were \$5 800 000 below estimate. A significant part of the explanation for this lies in the procedure adopted at the beginning of the year of appropriating interest in respect of the \$124 000 000 of debt taken over by the Commonwealth as a result of the railways transfer. For reasons already explained this interest was never paid. Partially offsetting this saving were higher payments arising from heavy loan raisings in the first half of the year and unfavourable interest dates in respect of conversion loans.

Chief Secretary: Expenditure by the Police Department was \$3 600 000 above estimate. The cost of wage and salary awards accounted for \$2 300 000 of this and the balance was the result of price increases and the necessity to provide for a 27th pay period for the Police Force in 1975-76.

Treasurer: As mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates presented to the House in June, a sum of \$3 000 000 was paid to the Electricity Trust late in the year to finance the extension of the trust's transmission system in the western areas of Eyre Peninsula. The cost of local generation in these areas has become prohibitive in recent years and it is expected that the extension of the trust's system will produce substantial savings in future subsidy payments. Also included in the June Supplementary Estimates was an appropriation of \$20 000 000 to Loan Account to supplement capital programmes. It has since been announced that this money will be used to boost the State's welfare housing programme in 1976-77.

The other factor which accounted for the overspending of \$23 500 000 in the "Treasurer—Miscellaneous" section of the Budget was the transfer towards the deficit of the Bus and Tram Division of the State Transport Authority.

The division was able to absorb price increases but could not absorb all of the wage and salary awards of \$900 000. Therefore, an extra amount of \$800 000 had to be provided.

Minister of Lands: Award costs of \$400 000 were responsible for most of the overspending of \$500 000 by the Lands Department. In the "Minister of Lands—Miscellaneous" section, however, it was the Government's initiatives in the area of unemployment relief which pushed expenditure to a level \$14 800 000 above estimate. The February Supplementary Estimates contained a provision of \$4 200 000 to enable the programme to continue for the duration of 1975-76 while the June appropriations provided for a transfer of \$10 000 000 to a deposit account to finance relief works in 1976-77.

Minister of Works: Expenditure by the Public Buildings Department was \$3 000 000 above estimate. The cost of wage and salary awards accounted for some of this excess but maintenance expenditure on schools and hospitals was a more significant influence. As part of a deliberate effort to keep unemployment to a minimum, the Government approved additional expenditure on contract maintenance of schools, particularly in country areas, with the result that the original Budget estimate was exceeded by \$1200 000. As I explained when presenting the June Supplementary Estimates, the Government decided to charge the cost of certain minor works and equipment for the Hospitals Department to Revenue Account rather than Loan Account. No extra expenditure was incurred simply by virtue of the transfer but the charge against the Revenue Account was raised by \$800 000.

The cost of wage and salary awards to the State Supply Department was \$300 000. During the year attempts were made to maintain a constant level of activity at the Port Lincoln freezing works and so to provide better employment opportunities. A number of export contracts were obtained through the South Australian Meat Corporation and the increased requirements for processing helped stabilise the number of people employed at the works. However, the costs associated with this policy were not included in the original Budget and expenditure for the department as a whole exceeded estimate by \$800 000.

In the "Minister of Works—Miscellaneous" section actual expenditure was \$900 000 above estimate. In line with the Government's policy of improving the control of environmental pollution, a toxic waste disposal plant was constructed at Bolivar to receive waste which is not acceptable in the sewerage system. This facility was not provided for in the Budget and cost about \$100 000 to install and operate in 1975-76. The cost of preliminary research and investigation work into water supply projects was written off to Revenue Account at a rather greater rate than expected with the result that actual expenditure in this area exceeded estimate by \$800 000.

Minister of Education: Actual expenditure by the Education Department was \$226 700 000 as against an estimate of \$214 000 000. The cost of wage and salary awards and items of a similar nature was \$12 800 000, but the department was successful in holding other costs within the total of the original appropriations. Experience in the Further Education Department was similar. In total, expenditure exceeded estimate by \$1 300 000, but wage and salary awards during the year cost the department almost \$1 400 000.

Minister of Agriculture: There were a number of fruit fly outbreaks during the year that necessitated the employment of contract labour for stripping and spraying trees. This factor, together with the cost of wage and salary

awards, was responsible for estimated expenditure being exceeded by \$700 000. An advance of \$100 000 was made to the Dairy Cattle Fund from the "Minister of Agriculture—Miscellaneous" section of the Budget to offset increased testing costs incurred by herd testing associations.

Minister of Transport: In considering expenditure incurred by the Rail Division of the State Transport Authority it is important to remember that much of it was incurred on behalf of the Australian National Railways Commission and, therefore, is recoverable under the terms of the railways transfer agreement. Wage and salary awards cost the division \$3 800 000 while price increases, particularly for fuel, had an impact on operating expenses. In the Way and Works Branch a large order of steel sleepers and spring clips was not met until July, 1976, with a resultant saving of \$1 500 000 in 1975-76. Two special appropriations contained in the June Supplementary Estimates were responsible for expenditure in the "Minister of Transport—Miscellaneous" section exceeding estimate by \$22 500 000. An amount of \$20 000 000 was made available to the State Transport Authority to assist it to purchase urgently needed buses and to upgrade and expand the fleet of suburban railcars. This transfer was made necessary by the decision of the Commonwealth Government to cut back sharply the provision of funds for public transport projects in 1976-77. Cabinet also decided to transfer \$2 400 000 to the Highways Fund to enable the Strzelecki track to be upgraded. Roads funds available from other sources are fully committed but, in view of the consequences for gas supplies to Adelaide and Sydney if the track were rendered impassible, it was considered prudent to make a special allocation from the Revenue Budget.

Minister of Community Welfare: Expenditure by the Community Welfare Department was \$1 100 000 below estimate. When the Budget was prepared at the beginning of the year, the number of deserted wives and wives of prisoners likely to apply for financial assistance was significantly over-estimated. The saving against this provision was the main reason for the shortfall. In the "Minister of Community Welfare—Miscellaneous" section of the Budget there was a further saving of \$700 000 against the provisions for payment of portion of the rates and taxes of pensioners and others in necessitous circumstances. The figure for local government rates was prepared without comprehensive information of the likely level of rates and was over-estimated to the extent of more than \$500 000. Offsetting this to some degree was a contribution of \$400 000 to the Housing Trust towards the cost of administering the Government's programme of welfare housing for Aborigines. The gap between rents received and costs of administration and maintenance was causing the trust some concern, and it was agreed that a special contribution should be made.

Minister of Health: The cost of wage and salary awards to the Hospitals Department in 1975-76 was \$8 000 000. Savings elsewhere within the department, however, totalled \$7 100 000 and the original allocation of \$144 000 000 was overspent by only \$900 000. Part of the saving was due to factors mentioned previously, such as the unexpectedly low payment by the department to itself for stocks on hand at the commencement of the Medibank hospital arrangement and a rate of progress in community health and associated programmes that was somewhat slower than anticipated. In addition, there was a considerable saving against the provisions within the department for payments to the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science for pathology services. The most significant factor, however, was the shortage of people with appropriate training. This shortage

made it difficult to recruit staff for the Flinders Medical Centre and, at the same time, to expand services in existing hospitals. As a consequence the number of vacant positions rose and salary costs did not increase in line with increases in award payments. Expenditure under the Minister of Health—Miscellaneous heading was \$1 200 000 below estimate. In my Budget speech last year I pointed out that the provision in this area was subject to a very wide range of possible variations depending on the choices which individual patients made between standard ward and other accommodation. It is largely fortuitous, therefore, that actual expenditure was so close to estimate. As a very broad generality, extra support for the Adelaide Children's Hospital to meet the cost of award increases was offset by lower requirements in other institutions.

ATTACHMENT II

TAX SHARING

Since the time of the Second World War the States have been compensated by way of grants from the Commonwealth Government for their effective loss of the power to impose income tax. These grants have been determined in accordance with formulae which have varied from time to time but which, for the past 17 years, have had three common elements: a wages factor, a population factor, and a betterment factor. As explained in my Budget speech last year, the formula to operate from 1976-77 was to have included a factor reflecting movements in average wages throughout Australia, a factor reflecting movements in population in individual States, and a betterment factor of three per cent (previously 1.8 per cent). The new Commonwealth Government proposed the abandonment of these arrangements and their replacement by a system of payments to the States based on Commonwealth personal income tax collections. In addition, it was proposed that each State be permitted to impose a surcharge on personal income tax collections within that State.

In February a Premiers' Conference was held to discuss the broad principles on which the proposed new policy would be based. At that meeting the Prime Minister assured the Premiers that the intention behind the new policy was not to disadvantage the States but to strengthen their independence and flexibility. I undertook to co-operate in the further development of the new policy provided that the States were left at least as well off as under the Financial Assistance Grant formula in both the short and the long term and that previously approved special arrangements between a State and the Commonwealth were not disturbed. In seeking appropriate assurances I had in mind the possibility of a decline in the relative importance of income tax in the Commonwealth sphere and the effects which this would have on State entitlements in the future. No attempt was made to resolve issues at the February conference, but a working party of the heads of Commonwealth and State Treasuries was established to examine the technical issues involved.

The report of that working party was presented in March, and in April a further Premiers' Conference was held so that firm decisions could be taken on the form of the new arrangements. The most important features of the scheme which emerged from that meeting were as follows:

Stage I

- (1) In any year the States would be entitled to a fixed percentage of Commonwealth personal income tax receipts, excluding Commonwealth surcharges or rebates, collected in that year.

- (2) The percentage entitlement of the States would be determined by relating total Financial Assistance Grants in 1975-76 to total receipts from personal income tax in that year.
- (3) An entitlement for the States as a whole would be struck first and then divided between States in the same proportions as the per capita relativities for Financial Assistance Grants purposes in 1975-76.
- (4) These relativities between States would be reviewed from time to time.
- (5) Until the time of the first of those reviews the relativities between States would be capable of being changed only by the absorption of specific purpose grants into the general revenue arrangements.
- (6) For each of the three years 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 the States would be guaranteed at least as much as they would have received under the Financial Assistance Grants formula (including the effect of a 3 per cent betterment factor).
- (7) The four less populous States would continue to be free to apply for special supplementary grants on the recommendation of the Grants Commission.

Stage II

- (8) A working party of officers would be given the task of establishing an appropriate framework so that States would be able to impose income tax surcharges in 1977-78.
- (9) The State surcharges would be based on personal income tax levies by the Commonwealth in each State and would be expressed as simple percentages of the levy (exclusive of Commonwealth short-term surcharges or rebates).
- (10) Equalisation arrangements would be made so that the less populous States would be enabled to obtain the same relative advantage from a surcharge as the States with a broader tax base.

Review

- (11) There would be a review of the tax sharing arrangements before the end of 1980-81.

At the conclusion of the April conference four matters were referred back to the working party of the Heads of Treasuries for a further report prior to another conference. They were:

- (1) Ways of minimising the uncertainties arising out of the use of a current year's collections basis.
- (2) An appropriate framework of consultation on Commonwealth income tax decisions which will affect State entitlements and on State surcharges.
- (3) Matters associated with the periodic review of relativities between the States.
- (4) The application of State surcharges to interest on Commonwealth securities.

On the basis of information available at that time, the Premiers were satisfied that the new arrangements would provide them with a significant improvement on the Financial Assistance Grants formula in terms of funds in 1976-77. Between the April conference and the June conference, however, the Commonwealth Government made certain decisions that had a significant bearing on the likely yield from income tax and on the attitude of the Premiers to the proposed new arrangements. These decisions were announced to Parliament by the Federal Treasurer on

May 20. They were the introduction of full indexation of personal income tax in 1976-77, the introduction of the Medibank levy, and the abolition of income tax rebates for dependent children associated with changes in child endowment entitlements. The first of these had an adverse effect on the States' future revenues while the third had a beneficial effect. As to the second, the Medibank levy, this envisaged an increase in income tax yields in which the States would not share. The purely financial implications of the decisions were serious enough, but what concerned Premiers also was the fact that they had been taken without prior consultation with the States. Against the background of the discussions which took place at two conferences, I, for one, believed that such decisions would not be made without first discussing them with the States.

At the June conference two matters were decided:

- (1) Interest on Commonwealth loans would be subject to surcharges imposed by the States;
- (2) The guarantee that the States would receive at least as much as under the Financial Assistance Grants formula would extend to 1979-80,

while matters relating to uncertainty, consultation and the periodic review were referred again to the Heads of Treasuries for further report.

Of principal concern to the Premiers though were the revised estimates of likely personal income tax collections in 1975-76 and 1976-77. In view of the changes announced by the Federal Treasurer, it was no surprise to learn the revised estimates of collections for 1976-77 were well down on the figures given in April. However, the estimate for collections in 1975-76 had increased markedly with the result that the States' likely entitlement for 1976-77 and future years had declined to 33.6 per cent of Commonwealth personal income tax receipts. It has now become apparent that the reason for this was a concerted drive by the Commonwealth authorities to gather as much income tax revenue as possible before June 30, 1976. The net result of all these factors was that the sum estimated to be available to the States for general revenue assistance in 1976-77 was only about \$55 000 000 greater than would have been our entitlement under the Financial Assistance Grants formula. When taken together with the very small increase in funds for capital programmes this left the States with a total allocation which all Premiers maintained was quite inadequate.

Early in July the States were given the final figures for personal income tax collections in 1975-76. Collections were even greater than had been estimated at the June conference, and the States' share of future income tax revenues, calculated in accordance with the new formula, was reduced to 33.3 per cent. Several Premiers, including me, immediately protested at this further erosion of State entitlements and, in response, the Prime Minister agreed to let stand the proportionate share of 33.6 per cent. This, then will be the share of personal income tax receipts to which the States will be entitled in the future. On present estimates, it will produce in 1976-77 a total of \$3 716 000 000, of which South Australia's share will be \$438 300 000. This compares with a total of \$3 627 000 000, which it is estimated the Financial Assistance Grants formula would have produced in 1976-77. Of this South Australia's share would have been \$428 500 000.

As we are now about to enter a new phase in the development of Commonwealth-State financial relations in Australia I think it appropriate that I should comment at some length on the likely future of the States under the new arrangements. At the February and April conferences

I questioned the new policy but raised no strenuous objections to it because there was no firm evidence to suggest that the States would be treated less well than under the Financial Assistance Grants arrangements. Like a number of others, I was aware of the potential dangers in the new approach, and I made my reservations known in the appropriate manner. Even now I am of the opinion that the new policy could be made to work to the benefit of the States, but unfortunately the events of the June conference cast doubts on the desire of the Commonwealth Government to administer its policy to that end.

One of the problems with the system that the States are now to be obliged to accept is the uncertainty which arises from the use of the current year's collections of personal income tax as the base for the States' entitlements. Receipts from personal income tax are subject to rather wider variations from estimate than was the Financial Assistance Grants formula and the States were aware of this when they pressed for adoption of the current year's basis. It must be remembered, however, that at that stage the information available to the States suggested that the new arrangements would provide substantially more funds than the formula in 1976-77, the first year of the new scheme. My judgment was that, if the States received an initial boost to their allocations of the magnitude suggested by the estimates in April last, they would have a reasonable buffer against future fluctuations in their entitlements.

Subsequent events revealed that there was to be no substantial increase in funds and accordingly, the grounds on which I accepted the new proposals have been altered. It is now up to the Commonwealth Government to co-operate with the States in the development of new techniques to meet the cash flow problems that may arise for the States from wide fluctuations in income tax receipts. There are no insuperable problems if the Commonwealth is prepared to adopt a flexible attitude and to assist in the provision of bridging finance between financial years where necessary. It has been suggested in some quarters that the States should have accepted the option of basing their entitlements on the personal income tax receipts of the previous year and so have avoided this uncertainty. Such an argument overlooks the unsatisfactory nature of previous Financial Assistance Grants formulae based on wages experience of a previous year. The historical trend of the formula has been towards the use of the most current information available and to revert to the use of a base drawn from the experience of a previous year would have been to risk having the States' revenue entitlements based on factors which were not relevant to the current economic circumstances influencing the States' expenditure responsibilities. Quite apart from this there was the simple fact that, on the basis of figures given to the Premiers at the time the decision on the base was taken, there was a clear benefit to be gained by adopting a current year concept. Even now, after the apparent efforts of the Commonwealth Government to boost revenue in 1975-76 and the measures it has taken which will effectively depress receipts in 1976-77, there is still a small margin in favour of the current year concept.

On February 24, I wrote to the Prime Minister about the new policy in the following terms:

My primary concern has been and remains the possibility that, over time, the Commonwealth Government may reduce the relative importance of income tax and leave the States with an inadequate base for the determination of their reimbursements. There is no firm assurance in the policy document nor in the transcript of the recent Conference that in these circumstances the States would be as well off as under the present formula (with a three

per cent betterment factor). I suggest, therefore, that for the remainder of the current quinquennium the States be guaranteed, in any year, funds at least as great as those which would have resulted from the continuation of the formula . . . Further, I look forward to receiving from you a firmer assurance than has been given yet that the States will be protected fully, in the longer term, against the possible effects on their revenues of a reduction in the relative importance of income tax.

Since I wrote that letter there have been several discussions at officer level and two further Premiers' Conferences. It now seems apparent that, despite persistent efforts by the States, the Commonwealth Government has no intention of providing us with the long term assurances that we need in order to plan for the future on a reasonably secure basis. Indeed, it was only at the insistence of the Premiers that the 4-year formula guarantee was incorporated in the arrangements.

Much has been said about the beneficial effect which the new policy will have in returning to the States the responsibility for raising their own revenues and reducing their dependence on the Commonwealth. Such talk ignores the fact that this State is dependent for nearly half of its Revenue Budget on funds made available by the Commonwealth Government. Any significant reduction in these funds could be offset only by heavy increases in State taxation and, in particular, by resort to the new surcharge power. It is hard to believe that the Commonwealth Government will permit the States to enter the income tax field other than in a marginal way for fear of weakening its powers of economic management. Therefore, it seems that what the States are being offered is not the opportunity to manage their own affairs in their own way but the obligation to manage their affairs in a manner consistent with Commonwealth economic policy. Where once the States had an assured and growing revenue base, incapable of manipulation, they are now faced with the prospect, from 1980-81 onwards, of being entirely under the influence of Commonwealth income tax policy. The experience of the past few months gives no cause for optimism over the prospects of the States being consulted and having an effective say about the effects of such policy on their entitlements.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth has demonstrated with the Medibank levy that it does not even feel constrained to share with the States all the personal income tax it does raise. This, of course, is in direct conflict with one of the fundamental tenets of the federalism policy as set out prior to the 1975 election. That policy made reference to the possibility that the Commonwealth might wish to impose surcharges and rebates for short-term economic management purposes and to exclude the proceeds or the costs of such action from the tax sharing arrangements. All State Premiers acknowledged the desirability of the Federal Government retaining this discretion and they did not insist that all personal income tax proceeds be shared. What has taken place in the case of the Medibank levy, however, is that the Commonwealth has introduced not a surcharge but a special income tax, which is obviously designed to be a permanent feature of the tax system, and has excluded the States from any share of the proceeds. Not only have the States been denied a share of these tax collections but they have had part of the potential field of operation for State surcharges pre-empted by the Commonwealth Government. There is the possibility that such special levies could be used more and more in future.

Quite apart from the manner in which the federalism policy itself has been implemented and the effects of this on the States' Revenue Budgets there have been cuts in

real terms in a number of specific purpose grants and in the capital works and housing programmes. It should be recognised that while the Commonwealth Government retains the power to decide the level of these programmes it is disingenuous to suggest that the level of State independence is being much affected by the new policy.

Turning now to the surcharge power, it must be conceded at the outset that this is potentially a most significant development in Commonwealth-State financial relations. Given the events of the past six months, however, I suggest that the States should be somewhat sceptical of the benefits likely to flow from it. As I have indicated, the Commonwealth Government still has the major say in the volume of funds flowing to the States. If it should seek to reduce these funds below the level necessary for the maintenance of an effective standard of services, the States would be left with no alternative but to raise their own taxes. In these circumstances it is not difficult to foresee a situation in which the States would be obliged to make more and more use of their surcharge power and to accept responsibility for a growing proportion of the overall tax bill.

We have to go back only a very few years for a precedent. When pay-roll tax was transferred to the States, it was levied at the rate of 2½ per cent. In a very short space of time we were obliged to raise this to 5 per cent to offset the effects of the inadequate rate of growth in Commonwealth assistance. Should a similar pattern emerge with income tax, I find it very hard to believe that the Commonwealth Government would not seek to interfere with the freedom of the States to determine the level of their surcharges. We would then have a situation in which the States would have neither the assurance of a formula-based share of Commonwealth revenues nor the freedom to determine their own taxation levels.

Unless there is a change of direction by the Commonwealth Government, I suspect that, by 1979-1980, the States will be receiving no more than they would have received under the Financial Assistance Grants formula agreed to at the Premiers' Conference of June, 1975. Thereafter, this guaranteed level of support will disappear and the States will be dependent for much of their revenues on the ebb and flow of Commonwealth income tax policy. Any sustained move to reduce the relative importance of this tax in the overall fiscal scene will have adverse effects on State revenues and force the States to rely more and more heavily on their own taxation powers and, in particular, on the income tax surcharge. This will bring them into direct conflict with the Commonwealth Government and set the scene for Commonwealth intervention in the area of State taxation policy.

From time to time during our discussions with the Prime Minister, the Premiers have been assured that the longer term trends in regard to such matters as changes in the relative importance of personal income tax *vis-a-vis* other taxes will be kept under notice and that there will be a review of the new arrangements when there are changes in Commonwealth tax legislation, which have significant effects on the States' entitlements. It is also a condition of the arrangements that a review of the whole scheme will be made at some time before the end of 1980-81. If the dangers to which I have referred are to be avoided, it seems that the States will have to work hard over the next few years to convince the Commonwealth of the shortcomings of the new arrangements. To date they have had little success in this regard.

ATTACHMENT III

AMALGAMATION OF DEPARTMENTS

Set out below is a schedule of the amalgamations of departments and regroupings of divisions which have taken place in the last 12 months. These changes are reflected in the Estimates of Revenue and the Estimates of Expenditure.

1. The amalgamation of the small lotteries section of the Chief Secretary's Department with the Tourism, Recreation and Sport Department.

2. The amalgamation of the totalisator section of the Police Department with the Tourism, Recreation and Sport Department.

3. The amalgamation of the Chief Secretary's Department with the Hospitals Department and the abolition of the Chief Secretary's Department as a consequence.

4. The transfer of the Worker Participation Branch of the Labour and Industry Department to the Premier's Department, resulting in a new Unit for Industrial Democracy.

5. The amalgamation of the Minister of Works Department with the Engineering and Water Supply Department.

6. The transfer of the State Information Centre, Public Buildings Department, to the Government Printing Department.

7. The amalgamation of the reporting functions of the Government Reporting Department with the reporting functions of the Supreme Court, Local and District Criminal Court, Industrial Commission, and Planning Appeal Board to form a new reporting section within the Attorney-General's Department.

8. The transfer of the remaining functions of the Government Reporting Department to the Public Buildings Department, and the abolition of that former department.

9. The amalgamation of the Fisheries Department with the Agriculture Department to form a new Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

10. The transfer of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office from the Attorney-General's Department to the Premier's Department.

11. The amalgamation of the Produce Department with the State Supply Department, and the transfer of the grain inspection functions of Produce Department to Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

12. The amalgamation of the Minister of Education Department with the Education Department.

13. The amalgamation of the Botanic Garden Department with the Environment Department, incorporating a change of name from the Environment and Conservation Department.

14. The amalgamation of the Superannuation Department and the Public Actuary's Department with the Treasury Department.

15. The amalgamation of the State Taxes Department with the Treasury Department.

16. The amalgamation of the Registrar-General's Department (excluding the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Branch) and the Valuation Department with the Lands Department.

17. The amalgamation of the Public Trustee Department, the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Branch (Registrar-General's Department), and the following functions of the Attorney-General's Department:

Companies Office

Prices and Consumer Affairs Branch

Licensing Branch

Trades Measurements Branch

Office of the Inspector, Places of Public Entertainment

Office of the Builders Licensing Board

Office of the Credit Tribunal

Administration staff of the Land and Business

Agents Board, the Land Valuers' Licensing

Board, the Land Brokers' Licensing Board, the

Commercial and Private Agents' Board and the

Secondhand Vehicle Dealers' Licensing Board,

to form a new Public and Consumer Affairs Department.

18. The amalgamation of the State Supply Department (including the former Produce Department), the Government Printing Department, the Chemistry Department, and the A.D.P. section of the Public Service Board Department into a new Services and Supply Department.

19. The amalgamation of the Minister of Agriculture Department with the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

20. The creation of a new Further Education Department.

21. The amalgamation of the Attorney-General's Department, the Crown Law Department, and part of the Local and District Criminal Courts Department into a new Legal Services Department.

22. The transfer of magistrates from the Local and District Criminal Courts Department to the Premier's Department.

The clauses of the Bill are in the normal form. Clause 1 gives the short title. Clause 2 authorises the issue and application of such a further sum as will, together with the sums authorised by Supply Acts, amount to \$956 386 000. Clause 3 (1) appropriates the sum of \$956 386 000 for the purposes set out in the schedule. Clause 3 (2) provides in the normal way that, if increases of salaries and wages become payable by the State or by a prescribed establishment pursuant to any determination made by a wage-fixing authority, the Governor may appropriate additional funds by warrant.

Clause 3 (3) provides that, if the costs incurred by the Engineering and Water Supply Department for electricity for pumping water should be greater than the amounts set down in the Estimates, the Governor may appropriate the funds for the additional expenditure. Clause 3 (4) defines a "prescribed establishment". Clause 4 authorises the Treasurer to pay money from time to time up to the amount set down in monthly orders issued by the Governor and provides that the receipts obtained from the payees shall be the discharge to the Treasurer for the moneys paid. Clause 5 authorises the use of Loan funds or other public funds if the moneys received from the Commonwealth Government and the general revenue of the State are insufficient to make the payments authorised by clause 3.

Clause 6 gives authority to make payments in respect of a period prior to July 1, 1976. Clause 7 authorises the expenditure of \$12 500 000 from the Hospitals Fund during 1976-77, and of \$5 000 000 in the early months of 1977-78, pending the passing of the Appropriation Bill for that year. Clause 8 provides that amounts appropriated by this Bill are in addition to other amounts properly authorised. I commend the Bill to the consideration of members.

Dr. TONKIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

In Committee.

(Continued from August 19. Page 778.)

Public Buildings, \$111 400 000.

Mr. EVANS: First, I apologise to the Minister of Education because in the second reading debate I said that he had the opportunity to guarantee a solid construction building at Flagstaff Hill, but I should have said that he had a great opportunity to put on pressure. There is a deficiency in many schools in my area, in particular in the Belair Infants School, which has 400 students and is situated on one hectare of land. This school has such a shortage of classrooms that 25 five-year-olds who should be admitted have been unable to attend. The activities room already has a class of 38, and the headmistress refuses to put the 25 children into the library because it would deny the rest of the school the use of that library. This has resulted in 25 students who should be attending the infant school attending the kindergarten, thereby excluding 25 other juniors in the community from the kindergarten. The school is allowed a groundsman for only four hours a week, yet some other schools of not much greater size have a full-time groundsman.

This school is situated in the wettest part of the State. It has as very small grassed area, and this is suffering because of the use by so many children. The transportable classrooms erected should have been pushed to the rear of the property. Instead, the children must play on sloping land, and they cannot be supervised. What steps does the Minister intend to take to alleviate the problem in an area which is growing and which will continue to grow for many years?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD (Minister of Education): Belair Junior Primary School is not the only school in the State which is not currently operating age five entry. When my predecessor announced this policy on behalf of the Government, it was intimated that this was a stage process, that it would be three or four years before it was operating on a universal basis, and that the grounds which would give us problems from time to time would be buildings and staffing. It is unfortunate that a school which has operated age five entry for some time has to abandon it, but those children who are then denied schooling until the beginning of the new year are no worse off than are children in some other schools.

The Government is committed to age five entry on a universal basis, and it will be making a special effort to recruit junior primary teachers in the new year so that staffing will not present a problem to the implementation of that policy. I do not know what is the long-term solution for Belair Junior Primary School. I visited that school recently and looked at the disposition of the buildings. I am not sure that I agree with the honourable member about the location of the present temporary buildings, because the ground slopes away very steeply towards the back of the property. I have, for example, examined the one remaining site, and the block will have to be built up before a transportable classroom can be erected on it to overcome this very steep slope. So far as I can see, the only way in which we will be able to provide for a continued growth in enrolment at this school is a rebuilding upwards rather than outwards, because of the topography of the land and the very limited nature of the site with which we are dealing.

The problem is not confined to Belair Junior Primary School. There is reference on the lines to Aldgate Primary School, but it is fortunate that we have an alternative site on which the school can be built. I discussed the plans for this alternative site with the school council on a recent visit to that place. I indicated to the Principal and the school council of Belair Primary School our plans for an additional unit at that school which will be commenced within 12 months. With regard to Belair Junior Primary School, it is hoped that by means of our auxiliary classroom programme (and the honourable member will be aware of the \$3 000 000 on the line) we will be able to provide some additional accommodation, but in the long term I can see that a complete rebuilding will be necessary.

Mr. ARNOLD: On page 21 of the Treasurer's statement reference is made to major projects for which planning and design is proposed during 1976-77. Can the Minister elaborate on Barmera Primary School Stage I and Renmark High School? There is much interest in those two projects, and the Minister has received representations on a number of occasions relating to them.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Without going into too much detail (I will provide further information if the honourable member wishes), Stage I of Barmera Primary School will probably be available in January, 1978. Renmark High School, although work has not been officially programmed at this stage, is being looked at as having a target date of about December, 1977. As the honourable member knows, that will be a complete replacement on the new site.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: In the week before the show adjournment I asked the Minister of Community Welfare to obtain for me details of the proposed building programme for the new police divisional headquarters at Nuriootpa. As it is not uncommon for this to happen, I was not surprised to read last week in the local *Leader* and the *Barossa and Light Herald* banner headlines under which the Chief Secretary was reported to have announced the expenditure of a large sum, and information was given on the detailed plans for the new headquarters, whereas I had heard nothing from the Minister regarding this matter. This is not a complaint, because we know the way this Government works.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is getting away from the line.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: We know what the Government thinks of the Opposition and the way in which the Government tends to downgrade it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is repeating the matter.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Will the Minister ask the Chief Secretary whether he can show me the common courtesy of giving me information at least within a week if its being given to the local press?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE (Minister of Community Welfare): I take umbrage at the honourable member's suggestion that what he says has occurred is an everyday occurrence, because it is not. The member for Millicent could explain to him that Friday next I will be in Millicent. The member for Millicent already knows this and has already been invited to the functions at which I will have a part to play. That tends to give the lie to the suggestion that the Opposition does not rate in this House. I apologise for not bringing the matter the Deputy Leader has raised to my colleague's attention, but I will do so as soon as possible.

Mr. COUNBE: The Minister of Education will be aware that for some years I have been promoting (and it has received his predecessor's agreement and his own) the establishment of a co-educational high school at Nailsworth by combining the existing girls high school with the present boys high school, on Regency Road. The necessary work began last financial year and is proceeding this financial year, and a certain undisclosed sum is shown in the Loan Estimates. Can the Minister say whether this work is likely to be completed this financial year or whether it will extend further and when it will be available for the students to use its facilities?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will obtain more specific information for the honourable member, but availability is predicted for next May.

Mr. RUSSACK: I understand that the building being erected in Digby Street, Kadina, will house the Community Welfare Department's office and a motor vehicle registration office. The Community Welfare Department has an office in Maitland, and on numerous occasions I have had to contact the officers there. The other day, to my surprise, when I was walking down Hallett Street, Kadina, I saw, opposite my electorate office, a sign indicating that there was an office of the Community Welfare Department in that street, an office about which I was not aware and about which I was not notified.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I am surprised that the honourable member suggested that Opposition members are always being left out of the picture. The honourable member would recall an occasion when I met and spoke to him in Kadina when I was holidaying there. However, I am sure the honourable member would prefer accurate information on this question, so I will get it as soon as possible.

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Education say how flexible are the lists that have been placed before us, when pressures that occur are apparently in excess of departmental expectations? I appreciate that, for Gawler High School, tenders will be called on certain dates and that the premises are expected to be used at the beginning of 1978. In the interim, seven art and craft Demac units will hopefully be in place by the first term next year.

However, my interests go beyond the high school and relate to the primary school commitment. In discussions in August with departmental officers it was revealed that they had been working on a high school population of about 1 240 students, whereas the actual student population was 1 350 students. In relation to Evanston Primary School, departmental records showed a school population of about 485, whereas I am now advised that the number of students enrolled is 600. A school population of 485 was being used for all undertakings, but that rose to 600 by the beginning of the third school term mainly because of the increased number of children in the new Housing Trust area that abuts the area of influence. The situation is aggravated because many students who live in areas on the other side of other existing primary schools are bypassing these primary schools to go to the Evanston school complex.

I am not aware of there having been an earlier zoning of primary school entrants. It may be that, to make the best use of schools in the Gawler-Willaston-Evanston area, some form of zoning should be introduced, otherwise the capacity of Evanston school will be doubly overloaded with a serious effect on students in this community. A school population that has grown from 485 students to 600 students in about eight months could indicate the pending

seriousness of the school problem in that area. It was not indicated in the forward plan provided that a new primary school is to be built in the area, especially adjacent to the more rapidly growing areas around Evanston, Evanston Heights, and Gawler West.

Can the Minister say whether the programme is flexible enough to allow a reassessment of the existing commitments, so that the situation that occurred at Whyalla and Smithfield, where resources were in advance of requirements and were not being used (thus denying necessary resources to schools such as I have outlined), does not occur? I appreciate that the Minister has a similar situation in the Willunga area, and would therefore be sensitive to the point I am making.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I am indeed sensitive to the point made by the honourable member: he and I could detain the Committee for some time on the issue of planning and what needs to happen. I prefer that any information I give to the Committee should be regarded as a prediction that we will hold, all other things being equal, rather than it being a cast iron commitment, for the reasons raised by the honourable member that from time to time a new situation arises that had not been appreciated fully. The situation in the Hills that we now see developing was not fully appreciated 12 or 18 months ago. Had it been appreciated at that time perhaps things could have been done then, but it is not always possible to predict exactly how the trend of enrolments will go.

The same is true for what we might call the "urban shadow" areas to the far south of the Adelaide metropolitan area to Willunga, which is a little outside my district, where, typically, the impact of new families moving into an area is immediate rather than something that can be delayed. A typical new family in that area brings with it children of school age whereas, in the Modbury or Morphett Vale areas, the typical newcomers are young married couples who will not have a family for about five or six years, or even longer. These new factors show out from time to time, and mean a distortion or a modification of the original priority.

An area of flexibility in the programme relates to auxiliary accommodation. The sum of \$3 000 000 has been set aside for this purpose, and involves Demac as well as other forms of more transportable accommodation. It could be that, from this sum of \$3 000 000, we will want to construct two entire primary schools in Demac, which we would have the ability to do. It would strain our capacity to meet more modest requirements for additional accommodation at existing schools, for example, an additional unit at Belair Junior Primary School or elsewhere. Nonetheless, the flexibility exists.

A list of primary schools appears in Appendix 1. Some of those schools may be included in the programme more rapidly than it was expected they would be included, because of a better appreciation of enrolments. In those instances we might decide to use Demac because it can be used more quickly. From time to time there must be flexibility in the programme. Indeed, it is sometimes regrettably necessary for us to defer what people have taken as being a solid commitment because of a more urgent situation that has developed elsewhere. We do our best to maintain commitments, for obvious reasons.

Dr. Eastick: Any comment on zoning?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: In relation to primary schools, we prefer to keep out of the matter as much as possible. I see the sense in the suggestion, and that is why we have zoning operating now between former

technical high schools and former high schools, even though the former technical high schools now may have facilities well in advance of what some of the older high schools enjoy. I do not want to commit myself to any decision at this stage. Zoning is not always accepted with good grace by the people affected, and considerable negotiations with local people would be necessary before decisions were made.

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister say what extensions or major additions will be made at Mannum Primary School, which was on the list two years ago for design? Is it expected that additional funds will be spent there and, if so, how much? We hope that eventually a new school will be erected on the site recently purchased. Has the Minister any information regarding the Murray Bridge school, recently remodelled and opened by him, and the Murray Bridge South school?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get that information for the honourable member.

Mrs. BYRNE: Has the Minister of Community Welfare any information regarding additions to be covered by the \$458 000 allocated for the Modbury Hospital?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The sum of \$458 000 provides for expenditure in 1976-77 on several projects, including the completion of the carcass area, constructed under stage 1 to provide an obstetric operating theatre, an anaesthetists' room, and three first-stage labour rooms; a building to house the school of nursing and to provide lecture and library facilities for the use of all hospital personnel; and the development of the second floor of the main building, which remained in shell form at the completion of the first stage of the hospital development. The completion of this floor will provide an additional 64 patient beds and associated facilities. Earthworks will be undertaken, as well as paving and tree and lawn planting, together with the erection of a gardener's shed, and housing for a hospital vehicle. The final item listed will provide accommodation for 40 in-patients and facilities for 30 out-patients. An additional X-ray room will be commissioned, to include the installation of a tilt table, dual-image intensifier television monitoring system, overhead tube stand, spot film camera, high output generator, X-ray tubes, and tube shield unit and cables.

Mr. EVANS: I wish to clarify some points made by the Minister of Education about his not being aware of what was happening in the Hills because the matter had not been brought to his notice or that of his department until recently, when a critical stage was reached. The transportable units at the Belair Infants School are sited on a slope. At present the buildup would be about a metre, and if they were taken back about 6 metres the buildup would be only slightly more. No real problem is involved, except that it is more convenient in the present situation for truck drivers to get their vehicles out. Will the Minister ensure that, in future, Education Department officers are on site when such buildings are sited in difficult terrain, so that contractors cannot take the easy way out by putting the buildings in a position that does not make effective use of the available land? I agree with the Minister that multi-storey buildings would provide the right solution. Can he obtain a report to indicate when such action can be expected? The situation is serious. I should like the Minister to reply to all requests from the Belair Primary School not covered by his previous comments. On August 6 the school made details available to the department. At the beginning of the school year, the school was to receive three transportable buildings, one for use by the year 7 class at present occupying

the library, one to serve as a temporary activity room (at about half the required size), and one to house a combined class of years 3 and 4. The buildings had not arrived by August 6, but subsequently two arrived.

The school has been denied effective use of library facilities. The years 3 and 4 teacher was not appointed until the second term, because no classroom was available. The Public Buildings Department converted a small cloakroom to enable the school to provide accommodation, and the teacher was appointed. She is now operating a remedial class in the cloakroom, so that the converted cloakroom is not available for its intended use as a resource centre, a place for staff and parent meetings, a film room, interview room, room for special teaching purposes, and a place for the three music teachers to take lessons. The school is without an activity room, a facility that has never been available to it. Information has been received about two temporary relocatable rooms that are on the site, but no information is available as to when the third one will arrive. If the school is to have a full-size activity room, a fourth transportable room is needed; alternatively, the remedial classes must continue to use the converted cloakroom, which is undesirable. Enrolment at year 3 level is expected to rise from 134 this year to about 165 next year. Depending on the approved pupil-teacher ratios, the ratios next year will be either 1:33, 1:28, or 1:26; the latter is the Australian Teachers Federation recommendation. If it is to be kept at 1:33, a fifth transportable classroom is required. Another is needed for years 3 to 6 if the ratio is to be kept at 1:28, and to get it back to A.T.F. recommendation another classroom will be needed.

The school needs at least four new rooms before the beginning of the next full year. The Minister said today that major rebuilding will begin about 12 months from now, in the financial year 1977-78. By that time that school will be short of six to eight classrooms. That is an impossible situation. The school representatives to whom I have spoken were concerned when I said that the area of 2 hectares was not large enough for so many classrooms and that a multi-storey building would be necessary. They have said that I should not speak about that to the Minister, because it would then take two years to replan the whole school. The department should be able to draw up plans and specifications within six months for a multi-storey building in order to make full and effective use of that land.

I understand that sites for three transportables have been chosen, but who will decide where the next three transportables will be placed? There is not enough space to place them on the hard playing area or anywhere else. When will someone visit that school and decide where to place the next three transportables that will be available for the beginning of the next school year? There is also a shortage of suitable office accommodation. The Deputy Principal shares an office with a clerical assistant and the teacher aide works in a porch converted into a staff room. If the Deputy Principal wishes to discuss a matter with a member of the staff—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I have given the honourable member a fair degree of latitude. I ask him to direct his remarks to the line under discussion.

Mr. EVANS: On the day this line was discussed before Parliament adjourned, the member for Tea Tree Gully referred to the problems of schools in her area, and also expressed gratitude for the amount of work that had been done in relation to schools and public buildings. I am also speaking about the work of the Public Buildings

Department in relation to schools, especially to schools that will have work undertaken. The Minister has said that tenders will be called for the Belair Primary School during this financial year, and I am referring to that school. There is a shortage of suitable office accommodation. When staff members are to be interviewed they cannot be taken into the Deputy Principal's room because clerical staff work in the same room, and that room is also used as a sick bay. The overall shortcomings of this school are serious, and I believe the decision to erect single-storey buildings is not correct. I am not asking him to change that decision, if it will mean a delay in the final construction of the new building.

The Stirling school council wrote in a similar vein to the Minister earlier this year and asked for additional classrooms. The Minister wrote to the Chairman as follows:

In your letter of 16 March, 1976, you expressed the concern of your council regarding provision of emergency accommodation.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I can see no reference to the Stirling school.

Mr. EVANS: Although the Minister sent a letter on September 2, I take your point, but the Minister has admitted he will supply one classroom to the Stirling East Primary School this year. To clear the point I will read the rest of the letter—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Which line is the honourable member discussing?

Mr. EVANS: Additions are to be made to the school under the line "Minor alterations and additions, \$3 750 000" on page 12. Most schools in the Hills area are small, and most improvements to be made are considered to be minor additions. Some new schools are contemplated for the area, but the area to which I am referring contains many old schools. The second paragraph of the Minister's letter to the Stirling East school stated:

I am advised that an application for a transportable classroom and one Demac classroom has been lodged with the Auxiliary Accommodation Committee for inclusion in the year's programme. Because of the urgency of the situation, it has been arranged that the transportable classroom should be delivered during term 1, 1976. This is subject to the availability of surplus relocatable accommodation, and the fulfilment of contracts to schools whose needs are of a more urgent nature.

At this stage, it is not possible to indicate precisely when a Demac classroom will be made available. Availability will depend on the Demac production rate and the Demac programme which at present gives priority to new schools.

I am making the point that the older schools have been forgotten, and most schools in the Hills area are old. The letter continued:

It is anticipated that the Demac classroom could be available late in the third term of this year. Any acceleration of the delivery of this room could only be done at the expense of some other school presently located at a higher priority on the 1975-76 Demac allocation list.

On March 16, the Minister was told that the school was still concerned because it was still short of facilities, and on July 29, the following letter was written to the Minister:

In your letter of March 31, 1976, you advised our council that a transportable room would be delivered during term 1. As it is now nearly the end of term 2 this room has still not arrived and with the new intake of mid-year children having occurred, this accommodation is now more than desperately needed. Our school Principal has been in constant touch with your department and has learned that our room has been allocated for sometime. We believe the only reason holding up delivery is the lack of a police escort for the transport unit. We would greatly appreciate immediate action on our behalf, please.

Can the Minister say what action he will take other than giving the school the one classroom (which does not solve its problem) to alleviate the problem that that school suffers? The Minister would see, if he read a report in the paper today, the seriousness of the situation at Hawthorndene Primary School, where children of lower age groups are using the corridors as classrooms. Because of the growth in that area, that school will need to have at least one new classroom every year for the next five years. Can the Minister give any indication of the plans being made to meet that necessity? That school also lacks an enclosed recreation area, even though it is situated in a very wet and cold area. At Heathfield High School, all laboratories are being used as classrooms and the students are sitting on stools because they do not have chairs. This school will also increase in size. One new room has been made available to use for music and drama, but that will still not free the laboratories to be used for the purpose for which they were built. Another problem is the lack of outside toilets. Night classes are conducted at the school in relocatable and semi-transportable buildings, which are separated from the main building where the toilet facilities are provided. The oval is also used for community sporting fixtures, and no toilets are available for people attending these fixtures.

Crafers Primary School, which serves the constituents of both the member for Heysen and me, was promised to be rebuilt in 1967. The Minister was invited to a meeting which he could not attend, but I am sure his representative from another place would have reported on the seriousness of the situation at that school. The former Minister visited the school also. Members of the community are worried about when that school will be rebuilt. The resource material for the school is stacked in a cupboard in the corridor. There are no proper staff facilities. The toilet facilities are outside, and boys using these facilities when it is raining get wet. That is a poor facility to have at a primary school. Will the Minister give an indication of when that school will be rebuilt or upgraded to an acceptable standard? I am not concerned about fences or other facilities: I am concerned about the basic requirements needed for children to receive a reasonable education.

Happy Valley Primary School is in an area where increasing subdivision is taking place. It needs more classrooms. A request was made for classrooms, but they have not been provided. This school will require an additional two classrooms before the beginning of next year, so four classrooms in all are needed. The area of land on which the school is built is small, and I hope there is a plan to rebuild this school on the new site available opposite.

The Minister mentioned Aldgate Primary School. That school is also in a sad way and is comparable to Belair Primary School in its lack of facilities. The Minister has visited the school, but urgent action needs to be taken to give the children attending that school a chance to have a proper education and to give the teachers the opportunity to operate in a manner acceptable under modern teaching standards. Blackwood Primary School has a serious problem with its grounds and I hope as a result of a meeting there tomorrow that the problems can be solved. Blackwood Junior Primary School is in need of toilet facilities, because the existing ones are very old. The excuse was that the new toilet facilities would not be built until the sewerage was connected. The sewerage has

been connected for three years, but the department has not acted. What action does the Minister intend to take to supply these facilities for those schools?

The list of deficiencies I have outlined are only the major ones. I will pass on to the Minister, in detailed form, a list that I think will amaze him and his department. The department and the Minister, or his predecessor, have been informed of the deficiencies over a continuing period and there is no room for anybody in the department, or the Minister, or his officers, to say that they were not aware of these problems. It is only because it has been forced on them in a more serious form recently (in an action which the community does not like taking and which I avoided associating my name with) that the Minister decided to have an investigation. I ask the Minister to answer the points I have made.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I think members on both sides would want me to restore balance to this Committee debate by putting on record that the Fisher District is not the only district in South Australia with schools which have considerable deficiencies in relation to capital stock. I doubt whether the honourable member could point to a school in his district that is any worse off than, say, Kingscote Area School in the Alexandra District, Ceduna Area School in the Eyre District, Morphett Vale Primary School in my district, or to others about which I could give considerable information.

Dr. Tonkin: You mean that they're not all like that lovely school in the propaganda film!

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: We have many serious deficiencies in our schools, and I hope that Opposition members shared my dismay at the fact that the Loan allocations to the States this year were increased by only 5 per cent. If they compare the share of the Loan cake that education is being given by this Government in this financial year with that given in the previous financial year, they will see that education is being treated better than it was in the last financial year. We cannot in any way be called to account for the treatment that has been given to education by this Government over the doling out of Loan money. We have better than last year's share of the cake, but the cake has shrunk. There is less Loan money in real terms to the States in order to meet their capital needs, and this is disastrous.

That is why all States have problems in meeting the needs of their schools. We have magnificent schools, and we have been able to provide significant facilities in many areas, but many problems still remain. Only a steady flow of Loan funds and proper adjustment for costs can do something about the problem. It is untrue to say that I or my department had no appreciation of the problems in the Hills area schools nine months or a year ago. The enrolment position has changed in a way that could not really have been predicted. I refer the member for Fisher to the remarks made a little earlier by the member for Light, in which he pointed out rightly that the position can change dramatically in an area as a result of new subdivisions, particularly in the Hills area, where they are private subdivisions rather than Land Commission or Housing Trust subdivisions, over which the Government has some control regarding when timing will occur.

The State Planning Authority does not initiate proposals for subdivisions in the Hills; it controls by saying when people can subdivide. It is the whim of the subdivider that determines when the application goes to the authority. We respond to the situation as we see it, and we do the best we can. The priority of schools in the Hills

area has changed recently only because of the changed enrolment pattern, and the noise emanating from that area has been irrelevant in relation to decisions of mine or of any other person. I am responsible, wherever possible, to protect my departmental officers from people who will take the political route in order to get to the resolution of their problem. I do not altogether blame them when these tactics are resorted to, but such action places me and my department in an impossible situation if we are to cave in in each instance where people raise their voices because of a need.

There are procedures in the department for determining the relative needs of areas, and we do whatever we can to ensure that we give attention to the most urgent needs first. I still contest the statement that the needs in the Hills are any more urgent than those existing in many other areas, represented not only by my own colleagues but also by the colleagues of the member for Fisher. He made a series of incorrect inferences regarding some of the things previously said in this debate. For example, he implied that the fact that we would not be proceeding to the new facility at Belair Primary School for about a year had something to do with the time taken to get work started, because of procedures employed by my department or by the Public Buildings Department, but that it not true.

The reason why that building will begin at that time is that that is about where it comes in the priority list, and it would be physically impossible to start building, using the procedures used by my department or the Public Buildings Department, well before that time. However, other schools in other areas have high priorities, and we will meet our commitments there. In the meantime, it will be necessary for us to look at auxiliary accommodation in order to meet that need. The honourable member reeled off a list of questions and, not having instant recall, I am unable to answer them all off the cuff. I will examine *Hansard* and give him whatever information I can. Regarding Crafers Primary School, I predict a tender call in about July, 1977.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I do not believe that I would be over-stating if I said that the schools in the Hills had suffered a period of neglect. Even one of the Regional Directors (whom I will not name) said in an unguarded moment that they were in a bad way. Every Hills school in my district has been waiting for many years for an urgent upgrading to take place. That is one area that was neglected during the life of the Minister's predecessor.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You don't include the Barossa Valley?

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: No, because we have had some success at getting a major building project going in the Barossa Valley. The Government refutes any suggestion that capital works are carried out for political reasons but, if one considers Mount Gambier, one might suspect that there is more than a grain of truth in that belief.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Rubbish!

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Mount Gambier is getting a new gaol as a result of the Premier's visit last weekend. Mount Gambier has done extremely well, but I will not press the point too hard. The Hills area is not a politically sensitive area to the Government, because the voters there are mainly small independent producers who would not wear this socialist Government in a fit.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: I wonder whether they'd wear you in a fit.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: They would wear me before they would wear the Minister. I believe that primary schools in this area of the Hills have been through a

period of neglect. It took me a long time and many telephone calls and contacts to get work done at Gumeracha. Work was undertaken at Mount Torrens Primary School after much negotiation. The Government paid half the cost of putting down a tennis court, where previously youngsters had to play on a mud field.

It is with much pleasure that I see that \$170 000 has at last been allocated to Lobethal Primary School. I understand that it was a question of Lobethal Primary School *versus* the other Hills schools, which are also much in need of repair. For some time I have been chasing relatively minor improvements at Birdwood Primary School.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You had six years to do something about that. Why haven't you done something?

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I have been chasing it for six years, but so intransigent was the former Minister of Education that it was no wonder he baled out. I support entirely the contention of the member for Fisher that Hills schools have been an area of great neglect, especially during the term of office of the former Minister. For six years I have been pursuing highly justifiable claims on behalf of Mount Torrens, Gumeracha, Lobethal, Charleston and Birdwood. The Minister has, although not in so many words, acknowledged that there are problems in Hills schools, but he puts the problems down to subdivisions and increasing enrolments. I refute that.

No other conclusion can be drawn than that the previous Minister of Education showed precious little interest in upgrading facilities in an area that is not politically sensitive as far as the Government is concerned. The present Minister has shown a glimmer of realisation that problems exist there. He was not quite forthright in his reply to the member for Fisher, but at least he recognises that a major problem exists in those areas. As a result of five years of hammering away at the former Minister—

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You hardly ever wrote a letter.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: —I found that it was far more satisfactory to deal directly with the Public Buildings Department. In fact, one of the first letters I wrote after becoming a member of Parliament was to the Education Department and I still have not received a reply. As a result of those approaches, a certain amount of success was achieved in relation to Gumeracha Primary School. To be fair to the former Minister, I admit that we did have some success with Nuriootpa schools.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Before the election you decided to conduct your own private opening.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Let us get the record straight on that matter. The Minister's rating was so high in Nuriootpa that, in recognition of my efforts, I was invited by the school council to turn the first sod at the site of the new school, but the Minister was so sensitive to that action that he vetoed it.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: That's an absolute lie.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: How petty could he be? I believe a regional officer of the department rang the headmaster of the school concerned and said, "You must squash this; you must sit on your council." It was the council's idea. I challenge the Minister to sustain his claim that I instigated the whole business. We all know that the Minister is a political animal and that that is how he would have behaved.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: That is not true.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member seems to have lost the point, and he will resume his seat. Honourable members have had ample opportunity to discuss these lines. I have perused the lines and I can see nothing relating to Gumeracha Primary School. I therefore hope that the honourable member will stick to the lines under discussion.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: My point was rather lost in the Minister's interjections, which were out of order.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the Minister of Mines and Energy to adhere to that.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Most certainly, and I apologise.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Minister has been put in his place.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! That is a prerogative of the Chair, as the honourable member well knows.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: No reflection was intended. I congratulate you, Mr. Chairman. Minor alterations were proposed for Birdwood Primary School.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I have ruled that minor additions do cover a wide field.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The sum of \$3 750 000 is a large sum, so much work will be undertaken. I assume that work will be undertaken at Birdwood Primary School. The galvanised iron in the enclosed porch is not in good condition, and the asphalt floor is worn; when I visited the school, a piece of masonite had been placed over holes in the floor so that the annex could be used to enlarge the library. When comparing the facilities available in the Hills generally, and at Birdwood especially, to the rather more lavish facilities available in other areas (not necessarily politically sensitive areas), the Minister cannot escape the conclusion that Hills primary schools represent an area of neglect. Is there to be any upgrading at the Birdwood Primary School? I am pleased that work is to be undertaken at Lobethal Primary School, and the first stage of a resource and library centre has a high priority with the school council. I hope that the Minister realises that this has been an area of neglect, and that the problem has not been caused solely by increased enrolments in some of these schools.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: There have been times in the past 20 minutes when this Committee has seemed to take on the characteristics of a music hall. I had been considering that, over the dinner adjournment, I could perhaps compose the Hills Face Blues for the benefit of the two members who have been so voluble. I shall get replies for the specific questions asked, but on the general issues I must say that I have taken part in many official openings, all of which have involved schools commenced during the time of my predecessor. Most of those schools are located in what must be regarded as safe or comfortable Liberal areas. If Opposition members can bring themselves, by a self-denying ordinance on the part of those members who would be affected, to present to me a petition showing that certain commitments undertaken to other areas should be set aside in favour of the Hills areas represented by the member for Kavel and the member for Fisher, I would examine that petition most seriously.

Mr. MATH WIN: The spending of \$165 000 on upgrading security at McNally Training Centre represents a complete reversal of attitude of the predecessor of the Minister of Community Welfare, who would not support security measures. I agree with the change, because we must do something in relation to the security of these young offenders. I have heard that Windana is to be turned into

a centre for the aged. However, I understand that Windana has a good security area that is not in use. Can the Minister say what types of aged person will be placed in the security centre at Windana? First offenders at McNally are not separated from the old lags. The Minister has said that that situation does not occur, but I know that it does, and something should be done about it. The Minister may shake his head, but it seems that either he does not know and has not been there, that he has told the people he is coming and the way has been prepared for him, or that he is being misinformed. The Minister should visit the centre without letting anyone know, and find out for himself. He will find what is happening behind his back, or perhaps he will find that he has been misinformed. Does the Minister intend to use the services of Community Welfare Department officers in district offices around Adelaide for paying out and facilitating the return of Medibank cheques or applications? When I put this question to the Minister of Health, I was told that it would be expensive to provide separate offices. About 20 per cent of the people in my district have passed the retiring age, and they find it difficult to get to town; it would be most convenient if a Medibank office could be made available in Glenelg. Perhaps the existing offices in Glenelg and Brighton could be used for this purpose. The Parole Board has opened an office in Glenelg, and welfare officers are in attendance; perhaps it could be used to cash Medibank cheques, although it is not at street level.

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

Mr. MATHWIN: Under "Minor alterations and additions, \$3 750 000."

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member knows that there is nothing concerning Medibank in that line, and he should direct his remarks to the lines.

Mr. MATHWIN: I did not mean to get you angry, I thought my—

The CHAIRMAN: I am not angry in any way at all. I want the honourable member to stick to the line.

Mr. MATHWIN: A great need exists for day-care centres for the aged, and I am conscious of it because of the large number of aged people living in my district. I believe it would be possible to create a day-care centre for aged people at Seaforth Home to cater for aged people from Glenelg, Glengowrie, and Brighton areas.

Day-care centres for the aged must be available seven days a week in order to take the load from families so that they in turn can enjoy their own family life. I believe there is a need to build a residence near Seaforth Home as a day-care centre, because of the need for it in the Glenelg area. Has the Minister catered for such a building in these lines? Also, what action will he take about McNally Training Centre?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I have some information on Windana that the honourable member asked for earlier and to which he averted again today. It has been transferred to the Hospitals Department, but under the plan there are to be 60 nursing home beds for psychogeriatric patients. There will be 30 hostel beds for disabled elderly people of sound mind, so it is to be a mixed hospital, including a day centre. The different categories of patients will be in separate sections of the buildings with enclosed courts to allow for external activities, which seems to be a desirable concept. The high security area is not suitable for patient accommodation (not that the honourable member said it was), but is to be

used as the storage part of the new facility, and, as this will be a large centre, considerable storage space will be needed.

The honourable member referred to methods used to control offenders, and those on remand. Usually, the honourable member does not make this distinction when speaking about McNally Training Centre, although I suspect that he knows that a distinction exists. At McNally there are offenders, and also persons on remand who may not necessarily be found guilty of any offence. The honourable member referred to "old lags", a term objected to by the member for Mitcham, and quite rightly so.

Mr. Mathwin: I didn't mean him at all.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: That is a term that would not be used in any way about people at McNally by the honourable member's Leader, who would understand that to characterise persons who are mostly less than 18 years of age as "old lags" is an approach to the problem that one could only describe as archaic and one which suggests a complete abandonment of persons of a young age by society and by those in authority, the Government of this State, which is charged with the well-being of all its citizens. To me this approach is incomprehensible, and illustrates either the archaic thinking of the honourable member or the erroneous and false information he has been supplied with about what occurs at McNally. This is not the time for a complete dissertation about the handling of young people or to pre-empt the work of the committee examining the kinds of methods used to control juvenile persons in South Australia.

Mr. Mathwin: You don't believe in any discipline at all.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: That would be the most stupid statement I have ever heard from the honourable member in the six years we have been in this place together. What I believe in with respect to discipline is not important in this matter, but I wish the honourable member would understand what is involved. What is required of the Minister, or of any Government of any political calibre in a circumstance such as this, is to provide the best treatment available. I hope the honourable member noticed that I used the term "treatment" not "punishment", because he so often advocates the best treatment available in an endeavour to salvage young people. If the honourable member were present when my predecessor introduced the Juvenile Courts Act, he would recall that the then Minister referred to the fact that these young people were part of the treasure of this State. That may be a trite saying, but I believe there was much common sense in that remark. If we can salvage people at that stage of their lives from what we regard as the wrong path, we have achieved something. I can demonstrate to the honourable member that it will be cheaper for the State. If I can convince him that the right way to go about these things, as far as we have been able to determine up to now, is the way that is being tried in South Australia, then I will have achieved something. If I cannot convince him on humane or common sense grounds, perhaps I can make him realize that, if we create a bunch of people by certain treatment methods who then cost the State far more, if we turn them into bandits or desperadoes by the methods we apply, even on economic grounds that does not make sense.

Mr. Mathwin: You can't keep patting them on the head, you know, because they laugh at you.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Earlier, I told the honourable member that he was at liberty to make a submission

advocating his form of treatment (which should be followed by the word "punishment" in brackets) of juvenile offenders to the committee set up to examine this matter. I am sure it would give his submission proper consideration.

Mr. Mathwin: I hope you're taking evidence from some of the—

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member had his opportunity during the course of asking the question. As the Speaker has often said, "One question at a time".

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The other aspect of the honourable member's remarks I wish to correct, out of fairness and in courtesy to officers of the department who undertake this difficult job and about which I believe the record should be put straight, is that I am pleased to say that the officers concerned do not consider these people as "old lags". They try to ensure that each person placed in their care (and they are placed in their care by an Act which was passed by this Parliament) changes the way of life that has put them in this situation. Whether they are patted on the head, or whatever it is that upsets the honourable member, is not important. What is important is that these officers deserve our support: they have my support, let me make that quite clear. I am sure they have the support of the Government, but it seems they do not have the support of the honourable member. I suggest that if he believes those officers (who do their best in these matters) are so careless as to put together those persons he described as "old lags" and those who are new offenders—

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister has the floor and interjections are out of order. Question Time is 2 p.m. tomorrow. I want honourable members to cease interjecting, and to let the Minister reply to the questions.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: If there is any doubt about the personnel, I will obtain a list, and that will save time. With respect to the suggestion made by the honourable member concerning the involvement of community welfare district officers in Medibank arrangements, some days ago certain proposals were made to the Bailey committee, which was set up by the present Federal Government about three or four weeks ago to examine various welfare and community services throughout the States, in conjunction with State officers, in order to ascertain whether there is any overlapping and duplication, and whether improvements can be made. When the committee visited South Australia, several proposals were submitted by my department, but they did not specifically include involvement in Medibank arrangements.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Medibank arrangements do not appear in the document.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I thought that I might be transgressing and I have done my best to refer only briefly to that aspect. Other proposals included certain payment arrangements with respect to unemployment benefits and age pensions from the time of immediate eligibility. An offer was made for a closer liaison with the local Social Security Department on these matters. The Government's aim is to ensure that individual South Australians do not suffer unnecessarily because of some bureaucratic delay occurring in the larger operation. I am not criticising the Commonwealth operation, but the necessary checks and other documentation of needs must be supplied and, sometimes, delays of between five and six weeks occur in payment of age pensions, although the pension payment is retrospective.

The committee undertook to put these proposals to the Federal Minister concerned, and perhaps some arrangement will be forthcoming. The financial arrangement is that due recompense will be made where necessary. At least my department and I have thought about the kind of matters the honourable member raised under the name of a certain health scheme. Apparently, it was six months ago that the honourable member visited Seaforth Home. If he inspected it now he would find that some of the buildings were now used on a family day-care basis. The scheme is proceeding well, and a proposal is germinating in the area for additional family day-care groups for children to be set up and to use the home. I am not criticising the proposal for day-care centres for the aged, but I suggest that that matter be referred to the local community council for its attention. Community councils for social development, which are well placed to investigate this kind of proposal, can make a submission and even instigate a proposal, part voluntarily, part financed by grant.

Mr. Mathwin: We want the building.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The supply of premises involved in any such situation is a necessary and ancillary part of any proposal for these centres.

Mrs. BYRNE: The sum of \$1 030 000 has been allocated for Public Health Department dental clinics. In the Tea Tree Gully District, the Modbury West Primary School will have a dental clinic installed, in addition to those at Ridgehaven and Modbury. Will the Minister obtain information from his colleague on the cost of establishing such a clinic and how it will be financed overall?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I shall be pleased to obtain the information for the honourable member.

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Minister of Education say whether it is intended to incorporate in the planning and development of the new Renmark High School the facilities referred to in 1973 for the theatre that was planned for the Riverland Further Education Centre?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: In terms of the timing of the project, I do not have the information for the honourable member but, in terms of the location for the project, the facilities would form part of an extensive campus. The theatre facilities would be available to the high school, although they would officially be part of the Further Education Department. However, I will obtain the specific information for the honourable member. Any reference to the Renmark High School is not a reference to the theatre, because that is a charge against the Further Education Department, rather than the Education Department. So, the honourable member cannot assume that that would be subsumed in his reference. Earlier today, I think that the honourable member for Murray may have thrown me slightly by his referring, under the heading of primary and junior primary schools, to Mannum. I now have information regarding a resource centre at Mannum High School to be made up of four Demac units that is on the present programme. That may be the information he is seeking but, if it is not, I will obtain additional information for him.

Dr. TONKIN: Regarding the McNally Training Centre, I am concerned about the \$80 000 allocated for additions. The additions and alterations so desperately needed at McNally and in the whole system of treating juvenile offenders relate to assessment. One of the difficulties in treating young offenders is that we do not give them a fair go, nor do we give the staff a fair go. I agree with what the Minister said earlier today: the staff at McNally and in the Community Welfare Department are especially

dedicated people, and they do the best they can. However, I believe that the Government lets them down in a fundamental requirement, namely, adequate assessment facilities, trained staff, and psychiatric and psychological help. The situation is better now than it was when the Juvenile Courts Act was implemented. The Minister knows that I supported that legislation at length; in fact, I had much to do with the drafting of that legislation and the ideas behind it.

Each time this matter has been discussed we have emphasised in this place that every individual, when he comes up for treatment, must be assessed. He should not be assessed just before he is sentenced or before he comes before a juvenile court for disposal; he should be assessed at certain intervals after disposal, and particularly when he is reaching a point where he could be released into the community. The object of the exercise is to get young people back into the community so that they can again become part of that community and not be alienated from it. We desperately need detailed on-going assessment facilities, whether they be at McNally Training Centre, Windana (where I thought they were going to be) or Vaughan House. We must have those facilities somewhere.

We might have to provide separate facilities altogether for outpatient assessment, which is vital. Some offenders should not be called "old lags". Unfortunately, some of them could well be described as such. I do not like the term, but inevitably we must accept, just as in medicine, as in many other spheres of life, that there are problems that cannot be solved. The maximum security area at McNally should not exist. However, it must be there. I hesitate to say that there is not much hope that some young people will lead normal, well-adjusted lives in the community. I hope I am wrong, just as I hope that patients who are diagnosed to have cancer will not die. However, there is an inevitability about a certain proportion of these young people. I would be surprised, as I am sure the Minister would be surprised, about any suggestion that young people are being put together. If that is the case, it must be investigated quickly.

We will never get on with the job of doing the best we can for juvenile offenders until we have assessment facilities and until individuals are treated as individuals. They should be assessed weekly or almost daily during the critical period when they come back into the community. Crisis centres may be a substitute, but they are not a substitute for on-going assessment. Because I know how long it took to obtain the services of a psychiatrist in this area, I am not being over-critical. Spending all the money in the world on upgrading security at McNally and on improving conditions, which is what I would like to hear about, will be to no avail until facilities and manpower are available. The two go together in the area of assessment and continuing assessment.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I do not disagree with most of the remarks made by the Leader. He said that inevitably some young people could, in the circumstances we are considering, best be described as "old lags". When one has that attitude one should realise that it is an admission of the failure of the services provided to reach the young people concerned.

Mr. Becker: Or by society.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Yes. I am sure the Leader was not advocating, in his cancer analogy, that a doctor abandon his patient. I put to the Leader that we would not abandon young people referred to by his colleague

as "old lags". The Government and none of the officers concerned would give up hope of trying to assist those people. Regarding the money to be spent in this area, I beg the Leader's indulgence, because I do not want to go into too much detail about security arrangements. Much reorganisation has been carried out at McNally to increase the recognition of people there for treatment as individuals.

Some of the older practices that were followed (and I am sure the Leader is familiar with those practices because of his work on these matters) have been changed. I am sure we all agree that that can only be good for the system. If people being treated detect that they are being considered as individuals, the greatest condition exists for them to make the change suggested. In a nutshell, that is what it is all about. Sometimes this recognition is not achieved. However, it is more likely to be achieved if the number of people in treatment groups (if that is the right term) are fairly small.

One cannot abandon the responsibility to society that is involved during the treatment of these people. Reasonable security measures consistent with costs must be considered. Additional measures had to be taken. Some separation has occurred and certain security walkways had to be made secure. The Leader and I share a common feeling about the staff of these centres and the problems they face. They do a marvellous job when it is considered what they are trying to do. Some of the security measures that have been instituted are electronic and others are physical. To a degree, these measures allow staff to concentrate more on treatment and less on watching and retraining the persons who are there for treatment. Part of the overall security plan that has evolved over a period offers the best hope for the future security of this centre.

Dr. Tonkin: What about the additions.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: They are really alterations. It is a little absurd for me to try to be too concerned about security, because many visitors go to McNally. However, I am anxious not to say more than I have to say. The front building at McNally, which was approached by car, is no longer used for treatment as it was in earlier days. That is the kind of alteration that might be referred to in some cases as an addition, because of the moves needed. Moves are being made from large enclosures to smaller ones, with walls being added, and I think that has been included in additions and alterations. The staff is being brought into closer contact with the people who are there for treatment, and this is conducive to what we are trying to achieve by the treatment.

Mr. ALLEN: Does the sum of \$90 000 allocated for tourism, recreation and sport include provision for the installation of toilet facilities in the Flinders Range? Money was set aside several years ago for toilets at Blinman but, because no land was available, the grant lapsed and must be renewed. I understand that toilets are to be built at Copley, where the problem of non-availability of land has been overcome. What is included in the \$90 000?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: I have no information from my colleague, but the sum of \$90 000 comes under the subheading "Government Office Accommodation" and a further subheading "Grenfell Centre, Alterations for", including several departments, the last of which is Tourism, Recreation and Sport. I suggest the money will be spent a long way from the area mentioned by the honourable member.

Mr. BOUNDY: I understand that the Further Education Department is to be involved in work to be done on Wardang Island, as outlined in the Governor's Speech.

What is intended in relation to this project, which I understand is in the preliminary stages? Is the sum of \$200 000 for preliminary investigation involved with Wardang Island? What funding is to be made available for Further Education Department personnel? I have been in touch with an officer of the Education Department who has been seconded to another department and who has had difficulties with promotion and other matters, and I should be interested to know the relationship of Further Education Department personnel to the project. What is their future in the department? How many people from the Further Education Department and Point Pearce are involved in the project to educate the Point Pearce community to handle the Wardang Island project? Is work to begin on the project forthwith?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The \$200 000 in large part refers to the Wardang Island project, but I will get a prepared reply for the honourable member on the specific questions raised.

Mr. GUNN: The Minister will be aware that the new Ceduna school has a longer history than has *Blue Hills*. Can the Minister assure me, in accordance with the reply he gave me some weeks ago that work was expected to commence on some alterations to the existing building at the Ceduna school, that the work will take place during 1976? The Chairman and other members of the school council were delighted with the reply. Will progress be made shortly?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Nothing has happened between the time I gave the honourable member that information and the present to alter the content of the information. We will certainly endeavour to adhere to the commitment then given.

Mr. COUMBE: The sum of \$84 000 is provided for Parliament House upgrading. I assume this is for the completion of stage 1, reported on by the Public Works Committee a couple of years ago. The Auditor-General's Report states that \$3 600 000 has been spent already on upgrading Parliament House, well above the estimate of the committee. Earlier today, a report was laid on the table regarding stage 2 of the upgrading of Parliament House at a cost of \$1 750 000. According to that report, the Government intended to do this work in the current year; some of the money would be spent in the current year. The kitchens, which are Victorian or Dickensian, need urgent upgrading. This work will be carried out. Where will the provision for this money be made, since it is not in this document? As the money is to be spent by the Government in the current year, the documents we are now considering will be thrown out of kilter unless it is included in some other line. It is not minor work, nor is it involved with preliminary investigations and design. Of the \$1 750 000, I assume that nearly \$1 000 000 will have to be spent in the current financial year. Is it intended to proceed with this work, stated by witnesses to be work that must be done in this financial year, and where is provision made for it in the documents now before us?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the honourable member is correct in his presumption that the \$84 000 is for the completion of stage 1. The problem is a technical one. Until the Public Works Committee reports on a project, it is not possible for it to be included in the Loan Estimates document; that would apply to stage 2 of the upgrading of Parliament House, because we received the report on stage 2 only today. When the Loan Estimates

document came in, although it was expected that the report would be available this financial year, stage 2 could not be included. I am not sure where the latitude is in the various allocations in this document to permit some work on stage 2 to start in this financial year, but I will ask the Minister of Works to provide the honourable member with the information.

Mr. BECKER: Has the Minister of Community Welfare a reply to my question of August 19 regarding alterations and additions at Glenside Hospital and a swimming pool for therapeutic purposes?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The works included in the Loan Estimates, in large, comprise stage 2 of the redevelopment of Glenside Hospital and include a new single-storey building to provide four 32-bed ward units for psychogeriatric patients, a 64-bed sub-acute ward to replace existing inadequate facilities, and a 41-bed maximum care ward. Further works at Glenside Hospital are being investigated, and it is anticipated that the redevelopment will have two further stages.

In reply to the honourable member's question about whether provision has been made for occupational therapy, I am pleased to inform him that provision for occupational therapy has been made within each of the units referred to. However, there is no separate occupational therapy facility in stage 2. So, the honourable member can see that provision has been made by locating facilities in each building rather than completely separate facilities. I hope that that reply meets the honourable member's requirements. The occupational therapy department at Glenside has recently been upgraded and will be adequate until the new occupational therapy facilities, presently included in the planning of stage 2, are completed. So, at a later date an upgraded, separate occupational therapy facility will be included. Stage 2 does not include additional outpatient facilities, as the present outpatient facilities at Glenside are considered to be satisfactory. In reply to the honourable member's question about a swimming pool for therapeutic purposes, I point out that such a swimming pool is being included in stage 3 of the redevelopment.

Mr. WOTTON: For some time considerable concern has been expressed by staff members of Royal Adelaide Hospital about the serious lack of parking space at that hospital. Is there any likelihood of the situation improving soon?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I know from my own experience that the staff consider this matter to be important. I will obtain information from my colleague if it is at all possible.

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister state the purpose of the allocation of \$8 000 in connection with the dental therapy school at Somerton Park? Is the Brighton North Minda Home clinic to be used by Minda inmates only, or could it be used by other children in the district, perhaps the children at Townsend House? Originally, Catholic primary school students were not catered for by the dental therapy service at Somerton Park; following my representations, it is good that these students can now use the service. Students at Sacred Heart College, Westminster School, Woodlands, and Immanuel College are still not catered for by the service, but I hope they will soon be so catered for. As the service is financed by taxpayers generally, all children of taxpayers in the area should be allowed to take advantage of the service.

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

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Regarding the \$8 000 allocated to the dental therapy school at Somerton Park, the honourable member suggested that this was a small sum. I suggest it could be part of an on-going commitment, with this sum being shown in this financial year because the account had not previously been met for some phase of the completion work in this financial year. Regarding who has access to dental clinics, I will try to obtain the information for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister of Education say what is the purpose of the pool or pond being established at Bellevue Heights Primary School?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get that information for the honourable member.

Mr. GUNN: When will work on the new police station be provided in Penong be commenced and what type of building will be erected? Will it be prefabricated or of solid construction?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I will obtain that information for the honourable member from my colleague.

Mr. BOUNDY: What is the purpose of the \$140 000 allocated to the museum? The museum plays an important part in this State as it houses part of our State heritage. Is this money to be spent on additional storage facilities or for new acquisitions? More funds should be made available for acquisitions because new items are constantly being found that should be preserved.

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS (Minister for the Environment): As this item is located under the heading of "Public Buildings", I assure the honourable member that this sum is not being spent on the acquisition of material for the museum, but is for building alterations. This figure represents part of the cost of stage 2 of the upgrading of the west wing of the museum. Stage 2 includes provision of a new ceiling to the bottom of the lantern well, carpeting, switchboard, cooling units and exhaust fans for the first floor, including supply of specialised display lighting. Work commenced on site in July, 1976, and completion is expected in March, 1977. The work is being undertaken by the Public Buildings Department Construction Division. Estimated cost of stage 2 is \$163 000, of which it is estimated that \$140 000 will be spent during 1976-77. Stage 1 was completed in 1975 at a cost of \$313 000 and consisted of upgrading the ground floor of the west wing.

Mr. EVANS: Teachers at Blackwood High School with the school council Chairman in conjunction with the South Australian Institute of Teachers have written concerning the needs of that school, which has doubled in size since 1969 from an enrolment of 650 students to 1 200 students. They said they would need a minimum accommodation of 16 classrooms, which could comprise two eight-teacher open units or a double-storey building of this type, as this would include staff preparation, general activity and science laboratory areas. Consolidation of art rooms (at present in wood or aluminium) in one solid-construction building would upgrade accommodation and also facilitate integration of work in various fields of art instruction. Doubling of craft facilities is desirable. Without greatly increased craft facilities (it now has one plastics, one woodwork, one metalwork and two home economics workshops—located in two solid-construction buildings), a truly comprehensive high school is impossible. In the new buildings provision should be made for photography, applied electricity and dressmaking classes. It is pointed out that these would be widely used by Further Education Department classes in out-of-school hours.

A gymnasium/music/drama complex is needed. The school is located in a wet part of the State and only outside playing fields can be used for physical education. One transportable classroom is all that is available for drama. The wooden music suite, while in itself a valuable asset, cannot meet the demands of growing interest in music. There is no assembly hall. Staff common room facilities and preparation areas are inadequate for a staff of almost 100 (including ancillary staff) and should be doubled. Office accommodation for clerical staff is inadequate. It should be extended and upgraded. This could be done by conversion of existing areas in the main building. Additional playing fields are needed. As there is a limited site, these could probably best be provided by additional community playing fields being built in the district within comfortable walking distance of the school. What part of the work recommended by the school will be carried out under this year's allocation?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get the specific information for the honourable member. I point out that the conversion of high schools to comprehensive schools and the provision of additional craft facilities is taking some time and is taking a considerable amount of the Loan budget of the department. This is not the only school that still has a good way to go in order to have truly comprehensive craft facilities.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Dental clinics are suggested for Nuriootpa and other areas. Barossa Valley dentists have waited on me, not to seek to squash the provision of such clinics, but to find out details of what is intended and to see whether there was a possibility of their being employed on a sessional basis at the Nuriootpa clinic. Much information has been sent to me by people concerned with the overall impact of dental clinics on the dental health scheme of South Australia. It has been put to me that we have reached the stage where more dentists are being trained at university than can be employed in South Australia. If we look at the cost of dental treatment by private practice and the cost of dental treatment by school clinics, it appears that much is lacking when it comes to the overall planning of dental services in South Australia.

The overall figures put to me, which I cannot recall exactly at the moment, suggested that this could be a fairly expensive way of undertaking dental treatment for youngsters. The figures for fillings and the overall cost of establishing and training dental therapists were staggering, if they were correct, but it seemed to me from the evidence produced that no-one had really undertaken any realistic assessment of how this school dental scheme fitted into an overall plan for dental health for the South Australian community. If that is the case, it seems to me to constitute a serious omission in planning. Has any real investigation been undertaken to survey the whole scene of dental treatment for the population in South Australia, including the school population, or has a decision simply been made to provide these dental clinics as a matter of Government policy without regard to the overall scene? I should also like any information that can be obtained about the establishment of the clinic at Nuriootpa.

From my earlier inquiries, it appeared to me that the choice for dentists in the Barossa Valley was one thing or the other: if they came into the scheme, they would be full-time employees of the Government department and would lose their status as private practitioners. They were not interested in that but they were interested in assisting

the scheme by working at the clinic on a sessional basis, along the lines on which some doctors work in public hospitals.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The Bright committee investigated dental health in South Australia as one of the matters to be investigated. From memory, I would not like to go further than that, but the specific information the honourable member needs I shall certainly try to obtain. Today we have had two instances of work to be carried out at Nuriootpa, which gives the lie to the point made earlier about certain areas being more politically sensitive than others.

Mr. GUNN: The country fire services headquarters project at Keswick has been promised for many years but unfortunately nothing has been done. I understand that for some time it was held up owing to the activities of Mr. Overall, when he was attempting to take over the Emergency Fire Services in South Australia. When will the building work commence? I support the concept of school dental clinics, particularly in areas where adequate facilities are not provided by private dentists. Unfortunately, in one area in my district a dentist was prepared to carry out the work. The district council concerned had spent more than \$70 000 of ratepayers' money in providing a modern clinic, but unfortunately—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is all right in referring to fire services but what line is he speaking to concerning dental services?

Mr. GUNN: I am referring to dental clinics on page 11 of the Loan Estimates, about five paragraphs down.

The CHAIRMAN: Where is the honourable member's area mentioned?

Mr. GUNN: You will see mentioned a number of dental clinics—at Belair, Blackwood, Brighton, Elizabeth, and so on.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I thought the honourable member was talking about a place in his own area in connection with dental clinics. I must ask him to stick to the line concerned. During the afternoon I have been tolerant about one line that has been mentioned several times by members, but on this occasion I must admit I cannot see at the moment where this in any way concerns the honourable member. He must stick to the line concerned.

Mr. GUNN: Certainly, Mr. Chairman. If you turn over to page 12, you will see, in the second item, "Preliminary investigations and design—\$700 000". My point is that, when planning is taking place for further facilities of this nature, I hope the Minister and his department will consider, before they spend this money investigating a site, co-operating with the local dentist, because it appears to be wrong that, if the people in an area provide adequate facilities, those facilities should be made redundant when the school dental scheme moves into an area with mobile facilities, and closes down the local dentist.

I have had discussions with the Minister of Health on this matter and I hope he is informed on it, because he was completely unsympathetic. The Deputy Leader pointed out this matter and I want to raise it, too, because it is wrong to duplicate facilities in any area. I understand the member for Fisher would like some of these facilities in his area. At Streaky Bay, \$70 000 has been spent. It has been trying for years to get a dentist, and one has just arrived. He offered his services to the school dental scheme at a reduced rate and was happy to do that

work, but then they sent not one dentist but two dentists to the area, and there seemed to be a deliberate attempt to get rid of the private enterprise dentist.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I have no direct knowledge of the events referred to by the honourable member in his area. I am sure the Government is interested to ensure that dental services will be provided. With respect to the country fire services headquarters, for which \$100 000 is allocated, I think the honourable member realises that that amount of money does not mean the construction of everything mooted for that area. I think the honourable member would also realise that the whole project was the subject of a Public Works Committee report, which is available to members. Last Friday evening in Edmund Wright House, I was privileged to officiate at presenting the awards to what used to be called E.F.S. units but are now to be called Country Fire Units. During the evening, I met some people from the honourable member's district, together with others (a delegate from Wirrilla comes to mind), and I spoke to Mr. Fred Kerr. Although I understood from what he said that the project had commenced, I will obtain more accurate information for the honourable member.

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Minister say whether the overall programme for school dental clinics has been kept up to schedule? Can he also say what the situation is regarding schools that are not served by clinics and to what degree they are catered for by mobile clinics? For example, in the Riverland, clinics are established at Renmark, Berri and Loxton, whereas the remainder of the Riverland area, including Blanchetown, Morgan, Cadell, Ramco, Waikerie, Kingston, Moorook, Cobdogla, Barmera, Loveday and Winkie, is not catered for by the base clinics in the three centres.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

Mr. BOUNDY: Regarding the Northfield Research Centre additions, involving \$295 000, I have a personal interest in some aspects of the work at Northfield, particularly that relating to the biological control of the sitona weevil. Although I believe that this sum will be channelled towards that work, I am interested in knowing on what the money will be spent, because any additional money spent on the centre would benefit agriculture. With money that may otherwise have been spent on Monarto, officers at this centre may be able to enjoy the use of facilities that they have previously been denied.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Mines and Energy): I will obtain the necessary information for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: In relation to the allocation for special schools, can the Minister say how much is to be spent on the Arbury Park outdoor area? Although people appreciate the way in which the centre operates, many teachers believe that it would be better if in-service training took place towards the end of the Christmas holidays so as not to encroach on the school year. Will the Minister comment on that aspect also?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD (Minister of Education): In-service training occurs at Raywood, which is over the road from Arbury Park.

Mr. Evans: It's part of the same property.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: As far as I am aware, no work is planned for Arbury Park. I believe that this allocation relates to the completion payment for the work

done last financial year. This work has been completed, and the centre is now operating. However, I will double check that information.

Mr. MATHWIN: In connection with major additions, can the Minister say whether the work to be done on Paringa Park Primary School, which forms part of the \$4 676 000 allocation, will comprise stage 2 of that project? I wonder whether expansion that will occur in an area can be considered when school buildings are being planned. That did not happen when the new Glengowrie High School was built some years ago, but perhaps it would be wiser and cheaper to have regard to possible expansion and to provide stronger foundations so that another storey can be added to the building. It seems a pity that the Glengowrie High School grounds have diminished because prefabricated buildings have been erected. If stronger foundations had been provided, another storey could have been put on and there would be more space available in the playground, which admittedly is very good.

I refer now to the Glenelg Primary School. Incidentally, on the subject of getting work done in schools, I point out that this school has been trying for some time to get rid of two or three trees. I am a member of the council of that school and we have applied to have a classroom in the infants school relocated away from Diagonal Road, which carries heavy traffic. The position of the classroom at present interferes with the conduct of classes and with the children. A long time ago we asked for the relocation of the prefabricated building and, although I know that the matter is in the pipeline, I do not know how long it will stay there.

Minor matters should be dealt with promptly instead of being caught in the pipeline, because members of school councils give their time for the benefit of the school, the children and the district, and it is frustrating to have to get permission from the department for such work as knocking a hole in a wall. It takes about 12 months to get such work done. At Glenelg Primary School, there is a library and a room adjacent, and we want a hole knocked in the wall to allow the children to have access. I am sure that the school council would be willing to finance the work, which may cost a few hundred dollars, but that matter has been proceeding for about 12 months.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Regarding Paringa Park, the allocation is not for stage 2. It is for the remaining uncompleted payment on stage 1. I am not saying that additional work will not be done there in this financial year, but, in relation to stage 2 as the honourable member and I understand the term, the money is not provided for that stage this financial year.

I will give attention to the other matters raised. The concept of building schools with provision for vertical expansion has some application, but not universal application. For example, it is not impossible that, in the next few years, with the current trend in enrolments, in contradistinction to what we have been saying about schools in the Hills area and fringe areas, the south-western suburbs may be well provided for in relation to capital stock and buildings in schools. This may involve the removal of some transportables that are at present blighting school-grounds. That can be done, but we cannot remove a second storey.

My earlier comments on delays were about a specific problem that the honourable member's colleague raised. I do not doubt that delays occur and, where they are avoidable, they are to be regretted. My officers do all that they can to minimise them. Even a project as small as that

referred to would have to be juggled with other projects on a minor works programme, and I wonder whether the department was ever apprised of the possibility of the school council's tendering for the job. I will get more information on the matters that the honourable member has raised.

Mr. WARDLE: I ask the Minister whether the money allocated for dental clinics under the heading "Murray Bridge" is to be spent on duplicating the services now given there. There is an urgent need in the Mannum area for such a dental clinic and, whilst I am delighted that additional money is to be spent on the complex at Murray Bridge, not only is there a dental clinic in the schoolgrounds already but there are also private dentists in the area. That area is fairly well served for dental treatment, but there are no facilities in the Mannum area. As the member for Chaffey has said, there probably is not a dentist between Murray Bridge and Berri, and there appears to be a great need in this area.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I would not expect that there would be duplication as has been suggested by the honourable member. I remind him of the remarks made by the Minister of Education that some payments shown may well be completion payments for work that is at or near completion at the end of the previous financial year. The honourable member may be able to tell me how long the existing clinic has been at Murray Bridge.

Mr. Wardle: About seven or eight years.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: In that case, it sounds as though the allocation is not a completion payment on that clinic. Because I do not have accurate information I will, rather than conjecture, try to obtain the information the honourable member seeks.

Mr. COUMBE: Work on the museum is necessary to preserve important relics and other exhibits for future generations. Can the Minister for the Environment say whether the money to be spent in this area will be spent on a holding operation and, if that is the case, what has happened to the grand plans that were announced at the recent election to build a new museum near the Hackney bus depot?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: I suppose one could say it is in the nature of a holding operation, because the Hackney site is unlikely to be available for some time because the setting up of decentralised bus depots in the metropolitan area, the first of which is now under construction, must first be carried out. That decentralisation will take some time. Frankly, the needs of the museum will not brook that delay, so the present building needs to be upgraded. Space has been acquired at an increasing rate in Goldsbrough House, which is across the road from the museum, and other space has been obtained in the suburbs in order to house adequately the museum's collection. I hope that, in due course, the Hackney site will become vacant. A decision has been made to erect a museum at that site, but everyone knows that it will not be available for some time. Even if the site were available it would still take time to erect the museum, because it would need to be designed and the transfer would have to be made. The Government believes that something should be done in the meantime for the museum. However, the relocation of the museum is being actively followed, and I have set up a museum relocation committee and two subcommittees for this purpose. The committees have met several times in the past few months. When the site is available we hope to be in a position, given the availability of funds (because a considerable sum will be

involved), to move to the site. In the meantime, we are doing what we can to house the museum's collection so that it can be adequately presented to the public.

Mr. WOTTON: Can the Attorney-General give me further information about the existing courthouse at Mount Barker? No mention is made in the lines—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is out of order in referring to matters outside the lines under discussion. I ask the honourable member to clarify what he has just said.

Mr. WOTTON: I thought this matter might have been included under "Minor alterations and additions" or "New residences".

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the Attorney-General whether this matter is included in lines being considered this evening by the Committee.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN (Attorney-General): The upgrading of the Mount Barker courthouse is being considered in a review of the entire court structure in the Adelaide Hills area with a view to rationalising some of the courts' activities. As soon as that is done we will be able to determine which courts should be upgraded because of the increased business that will be transacted in them.

Mr. Wotton: Are you aware that a magistrate has refused to sit in the Mount Barker court?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: He has not refused to sit there; he brought the situation to the attention of the public and the Government through the media. The Government was well aware of the situation and is carefully considering the matter. As soon as the review has been completed—

Mr. Wotton: When do you expect that to happen?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: In the next few weeks.

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Minister of Community Welfare say what criteria have been used to decide on the site of a dental clinic: is it because Evanston is the largest primary school in the Gawler area? It would be almost impossible, even in the long term, to suggest that there should be a clinic in each primary or other school. How does the Government decide which sites are to be used for these clinics, what area of influence is each intended to exert and, more particularly, with schools with enrolments of 40 students to 100 students within a 25-kilometre to 30-kilometre radius of the central school, how it is intended that the necessary examination of children will be undertaken at the central school? Maybe it is intended that people from the central point will go to various small schools. I would appreciate this information because I believe that, in the relatively short term, the Government would wish to provide for the entire school population to have access to the facility and not to just selected schools decided arbitrarily because they happen to have the largest enrolment.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE (Minister of Community Welfare): I agree with the last point made by the honourable member. Regarding the other information, I am sure it would be better to give accurate information, so I will try to obtain that information for the honourable member.

Mr. BOUNDY: It seems paradoxical that a Government department should move into Grenfell Centre, which is divided internally by low-cost partitions. Why is it necessary to spend \$167 000, which seems to be excessive to house a department in a brand new building? I understand that the Minister of Agriculture is to be located in the same building as his department. Can the Minister

for Planning say whether the Minister of Agriculture is to be relocated in that building and, if so, when? I am sure it will add to the efficiency of the department to have direct and continuing access to the Minister.

Mr. VANDEPEER: As the new Beachport school is loaded beyond its estimated capacity, does the Minister intend to spend a further sum of \$140 000 on the school to overcome the crowded situation?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get the information for the honourable member.

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister give any information on what is to happen at Ashford House? I understand that many of the children who were formerly at that institution are now at Regency Park. Is Ashford House to remain for its former purpose, or is it to be used for any other purpose? As it is on a main road, it is not well situated for children. Are all the children to be moved to Regency Park if they have not already been transferred? Which children will be moved and, if some are to remain, which ones will stay at Ashford House? The complex at Regency Park was built for handicapped children, mainly those from the Somerton Crippled Children's Home, which has been demolished. How much money is to be spent on Ashford House, and what is its future?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The sum of \$71 000 is being spent at Ashford House. The upgrading is to be completed in November, 1976. I will get specific information for the honourable member about the future of the institution.

Mr. EVANS: Can the Minister of Education say what schools will be successful in gaining auxiliary classrooms this year? Is any paving work to be carried out at the Aldgate school? Is any specific property involved in the allocation of \$1 250 000 for the purchase of land and property?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: We are looking in terms of a late 1977 tender call for Aldgate Primary School, so a good deal of documentation and planning will proceed this year. Page 21 of Parliamentary Paper 11A shows some schools which may be built completely in Demac, particularly if they have to be slotted into the programme for this year.

Mr. Evans: Are all Demac classed as auxiliary schools?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: In some cases. If it is a complete Demac building, it could be a charge against the auxiliary accommodation line. I will get for the honourable member whatever information is available on the acquisition of properties.

Mr. WOTTON: The sum of \$4 000 allocated for gardens at Wittunga and Mount Lofty seems small. I had understood that a larger sum was to have been made available. Will work on both properties be curtailed, or is the Minister hoping that money will be made available from other sources for the ensuing 12 months?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: The figure of \$4 000 is small, but it represents only a financial tidying up on the completion in January of this year of a project costing \$148 000 for Wittunga and Mount Lofty. At Wittunga we provided a solid construction amenities building, including an office, lunch room, toilet blocks, change room, garage, and potting shed. At Mount Lofty, a garage was constructed, and also a potting shed and a toilet block, and the car park was sealed. This represents the balance of the transaction. I hope to get money from other sources for

work to be carried out in the coming year, particularly at Mount Lofty.

Mr. RODDA: What will be the purpose of the new office building at Keith, for which \$130 000 is being allocated? When will construction commence? Are we to see an expansion of the Agriculture and Fisheries Department at Keith, or is it intended to house officers who are now in rented accommodation?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will get the information for the honourable member, and I will also get the information sought by the member for Goyder in a question a few moments ago.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The sum of \$295 000 has been allocated for additions to the Northfield Research Centre. Will the Minister outline Government policy in this respect? About three years ago, it was intended that all major capital expenditure at Northfield should cease because the department was to move to Monarto. Is the allocation of nearly \$300 000 an indication that the Government no longer intends to move the department to Monarto? Is it also an indication that the Government has reversed its policy, that the department will stay at Northfield, at least in the medium term, and that major capital expenditure can now proceed again? Because major capital expenditure has unfortunately been deferred for some years, the centre's research work has been severely restricted.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The answer is "No". I think the honourable member has misunderstood Government policy on the matter. I will ask the Minister of Agriculture to check out the matter and to give the honourable member a reply.

Mr. WARDLE: As Murray Bridge Special School is brand new and has facilities for additional teachers, can the Minister of Education give details of the major addition that is proposed?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

Mr. CHAPMAN: Can the Minister of Education say what steps have been taken to ensure that fire equipment at primary schools and high schools throughout the State has been brought up to date? Have staff members commenced regular training programmes in connection with using that equipment?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I answered a couple of questions on this matter earlier this session. The honourable member may care to have another go when we discuss the lines of the Budget.

Mr. WOTTON: Can the Minister of Education explain the use made of Yarrabee, which is part of the Botanic Garden? What additions and alterations are proposed for the building? Has it been purchased by the Education Department, or is it still the property of the Botanic Garden?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: This matter comes under the item "Further Education". I will get the information for the honourable member.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Can the Minister of Education say what work will be carried out at Burnside Primary School, Magill Junior Primary School, and Marryatville Primary School? Marryatville Primary School is currently split into two sections, one section being in Leabrook and the other section being in Kensington. The children will greatly benefit if the new school is completed quickly.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The new Marryatville school is to be a consolidation on the one campus, as

suggested by the honourable member. It is hoped that it will be available in November, 1977, as a consolidated school on the one site. I will obtain information on the other two schools referred to by the honourable member.

Mr. CHAPMAN: What stage has been reached in the programme to replace Kingscote Area School and to upgrade the Penneshaw school residence?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I have no specific information about the Penneshaw school residence. The situation in regard to Kingscote Area School is as I indicated earlier in the debate, before the two-week recess. The intention that I signified then remains unchanged.

Mr. WOTTON: Representations have been made to the Minister of Education from the Langhorne Creek school regarding the need to purchase extra land for the school. What progress has been made in this connection?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: No specific proposition has come to me for signature at this stage, but I will inquire what the position is.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: For what purpose will the old Marryatville school buildings be used after the new school has been occupied in November, 1977?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I should be able to give the information, but it has slipped my mind. I will get it for the honourable member. I have had a proposition put to me.

Mr. RUSSACK: Is the reference to Kadina High School in relation to the two-storey complex that has been envisaged for some years? Will the building of this complex have any effect on plans concerning development at Moonta?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: This is a type B addition, and I have already explained the difference between type A and type B additions. It should be available in April, 1977. I will take up the remainder of the honourable member's question on another occasion.

Mr. BOUNDY: Can the Minister for Planning say how the \$2 000 000 allocated for new residences will be spent? In what areas will new residences be built?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will get a report.

Dr. TONKIN: The sum of \$2 000 is allocated for the provision of the Community Welfare Department Amata district office. When I visited Amata I was impressed by the work that was being done by departmental officers. Obviously, \$2 000 will not do much to provide a district office. At Amata there are transport difficulties, it is difficult to keep staff, and people work in the most trying conditions. The out-station work involves travel over considerable distances.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Like travelling about 210 kilometres west of Mount Davies?

Dr. TONKIN: Possibly. Staff go out into the western areas trying to find people in tribal conditions on the move, and there are several difficulties. The same difficulties being experienced by Community Welfare Department staff were experienced by health workers. I refer to the simple matter of ordinary instrument sterilisation procedures. For that reason I am interested in - what is going on in Amata. What will the \$2 000 achieve? Is it sufficient?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The \$2 000 represents a small completion payment for the replacement office building provided for community welfare officers in the area. It is a commercial-type transportable unit. It has been installed on site, I think, complete with air-conditioning. Some aproning is needed outside, including a concrete

porch. The office is in use, and the hospital is working. As the Leader knows, I spoke with the staff in July when I made an inspection of the area.

Mr. EVANS: Is the \$90 000 allocated to "Tourist Bureau, Melbourne—upgrading" for the new Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, location of the bureau? Will the bureau still be forced to use a first floor office while the ground floor window area is used by a wine company to advertise its products? Such window space should be used to advertise the South Australian Government Tourist Bureau. What conditions will prevail after the \$90 000 has been spent?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: I am unable to help the honourable member at present, but I will be able to do so as soon as I get a report for him.

Mr. RUSSACK: Has provision been made in the allocation for minor alterations and additions, grading and paving, fencing, drains and roadways, etc. for updating of the Alford school grounds? After a solid building at that school was removed an irregular, rough surface was left as some of the foundation stones still remained. Another area at the back of the school which is paved and which is used for basketball and other sports (it is the only area available for such activity) is in a state of disrepair. As I am sure it is Government policy for facilities at country schools to be as good as those in metropolitan schools and as this yard is not nearly up to the standard of most metropolitan schools or other schools in country towns, are any funds available under this item to pave and upgrade the Alford school yard?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get that information.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: A constituent has referred to the shocking conditions and the lack of adequate facilities in the City Cross office of the Prices and Consumer Affairs Department. It was described as like a French loo—apparently, a very small cubicle, very open, very public, and very uncomfortable. This person was somewhat distressed, particularly as the matter he was talking about with the inspector could be heard publicly by other people involved. Obviously, people lodging complaints against a certain company wish to be able to do so in private; they do not want to give other people the information and perhaps let it be known who lodged the complaint. Could the Minister look into this and say how this \$250 000 is to be spent?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN (Minister of Prices and Consumer Affairs): The Government is well aware of the unsatisfactory accommodation that the Public and Consumer Affairs Department occupies at present. This money is earmarked for a transfer of the activities of that department from the Gawler Place location to the new Public Trustee building in Franklin Street. That move should be completed early in 1977. When that has been done, we should be able to provide the public with much better facilities than are available at present. I assure the honourable member that the new facilities will also incorporate proper cubicles in which interviews can be conducted in private.

Mr. Dean Brown: Sitting down?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Yes, without the intrusion of other members of the public who may show an interest in the complaint.

Mr. VANDEPEER: Can the Minister of Education obtain for me a report on the time schedule of work and expected completion date of the proposed construction at the Kingston school? Also, what are the department's

proposals for the multi-purpose hall at Millicent High School and when will a starting date be fixed?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will obtain a report.

Dr. TONKIN: Earlier, something was said about school dental clinics. We see that about 28 dental clinics are to be set up, for which \$1 030 000 is allocated. I emphasise that this is not necessarily the most economic way of providing dental health services for schoolchildren. The member for Eyre and other members know examples of school dental health clinics entering areas where already dental practitioners are practising, not at their full capacity and where, because a school dental clinic has come into the area, their practice has dropped away. It is ridiculous that we should spend good money when the Government could well contract with those people to provide exactly the same service.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You are opposed to the scheme?

Dr. TONKIN: I am not convinced that it is the most economic way of providing school health care. If there are alternatives, the Government must be considered to be lacking and failing in its duty. There are areas where no dental services are available from either private dentists or school dental clinics; yet in the case of at least one-half of these centres practising dentists are relatively near, who would be happy to provide the services on a contract basis. If that is so, why does the Government adopt this attitude of putting a school dental health clinic where there is already a practising dentist? One instance was cited by the member for Eyre where a dentist has been virtually forced out of the town because of the activities of the school dental service.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You are opposed to the school dental service?

Dr. TONKIN: The Minister has been reading his book on bridge for most of the evening.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: That's a lie; you are a liar.

Dr. TONKIN: He has not answered the questions that have been asked—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable Minister will withdraw.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I withdraw "lie" and substitute "teller of untruths".

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I want the honourable Minister to withdraw the word "liar".

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I withdraw the word "lie" and say that the Leader is a teller of untruths.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the Minister to withdraw the word "liar".

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: "Liar" or "lie"?

The CHAIRMAN: "Liar".

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I withdraw the word "liar"; I apologise for that and say that the Leader is a teller of untruths.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Dr. TONKIN: The reaction of the Minister is no more than I would have expected.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable Leader will speak to the line.

Dr. TONKIN: I am endeavouring to do so. When I am trying to debate this issue, I am continually sidetracked, although you have tried to help.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I want the honourable Leader of the Opposition to stick to the line, and the Chair will at all times try to protect the honourable member who has the floor.

Dr. TONKIN: I am sure the Chair will. There are some dentists in the community who maintain that dentists in school health dental clinics extend their services beyond giving attention to schoolchildren. I have no way of checking that; I do not know whether or not it is true, but it is certainly a matter that has been discussed in communities both by dentists and by lay people. If that is happening and if the school dental services are doing more than looking after children and, therefore, taking away the livelihood of practising dentists in the area, there is something wrong with the system. That is what I want the Minister to comment on. By and large, it is a complete waste of money to duplicate services. I know that there is a policy that this Government adopts, that full-time salaried services are better than private practitioners. That may be; it is a matter we could debate, if necessary, at the appropriate time. However, I still maintain that this scheme is not the best way of providing further services, when dentists in each centre could do the work on a contract basis.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The substance of the Leader's remarks was no different from that raised by two members earlier, and I have already undertaken to try to obtain a report on these matters, including the allegations made.

Mr. EVANS: Is more money to be spent on the Belair and Blackwood dental clinics this year? They still appear in this year's Loan Estimates, yet they have been operating since about the first week in April this year. The cost of a clinic is about \$38 000, if the total allocation of \$1 030 000 is divided between the 28 clinics referred to. Are additional clinics planned for the Hills area?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I will obtain the information from my colleague for the honourable member.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I refer to the Narrung Primary School and the Meningie Area School, which are listed for planning and development in 1976-77. About three years ago the then Minister of Education visited Meningie. He undertook that, as soon as possible, a new school would be provided at Meningie, because of the particular problems existing there.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: A time table was mentioned.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I accept that time had to elapse while the school was designed. A design has been prepared for this school, although it is listed for planning and design. It was understood that the school would be given a high priority because it was considered to be a disadvantaged school because of the ethnic problems there and because of the difficulties associated with the school's management as a result of Aboriginal and white children coming into conflict. The Headmaster of the school, who has since been promoted to Principal Education Officer of the Northern Regional Division, was extremely capable and developed the school, giving an objective to the Aborigines. A centre was set up in the main street of Meningie at which their craft objects could be sold. The loss of this Headmaster at this time is a tragedy. One reason he is suspected to have left is the slow progress being made on the school.

I understood that a new Point McLeay community school was to be built on land under the control of the Aboriginal Lands Trust whereas, again, there seems to have been no activity. This school has now been listed as the Narrung Primary School. The present school has

been allowed to run down because it was accepted by the parents and those concerned that this was only a holding situation and that the school would be replaced by a new school, which the Minister said would have a priority. Can the Minister say whether it is intended to give these schools the priority that was proposed and assure me that they will be built on the priority basis originally agreed to?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The honourable member's memory is perfectly correct in all these matters. In departmental circles, the practice has grown up of referring to the school to be built on the site that was agreed on at the time my predecessor visited the area as "Point McLeay-Narrung". The site to which the honourable member has referred had the Point McLeay prefix omitted from it when this statement made its way into the Treasurer's statement. The error in nomenclature was unfortunate. The information I can give to the honourable member in relation to the Meningie area is that the work is tentatively programmed for tender call in June, 1977. It is to be given priority over Point McLeay and Narrung, or Point McLeay Community School. However, if all that we say in this document that we will do can be properly carried out, Point McLeay would receive high priority in the following financial year.

Mr. EVANS: I refer to the allocation of \$3 920 000 for the forensic science building. The document states that the money has been provided for work to proceed further. I ask what is the expected completion date and what is the expected total cost. I ask similar questions about the Flinders Street office block, for which \$2 771 000 is allocated. The document states that it is an 18-floor building to accommodate the Education Department and other Government departments. I also ask what other Government departments will be accommodated in that building.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will get information about the forensic science building. I think that the allocation for the Flinders Street office block is to complete that project. I understand that the building will cater for the Education Department, the Further Education Department, some parts of the Public Buildings Department and part of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. I will get the information for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: The Treasurer has stated that \$2 955 000 has been included to continue construction of a new office block for the Transport Department. I ask what is the expected total cost and what is the expected completion date. I also ask whether we are allotting priorities correctly. The Minister may tell me how serious is the shortage of accommodation for the Transport Department. I do not believe that that department is so short of accommodation that it has not offices in which to operate, yet we are short of buildings in certain schools. If we drew the right priorities and considered the real needs in our community, this would be one building that could be left or not pushed forward so quickly. The three buildings to which I have referred involve a total expenditure of well over \$10 000 000, and the Minister may say that it could be more than \$20 000 000. I know the importance of the department and its role and I know that dedicated public servants work in the department, but many of these persons would have children at schools that have not sufficient classrooms.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will get the information on the Transport Department building, but I imagine that that building would be near completion by the end of this

financial year. I think the project has been under construction for at least nine or 10 months, perhaps longer. The main point is that the sum being spent by the Government on creating office accommodation is large, and the honourable member may well find that the buildings provided for in these Estimates, particularly the Transport Department building and the Flinders Street office block, would save the Government rental of probably about 15 per cent of the capital cost of the building in question. I will ask the Minister of Works to check that figure, because I know that large amounts are being spent in renting accommodation in the Bank of New South Wales building in Pirie Street, which is occupied by the Education Department. That department is spread over several sites, involving rental accommodation. The Further Education Department rents accommodation in Waymouth Street, and the Transport Department also rents accommodation. There is a consequence for the Revenue Budget that ultimately can reflect back on the overall Loan Estimates if one puts all one's eggs in the building basket, where there is no revenue effect. In office building, there is a substantial revenue effect regarding cost of construction.

Mr. RUSSACK: Will the Minister of Community Welfare give me information about the purpose for which the \$135 000 will be spent on the Wallaroo Hospital? Is the money allocated to modify the kitchen area, which provides meals on wheels for the Kadina and Wallaroo district in a very satisfactory way?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The information I have is that it is planned to erect a single-storey solid-construction building to provide utility rooms for the operating theatres, extensions to the existing kitchen and store, as suggested by the honourable member, and to provide carport accommodation of steel column construction for six motor vehicles.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Will the Minister of Mines and Energy obtain a report on what is intended for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department office building at Keith, for which \$130 000 is provided?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I think the member for Victoria already has requested that information.

Mr. EVANS: Will the Minister of Mines and Energy, in obtaining information about the savings to revenue on the Government buildings to which I have referred, ask the Minister of Works how much money will be lost to the Adelaide City Council through the Government's not paying rates and taxes on the new buildings? Will he also find out how much interest is to be paid on the Loan money used to build the new Government offices? Further, can the Minister tell me what workshops and depots will be built with the \$969 000 allocated in connection with the Public Buildings Department?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The answer to the last question is that I will get the information. In reply to the other questions, if the money is spent under the Loan programme, we are committed to pay the interest anyway, regardless of whether we get a revenue offset to that interest. If the honourable member wants to make a comparison, he must make that kind of comparison. Also, there is a connection between Revenue Budget and Loan Budget. The revenue situation this year has permitted the Treasurer this afternoon to allocate \$15 000 000 from revenue to the Loan Budget. If we worsen the Revenue Budget, we do not get that kind of allocation made to the Loan Budget.

Mr. CHAPMAN: As incredible as it may seem I have found a line that relates directly to my district; it is under "Major Additions—\$4 676 000" and relates to Willunga, although I am not sure whether it involves major additions to both the primary school and the secondary school at Willunga. Hopefully it involves both, because both schools desperately need additional facilities. Additional staff is needed at Willunga Primary School to reduce the teacher/pupil ratio. On July 14, the member for Torrens, in my absence, visited Willunga Primary School with the Minister of Education.

On that occasion the Headmaster explained to the Minister that the major problem facing the school was building space. He went on to say that, since 1971, apart from a new resource centre that was installed during the time the Hon. Hugh Hudson was Minister of Education, no other buildings had been added to the school and that the classes were too big; for example, in grades 6 and 7 there were 37 students in each grade. The need for new buildings and additional teachers having been established, the school council was promised by the Education Department in a letter signed by Mr. Wood that someone from the department would look at the buildings and prepare a new plan for the school, but nothing has happened this year in relation to that letter.

However, the Minister did explain on that occasion that he would investigate that and other matters that were brought to his attention. The Headmaster further explained that he had been asking for additional clerical assistance, a situation which had rather embarrassed the school and which had been rather static since 1971. The number of students had increased in that period from 170 to 250 students and 15 hours a week was being spent on clerical work. The growth rate in the area is about 15 per cent at primary school level and as high as 20 per cent at high school level. A projection of these figures from the district council has been forwarded to the Education Department to demonstrate the fast increasing growth rate.

Doctor Hopgood replied that he thought he could get two officers to come to the school soon and stated there should be a master plan for the school. He added that facilities to cater for the growth in the area would take some time. The Headmaster said that two rooms had been promised for next term and that a secondhand portable woodwork room had been offered but that the council was not too happy about it. He said that the school had asked for a Demac unit but that the Minister had said these additions would not be delivered until 1978. He thought that the Demac unit would be ideal for the school as and when provided. Dr. Hopgood wanted to know where the next units would be placed in relation to old buildings.

The school set-up is an embarrassment to the community. It is in the middle of the town, and the school buildings, as well as the recreation and sporting facilities, are extremely limited. I call on the Minister at his earliest convenience to take whatever positive steps are necessary to extend the school grounds and acquire adjacent land. I understand that a copy of a map I have received was sent recently to the department, indicating adjacent to the primary school satisfactory land for acquisition by the department. Among other things, Dr. Hopgood asked the Headmaster on July 14 what was the more pressing need, teaching staff or clerical staff. In relation to clerical staff, the Headmaster said that the school was entitled to receive 25 hours a week clerical assistance and that this entitlement was embodied in an approval dated 1973. He produced

the approval to me when I visited the school a few days later. A Mrs. Osborne works 25 hours a week (a matter also raised in the presence of the Minister), but she is paid for only 15 hours and that seems to be most unjust. Staff is needed also in middle and upper primary sections. Although I have not witnessed much union influence in this area, I hope the Minister has taken action on this matter.

The Headmaster also explained that he was teaching students two days a week and that his administrative duties made it necessary for him to work beyond ordinary school hours and into the evening. He also explained that a six-tenths-time teacher is going on leave soon and that he wishes to replace her with a full-time teacher. He added that a four-tenths-time teacher would relieve the situation. Dr. Hopgood agreed to the proposal and added that he thought the department could do better and that he would talk to his staffing people about it. I have not had confirmation from the school about this matter, nor have I had any indication from the Minister whether he can carry out the promises he made on this point, although I would appreciate such an indication.

I am not sure about the State average teacher/student ratio, but I understand from the records of Willunga Primary School that at this stage it is about 31 for that school, which I understand is considerably higher than the State average. If we take into account the efforts of the Headmaster on a half-time teaching basis, the figures would show a teacher/student ratio of about 27.5. Roads on the northern and north-western sides of the existing school could be used to extend the playing area. It seems that co-operation should be urgently sought between the Education Department and the district council to determine whether or not one or both of these roads could be closed to provide extra space. A couple of properties across the road from the school could also be acquired. I understand from the school council that there is no desire locally to resite the school away from that area. I stress the importance of obtaining additional land near the primary school area. What sum does the Minister expect to be made available to the Willunga Primary School for acquisition of land and/or for major additions to be provided?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get that information.

Mr. VENNING: No mention is made of contemplated expenditure for dental clinics in any area in Rocky River. For some time, school committees in the area have asked when the provision of dental services can be expected. As a sum of \$1 030 000 is to be spent in the areas listed, I should like to know the line that deals with dental clinics and dental health. Jamestown, in my district—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: On a point of order, Mr. Acting Chairman, the honourable member is referring to areas in his own district which apparently are not specified in the list on page 11, and therefore he is out of order. He should confine himself to the dental clinics mentioned.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Slater): I uphold the point of order, and ask the honourable member to confine his remarks to the lines.

Mr. VENNING: I am amazed. Although we have made approaches to the department on this matter, no action has been taken. Clare was mentioned by the department and I would like to know what future activities can be expected at Clare.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: On a point of order, Mr. Acting Chairman, the honourable member is flouting your ruling.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: A point of order has been taken, and I ask the member for Rocky River to confine his remarks to the lines.

Mr. VENNING: Apparently a line is missing, and that is the line to which I refer. It would seem that the Minister does not want to face up to the situation.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The Grenfell Centre provides some of the best public office accommodation available in the centre of the city, and we see listed a total of \$720 000 to be spent presumably in fitting out the floor space in the building to meet the needs of the various departments referred to. As this is a substantial sum of money, will the Minister indicate the period of tenure for floor space in the Grenfell Centre?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I have not got that information, but in view of the sum involved I shall get it.

Mr. EVANS: A sum of \$950 000 is to be spent on a Demac unit at the Coromandel Valley school. We are delighted that this is to eventuate after a long delay. When is it expected that work will commence, and what is the expected completion date?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: First, very shortly; secondly, the expected completion date is May, 1977, hence my answer to the first part of the question.

Mr. ALLISON: I seek reassurance from the Minister that the expenditure on major additions at the Mount Gambier High School is not new work. I could not find reference to it in Parliamentary Paper 11A, and I think it is probably a terminal payment for the art and craft block completed in 1975-76. A massive sum of \$4 500 000 is to be spent on the new college at Regency Park, representing more than 40 per cent of the total expenditure for further education this year. Can the Minister supply information about the nature of the college, and say whether it has long-term forward planning built in to include considerable retaining that seems necessary with apprentices? Will it incorporate much in that line?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The answer to both questions is "Yes", but I will get an extended statement for the honourable member about Regency Park, concerning which significant development will occur.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I refer to subsidised projects. As these projects involve money provided by school councils or local government bodies, is the figure shown as the total cost in fact the total cost of the building or the total cost to the department for the construction of the building?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: It would be the total cost of the building, but in most cases the school's contribution would be modest in relation to those figures—perhaps \$50 000, or something of that order. The vast bulk of the money listed is certainly a charge against the department.

Mr. CHAPMAN: Having dealt with the Willunga Primary School, I turn now to the Willunga High School. A tremendous amount of correspondence has been sent to the department about necessary additional facilities at the school. On April 1, 1975, correspondence was signed by the Principal and forwarded to the Director-General of Education in connection with school car park requirements. On May 7, 1975, a request was forwarded to the department for conversion of a room for plastics. On February 23, 1976, an application was forwarded for transfer to a new art room. On June 2, 1976, the Director-General's

attention was drawn to accommodation problems generally. On June 11, 1975, a request was made to the department from the high school Principal for extensions to the staff car park.

On February 10, 1976, four pages of detailed information were forwarded to the department pointing out the accommodation problems that still existed at the school. On April 9, 1976, the Principal wrote to the Director-General asking that the porch adjacent to the school be converted to allow additional room for reading. On April 22, 1976, the need for further accommodation was brought to the attention of the Superintendent of Secondary Education. On May 7, a request was made for some physical education facilities. So, about a dozen items of correspondence have been directed to the department, all specifically requesting additions. Can the Minister say whether the Government intends, under this line, to spend the money to overcome the difficulties outlined by the Principal?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: Will the Minister supply full details of the additions at Heathfield High School, when the work will be commenced, and when it is expected the work will be completed? I also refer to Mylor Primary School, which needs oil heating. Staff facilities are needed at Scott Creek Primary School. Further, Heathfield Primary School needs another classroom and facilities for administration and the staff. Eden Hills Primary School needs room for indoor activities; people associated with that school say that they have been well treated in the past by the Public Buildings Department in connection with other requests.

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

Mr. CHAPMAN: Can the Minister say what action has been taken to improve the toilet and outbuilding facilities at Port Elliot Primary School which were brought to his attention during his recent visit?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I referred those matters to the department. As soon as a report has been made available to me, I will make available a copy of it to the honourable member.

Mr. CHAPMAN: Will the Minister ascertain when the bicycle rack requested by the students at Port Elliot Primary School on the day of his visit will be provided?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Yes.

Mr. ALLISON: I have observed with interest the additions to the radiography unit at Mount Gambier Hospital, following the request to the Minister of Health last year to provide an additional radiographer. I assume that expenditure on that project is part of the allocation for Mount Gambier Hospital. During his recent visit to Mount Gambier, the Treasurer said that earthworks would soon commence in connection with further additions to the hospital. Can the Minister of Community Welfare say whether those additions will be specific purpose additions, or will they be flexible additions, which can be used for a multiplicity of purposes?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The allocation is for extension of the radiology department to provide increased X-ray facilities and a new dark room. The pharmacy dispensary is being relocated to allow for this expansion and, in addition, the pharmacy store and manufacturing area are being modified and upgraded. Work is also to be done on the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, the nurses home, and training school. This provision covers

upgrading and extension of the existing laboratory; a five-storey nurses home to accommodate 60 nurses; and a training school, including classroom block, demonstration block, tutorial rooms, lecture theatre, library, and recreation area. If the information I have given is insufficient, I will obtain further information for the honourable member.

Mr. NANKIVELL: The Minister of Education will be opening the assembly hall at Loxton High School on September 24. If my information is correct, the sum stated, \$426 000, is not the total cost of the building. Is it the cost to the department or the total cost of construction? My impression, from memory, is that the local community, through the loan raised by the local council, provided at least \$40 000 toward the cost of the building. At the time the project was approved (when the present Minister of Mines and Energy was Minister of Education) the local community was responsible for finding one-third of the money, the State was to find one-third, and the Commonwealth was to find one-third.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It is a percentage of net estimated cost, net of planning and design, net of inflation, and net of unforeseen circumstances.

Mr. NANKIVELL: This makes it even more important that the present Minister of Education should get his facts straight.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will take up the matter for the honourable member and, if I was incorrect in what I said, I will let the honourable member know. I have had reasonably close involvement in relation to the Enfield High School project. When it was to go to tender call, the amount that the school was then holding in reserve had to be paid into the Education Department. A specific request was made to me that the school continue to be able to hold it for some time when there was a short delay in going to tender call. My understanding would have been that the total expenditure had to be shown because this Parliament is approving the full expenditure. The fact that one component of the total sum comes from non-departmental resources is irrelevant, because the Parliament still must approve the total expenditure.

Mr. Nankivell: I just wanted to make sure.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Out of an abundance of caution I will check with departmental officers. My understanding is that this is the total cost.

Line passed.

Environment and Conservation, \$1 250 000.

Mr. ARNOLD: Does the reference to the purchase of land for national reserves, construction of buildings and other improvements relate to the purchase of additional land, or does this include part-payment for land already purchased during the past 12 months? Does the sum provided for the construction of buildings also cover equipment to maintain dams, fences, fire breaks and the requirements of stations that have been obtained, such as Hyperna and Canopus? I am concerned whether the department has the necessary equipment and facilities adequately to handle these stations.

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS (Minister for the Environment) : It might save time if I explained how the \$1 250 000 is split up. The sum of \$250 000 is to go towards Wilpena development, about which an announcement has already been made. The purchase of land involves about \$230 000.

Mr. Arnold: Has the Minister any specific information on this?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: The bulk of that sum will go towards extending Deep Creek Conservation Park. About \$600 000 will be spent on normal improvements. That would not include equipment for the construction of fences or fire breaks, but it would include the cost of fencing and providing access tracks. The sum of \$170 000 is provided to complete the Belair golf course.

Mr. Evans: It only cost \$90 000.

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: It is expected that this will be completed in April next year. That is the breakdown of the \$1 250 000.

Mr. CHAPMAN: Will the Minister repeat the first line? Did he say—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the honourable member resume his seat?

Mr. ARNOLD: Does the department intend to operate acquired stations as business undertakings and carry stock on them? This would have a two-fold benefit: controlled grazing would relieve the fire hazard and could also provide income to the department. Has this possibility been considered?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: No, it is not intended to operate these properties as normal commercial stations. If we did not want them as conservation parks we would not have bought them. True, in one or two cases existing leases have been maintained on recently acquired properties. Certainly, we are not acquiring properties such as Hyperna and Canopus for the business of grazing: they are both conservation parks.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Mines and Energy) moved:

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. CHAPMAN (Alexandra): I wish to draw to the attention of the House a matter that has been of great concern to me on several occasions since becoming a member. I refer to the occasions when, in the ordinary course of carrying out my duties, it has been necessary to contact a Minister or a department. To my horror, I have found that, on giving detailed information to the department or the Minister, on at least two previous occasions contact has been made with the organisation or the district concerned without providing me with the information originally sought.

In both instances I have received an apology from the two Ministers concerned, but I draw to the attention of the House a third occasion on which this has happened, and it concerns a matter in which I am currently involved. On or about June 22, I introduced to the Premier a deputation from Victor Harbor. That deputation sought to convey to him the need for urgent finance to buy a building in which later to establish a base for elderly citizens in that district. An approach had been made to the Premier earlier this year seeking the State contribution under the basic formula whereby the State, the Commonwealth and the respective district each contribute part of the cost.

The Premier originally agreed to make the State contribution. However, because Commonwealth funding was not available to match the State funding, we suggested to the Premier that, in order to secure the building of Dr. Ben Brookman of Torrens Street, Victor Harbor, the Premier provide the bridging finance. In the presence of the Commonwealth member for Barker and the Victor Harbor deputation the Premier agreed to provide that finance. He agreed, on condition that that money would be secured and reimbursed to the State Treasury by the Commonwealth within two years. Subsequent to that meeting, on or about June 22, agreement was reached with the Commonwealth Minister (Senator Guilfoyle) to make that money available to be reimbursed to the State Treasury in the 1977-78 Budget period.

The process so far, as described, has been most satisfactory and most welcome to my people in that community, and indeed to the member for Barker, but it has been disturbing recently to find that the Premier's Department has sought to contact individuals and the local government authority in that district and convey to them information about this project without having the courtesy to come back through me, who not only led that deputation referred to but had written on August 25 to the Premier's Department seeking confirmation of the details I have explained.

So far, I have had no acknowledgment of that letter. I understand that within the next few days some correspondence will be prepared to give me the confirmation required, but what I frown on deeply is this political leapfrogging by Ministers, in this instance by the Premier, where they accept the deputation as introduced in this instance and explained, where they call for correspondence to confirm the details desired, that correspondence is made available to the Premier's Department direct and delivered, and yet they have the audacity just to ignore the member after that procedure has been adopted and, as I say, in this political leapfrogging exercise to belt out in the district and take over the project without having the courtesy to follow through the usual channels.

Mr. Venning: The Premier does not treat his own members in this way.

Mr. CHAPMAN: It has happened to me on two other occasions and, when brought to the attention of the Ministers, in both cases they apologised for it happening. There is no excuse for this. I have heard complaints from other members about this. I bring to the attention of this House the three bitter experiences I have had in that regard. There is nothing more embarrassing than to go out into one's district and be questioned about a matter on which they have had some information delivered to them direct by the Minister, and yet as members we are not readily furnished with the same information. I have no other specific matter I wish to draw to the attention of the House on this occasion.

Mrs. BYRNE (Tea Tree Gully): I want to devote the time allocated to me to speak about some of the Tea Tree Gully electorate's requirements. In an expanding community, as in this district, there is always an increasing requirement for community facilities. When I was elected to State Parliament in 1965, there were 12 399 people on the roll, and then I had the country section of Barossa. Of course, those 20 country towns no longer exist in this seat. As at the State election last year, with only the Tea Tree Gully district, there were 30 764 electors, and this number is continuing to increase. I refer to electors only, and not the total population, which would

now be about 58 000 for the Tea Tree Gully council area only, and the electorate of Tea Tree Gully is practically identical, as far as boundaries are concerned. I repeat that the population will continue to increase. It is increasing daily, as evidenced by the number of houses being erected.

The increase in population has brought an increase in the number of motor vehicles using the roads, and this has caused the need for the reconstruction and widening of some existing arterial roads, such as the Lower North-East Road between the Torrens River at Dernancourt and Anstey Hill. This matter has been the subject of questions and letters, and also speeches I have made in this House, and I am continually having representations from constituents made to me on it. The road is in urgent need of improvement in respect of alignment, drainage, and pavement strength and as regards visibility at road junctions and private entrances. Traffic predictions for this road, including an assessment of the heavy vehicle content associated with quarry operations, indicate that a four-lane facility will be required at least as far as Valley Road. Sufficient land has been or is being acquired to enable these improvements to be effected, with minimum detriment to the environment and retaining many existing trees. Priority has been given to native trees, wherever possible, especially to groups of native trees. In reply to my latest letter to the Minister of Transport, I received a reply, dated July 22, from him and from which I will quote in part as follows:

The position with regard to this matter has not changed since my letter to you of November 13 last year. Subject to the availability of funds, it is proposed to commence duplication of the Lower North-East Road between the River Torrens and Lyons Road during 1978-79 and between Lyons Road and Valley Road during 1979-80. The section beyond Valley Road to Anstey Hill will not be reconstructed prior to 1981. I can assure you that the priority of these works will be kept under review.

I am pleased by the Minister's assurance, namely, that the priority for each project is continually being assessed on a State-wide basis, having regard to the availability of funds, other essential resources, and to changing requirements. Regarding the words "subject to the availability of funds", contained in the Minister's reply, I note that the Federal Budget for 1976-77 states:

An amount of \$433 500 000 will be made available to the States for roads in 1976-77. This includes \$35 800 000 which will be made available in addition to the amounts appropriated under existing legislation. An amount of \$8 000 000 is to be provided to the States in 1976-77 for expenditure on approved planning and research projects in relation to roads and urban public transport.

Unfortunately, I am unaware of the precise sum the South Australian Government is to receive from this year's Budget, so I do not know whether the programme for these roads will be affected.

Another road to which I refer is Grand Junction Road, which is old and which also needs reconstructing and widening. As it is an arterial road it is well used and, when it has been widened from its present intersection at the North-East Road to Anstey Hill, it will become a highway, which, I suppose, it is now. The last time I asked a question in the House on this matter was last year, and I received a reply from the Minister of Transport on October 16, as follows:

Reconstruction and widening of Grand Junction Road between North-East Road and Anstey Hill is not included on the Highways Department's five-year advance works programme. Annual average daily traffic volumes range from 8 000 just east of North-East Road to only 1 300 east of Dillon Road and, accordingly, the priority of this project is low in comparison to the priorities of other

departmental projects competing for the limited funds available for urban arterial roads.

Again, I repeat that I am pleased that these priorities are continually being reviewed by the Minister and his departmental officers. I realise, too, that the Minister is sympathetic to the district's needs, and I again draw the state of these two roads to his attention.

I now turn to another matter, the intersection of North-East and Hancock Roads, Tea Tree Gully, and I am sure that members will probably realise that I have raised this matter for several years by correspondence, questions, and speeches in this House. Because of the volume of traffic that uses this intersection, especially on Friday and Saturday (because there is a large shopping centre near the intersection), it is dangerous. Representations are continually being made to me by motorists, seeking the installation of traffic lights, and such installation has been approved in principle. The intersection has been made safer by minor improvements and that work was appreciated, but not sufficient has been done, having regard to the increase in population and the volume of traffic to which I have referred. On July 3 last year, in a letter to me, the Minister stated:

Based on existing priorities there are 59 intersections in the metropolitan area which have a higher priority for the installation of traffic signals than this particular intersection and, on the current rate of installation, it could well be four years before they are installed. The priority assessment is based upon a thorough investigation of accident histories and traffic volumes. Whilst it is recognised that statistics alone are not an entirely satisfactory basis for assessment of priorities, they do enable an objective assessment of the individual situation, which can then be modified subjectively. Relative priorities are re-examined at frequent intervals to ensure that the limited available resources are utilised in the most effective manner. The priority assessment of this particular intersection has recently been reviewed, but the review did not reveal any factors which would justify any alteration of its existing priority rating.

Of course, that was written about 12 months ago, so since then the priority has been reduced. I have spoken in the House on the matter since that time, and I again suggest that statistics do not necessarily reveal the potential danger of this intersection, and, because local residents know it to be dangerous, many of them try to avoid using it. I again ask the Minister to reassess the priority of this intersection.

Mr. GUNN (Eyre): I wish to reply to the untruthful attacks and statements that have been made by Mr. Bruce Muirden, a Government press secretary. This is the second occasion on which this gentleman has launched on me attacks which are not based on fact and which have no semblance of truth. Most of us on this side are aware of the activities of Mr. Muirden, who slinks or sneaks around this building like a snake. Mostly, he sits in the gallery and, contrary to Standing Orders, takes notes. We all recall that he was one of the first persons to be arrested at the moratorium, when the Labor Party was supporting the communist cause in Vietnam.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: When you say things like that, you justify anyone outside saying anything about you.

Mr. GUNN: Mr. Muirden can give it, so now he can take it. He is going to get it. This is the second occasion on which this gentleman has seen fit to attack me. In the *Nation Review* of August 12 to August 18, 1972, he launched an attack on me, but on that occasion he did not have the courage to put his name to the report. He has become more brazen since then and has now written, under his name, another report in *Nation Review*.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Tell us what he said.

Mr. GUNN: If the Minister wants to know, he should read the newspaper. I am making the speech and I do not need any assistance from the Minister or anyone else. It is clear that this Government is quite prepared to organise and manipulate its huge press machine that it has built up purely for political purposes. The Government has set out to denigrate every member on this side, and it will not give us equal facilities. The Government has set up a Dr. Goebbels machine in the Premier's Department to monitor all the press programmes. Now the Government has armies of press secretaries going around and it even allows people who are paid by the taxpayers of this State to write in newspapers, particularly newspapers of this kind, which one could say were of the very lowest character and the lowest ebb of journalism. Normally they print not only untruths but also pornographic material.

Mr. Venning: Did you say he worked in the Premier's Department?

Mr. GUNN: No, he is the Minister for the Environment's press secretary. Before his arrest in the Vietnam moratorium he worked for the Minister of Works. He was also press secretary for the Minister for the Environment (the Hon. Mr. Broomhill).

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: What was untrue about what he said about you?

Mr. GUNN: In his previous article headed "Bolshevik under the bed"—

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Did he call you a Bolshevik? That's not true!

Mr. GUNN: In this article he was referring to members of the Liberal Party and selected my good friend the member for Glenelg, referring to him as—

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: What did he say about him?

Mr. GUNN: He referred to him as a "pom", which is an insult in itself. As a person holding left wing views, a person against racial discrimination, he made a personal attack on the member for Glenelg. He then aligned me with the League of Rights.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. GUNN: I challenge Mr. Muirden to prove his statement. I also challenge him to make that statement in a fashion that would give me the opportunity outside this building of making him prove it.

The Hon. Peter Duncan: You used this place to attack him.

Mr. GUNN: I was prepared to take legal action against him last time; I am prepared to take legal action against him on this occasion, too. As far as I am concerned—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. GUNN: —he is a person of the lowest character when he makes untruthful statements to harm me politically. He went on to talk about my new district and about the Labor strongholds of Coober Pedy and Andamooka. For his information, I point out that only 32 votes were recorded for the Labor Party in Andamooka and not many more at Coober Pedy. The same will occur at the next election. If Mr. Muirden would care to oppose me at the next election in the new district I would be pleased to oppose him.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You're a brave man.

Mr. GUNN: I would be pleased to have Mr. Muirden as an opponent, because we know the sorts of activity he has been involved in.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: You ran out of Flinders.

Mr. GUNN: I would be pleased to reply to that because, if the Minister looks at the map, he would be fully aware about where I live and why I chose the seat I did choose. Over the past few months, several statements have been made about me, and this matter also relates to the member for Flinders. The statements emanated from Mr. Matheson and other people, and they were quite untruthful.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Which statements were they?

Mr. GUNN: They were letters written to the editors of certain papers. A statement was made that, because I had not replied to certain attacks that were made on me, they must be true. I have always believed that the aim of members on this side should be to defeat the Labor Party, and I deliberately did not reply, because I did not want to cause ill feeling with the people in the Country Party. One of the attacks made on me was of a libellous nature. I have taken advice from three people in legal practice, and all the opinions have advised me to take legal action.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: How many of those opinions did you pay for?

Mr. GUNN: I paid for one of them. If I was—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member care to say that this matter is *sub judice*? If it is, it would be quite improper to refer to it in this House. He needs to indicate whether he has actually issued a writ, because if he has done so the matter is *sub judice* and, under our Standing Orders, he should not refer to it.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr. GUNN: I was fully aware that there was no point of order. I was aware that the Minister of Mines and Energy (commonly referred to as the Minister of Hot Air) was deliberately wasting time. In his usual fashion, he likes to grandstand. If I were the wretched person I was painted in those articles, I would have served a writ on those people and let them take their chances.

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

Motion carried.

At 10.22 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday September 8, at 2 p.m.