

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, October 5, 1976

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

Electoral Act Amendment (No. 3),
Public Purposes Loan.

PETITIONS: SEXUAL OFFENCES

Mr. KENEALLY presented a petition signed by 14 electors of South Australia, praying that the House reject or amend any legislation to abolish the crime of incest or to lower the age of consent in respect of sexual offences.

Mr. BECKER presented a similar petition signed by 90 electors of South Australia.

Petitions received.

PETITION: UNIONISM

Dr. TONKIN presented a petition signed by 761 electors of South Australia, praying that the House reject any legislation which would deprive employees of the right to choose whether or not they wished to join a trade union or to provide for compulsory unionism.

Petition received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: SUN ECLIPSE

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

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: On September 23 the member for Millicent asked me a question about the forthcoming solar eclipse and, in particular, what effort was being made by my department to warn children of the dangers of viewing this phenomenon. The short answer to the honourable member's question is contained on page 652 of the *Education Gazette*, in which teachers were asked to draw the attention of children to the danger and to stress that the only safe ways of viewing the eclipse would be to see it on television or by the use of a so-called pin-hole camera.

In the past couple of days I have had my attention drawn to two misleading and possibly dangerous statements about this matter, hence this statement in which I seek to clarify any misleading impressions people may have been given as a result of reading these articles. In an otherwise excellent article in *Australian Family Circle* for October, 1976, the following statement is made:

If you wish to watch the partial phases by looking directly up at the sun, first make a filter by sandwiching at least two layers of exposed black and white film between two pieces of glass. Do not try to look through exposed colour film as it will not block all the necessary radiation. And do not forego the glass. It not only makes the filter easier to hold, but it also blocks radiation. However, in the October edition of the *Astronomical Society of South Australia's Bulletin*, it is made clear that to view the sun continuously one must use a metallic

filter of density three to four, which reduces the radiation from the sun by a factor of between 1 000 and 10 000. It is stressed that gelatine filters or coloured glass should not be used and, because some metallic filters have pin-holes, it is advisable to hold them at arm's length. Non-metallic filters do not normally reduce infra-red radiation, which can have a devastating effect on the eye as can the visible radiation from the sun.

I would therefore strongly advise people to take the advice offered by the Astronomical Society and if they have a metallic filter to only use it in company with someone who has had considerable experience in solar observation. The second misleading statement is contained in an answer to "What's Your Problem" in this morning's *Advertiser*. In what is clearly a misprint, it is stated that the total eclipse at Naracoorte will last about three minutes, whilst in Adelaide it will last for 20 minutes. There will be no total eclipse at Adelaide nor, indeed, at Naracoorte, which is marginally outside of the zone of totality, the centre line of which passes slightly to the north of Mount Gambier.

It is safe to look at the totally obscured sun with the naked eye, but to continue viewing after totality would be to risk severe damage to the eye, the more so because the pupils will be dilated as a result of the darkened sky during the total eclipse. The Astronomical Society suggests a filter of density one or two even during totality because there could be some discomfort caused by light from the solar corona because of the extension of the eye pupil. It should also be made clear that the so-called pin-hole camera works by projection, and it is not safe to view the sun directly through the pin-hole as apparently some misguided people have claimed.

In summary, I would suggest that people living outside the zone of totality view the phenomenon on television, and those inside it likewise except where they are accompanied by a person who has experience in the techniques of solar observation and has the necessary equipment. Since the eclipse will occur in the late afternoon, it may be less spectacular than has been anticipated because of the low elevation of the sun and hence greater chance of interference from clouds or other obscuring material in the earth's atmosphere.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: McNALLY ESCAPEES

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE (Minister of Community Welfare): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I have received a written report on the escape of three youths from the McNally Training Centre on the night of October 1, 1976, and I have also inspected the area involved. The report shows that some standard security procedures were not observed before and during the escape. The report also confirms that a file that had previously been stolen from a workman enabled the escape to be made from an area which the staff had believed to be completely secure. Having got out of the building, the escapees were able to use a trolley, which had been left in the grounds of the security section contrary to instructions, to help them scale the outside wall.

This lapse in security requirements contributed considerably to the escape, and procedures are being reviewed immediately to try to prevent any recurrence. As an immediate measure, I have ordered a departmental inquiry into the escape and the circumstances surrounding it. In

the longer term, I remind the House of the appointment recently of a Community Welfare Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Richard Nies, to inquire into, among other matters, the facilities and security at McNally and the other assessment and training centres in South Australia.

Yesterday, the Chairman and two other members of the committee, including Judge Newman of the Adelaide Juvenile Court, went to McNally to inspect the security section from which the escape was made. This independent committee is actively carrying out its inquiry and I expect to receive its report and recommendations before the end of the year.

QUESTIONS

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

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT LAND

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Of the surplus land sold by the Highways Department during 1975-76, what was:

- (a) the location of the land, and the date on which it was acquired;
- (b) the book value; and
- (c) the sale price and the name of the purchaser; and was the land auctioned or sold by private tender?

2. How many proposed auctions of land, or private tenders of land for sale, have been withdrawn in the period July 1, 1975, to September 30, 1976, and of this land:

- (a) where was it located;
- (b) for what reason was it withdrawn;
- (c) upon whose instructions has the land been subsequently disposed of and to whom; and
- (d) what price was obtained for this land, and how does this price compare to the book value in the accounts of the department?

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

1. The information sought by the honourable member would be extremely difficult and costly to extract. If the honourable member has a specific case on which he requires information, I suggest that he approach me direct and I will endeavour to assist him.

2. One.

- (a) Henley Beach Road, Fulham;
- (b) to enable the Italian community to consider the land's potential for the erection of an Italian village for the elderly;
- (c) the land has not been disposed of; and
- (d) not applicable.

MEADOWS DUMP

Mr. WOTTON (on notice): Has the Minister a record of having received correspondence forwarded from the Heysen electorate office on April 14, 1975, and December 11, 1975, concerning complaints in relation to Meadows council's rubbish dump near Macclesfield and, if he has:

- (a) when is it intended that receipt of these letters will be acknowledged; and

- (b) when is it intended that a reply will be given to the request made?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The letters dated April 14, 1975, and December 11, 1975, were received by the Minister of Lands on April 16 and December 16, 1975, respectively. The answers to the two specific questions are as follows:

(a) and (b). The present position was set out in a letter of October 1, 1976, in which the honourable member was advised that the pollution aspects associated with the rubbish dump have been investigated by the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the district council of Meadows instructed to take appropriate remedial action. The Director-General of Health has now been asked to investigate the present and future rubbish disposal problems at Macclesfield. Further information will be conveyed to the Heysen electorate office on receipt of that report.

TELECOM LOAN

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Why were the Savings Bank of South Australia and the State Bank of South Australia not made bankers to the Telecom Australia loan issue?

2. Will they be included in future similar loans and, if not, why not?

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

1. The appointment of bankers is a matter for Telecom Australia and its underwriters to decide. I am therefore unable to answer this part of the question.

2. If an invitation were received, I believe the boards of both banks would consider it, having regard to the conditions attaching to it.

BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What has been the total cost of the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission to date, including administration and all related expenses?

2. Are commissioners' salaries included in this amount and, if not, what is the estimated cost of their time in connection with commission duties?

3. How many copies of the report were printed and of these:

- (a) how many complimentary copies were issued; and
- (b) what number was sold, and what were the total receipts from sales?

4. What was the total cost of printing and distributing this report?

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

1. The total cost of the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission to date is not yet known as all accounts for service rendered have not yet been received. Accounts and charges amounting to \$20 356.59 have been paid.

2. Commissioners' normal salaries are not included in the above amount. It is not possible to estimate the cost of their time in connection with commission duties. No fee has been or will be paid to the Chairman. Part fees have been paid to the other two Commissioners, the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary, and these are included in the above figure of \$20 356.59.

3. There were 1 800 copies of the report printed and of these:

- (a) 1 100 complimentary copies are being distributed; and
 - (b) of 700 copies available for sale from the Government Printer, 420 copies had been sold by September 22, 1976. Receipts from these sales amounted to \$630.
4. Total cost of printing and distributing the report has been \$13 196.28.

POLICE PENSIONS FUND

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What was the result of the investigation made by the Public Actuary into the sufficiency of the Police Pensions Fund?

2. Will a reassessment be necessary and, if so, when will this be done, and what is the reason for the delay?

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

1. The result of the investigation into the sufficiency of the Police Pensions Fund as at June 30, 1974, cannot be made available until it has been certified by the Public Actuary.

2. A great deal of work has been done towards the investigation and valuation, but Mr. Stratford, the previous Public Actuary, required further work to be done before certifying the valuation. Mr. Stratford's application to retire on the grounds of ill-health has now been approved by the Government and the procedures to appoint his successor are under way. The matter of how much work remains to be done, how it is to be done and the time to be taken must be determined by the new Public Actuary.

PIPELINES AUTHORITY

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What was the total cost incurred by the Pipelines Authority of South Australia in relation to the proposed establishment of a petro-chemical plant at Redcliff, for planning and preparation of estimates of capital costs associated with the construction of a liquid pipeline from Moomba and a natural gas pipeline from the existing line to Redcliff Point?

2. Will the authority be reimbursed for this cost and, if not, why not?

3. What were the recommendations and findings of the authority on these proposed pipelines?

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

1. The sum is \$222 578, including interest capitalised to June 30, 1976.

2. The original Government intention was for the Cooper Basin producer companies to reimburse the Government for this expenditure if a contract for the construction of the pipelines is not let before January 1, 1977. This matter as yet is not resolved.

3. The authority was not required to make specific recommendations but to perform preliminary investigation work, including detailed estimates of capital and operating costs, associated with the provision of liquids and gas pipelines to Redcliff as part of the overall investigation into the viability of the petro-chemical project.

CRAFT AUTHORITY

Mr. BECKER (on notice): What action is being taken to reduce the increasing losses of \$437 000 incurred by the South Australian Craft Authority and to ensure proper control by the authority over handling all financial transactions, including stock control records and recording and control of debtors?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The South Australian Craft Authority has not incurred losses of \$437 000, as stated by the honourable member. The authority has been granted \$436 688 over the last three years, and this money was spent largely on establishing and maintaining training workshops. Of the total sum granted, \$121 184 (or close to one-third of the moneys) has been spent on plant, machinery and building improvements which are still there as fixed assets. The accounting methods of the authority were examined by a firm of chartered accountants (Messrs. Irish, Young and Outhwaite) in March of this year. Following their recommendations a full-time accountant was employed in May. A new system of stock control has been implemented and is subject to monthly stock checks. Methods of recording cash sales and sales on account have been reviewed and a new method with stricter controls instituted. The authority has decided to show its accounts on a profit and loss basis and not simple receipts and payments as with most Government departments. No other training institutions show their accounts in this manner, but the authority is attempting to make its workshops self-supporting as the skills of the trainees improve, and has therefore elected to provide a full set of accounts.

LANDS DEPARTMENT DEBTORS

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What action is being taken to review sundry debtors of the Lands Department?

2. What was, in each category, the total amount outstanding in rents, principal, interest, rates, etc.?

3. What relief is being given, or will be given, to those people unable to meet outstandings due and, if relief will not be given, why not?

4. Why were the Berri water and drainage accounts not rendered on time, and have steps been taken to prevent a repetition and, if steps have not been taken, why not?

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

1. A reallocation of duties and a request for appropriate accounting machines to enable age-of-debt listings and other information to be available at more frequent intervals in conjunction with revised recovery procedures.

2. Amounts outstanding as at 30/6/76:

	\$
Rents	345 294
Principal	2 641 791
Interest	706 323
Rates	625 407
Miscellaneous	49 278
	<hr/>
	\$4 368 093

The above outstandings include \$3 520 140 under War Service Land Settlement and various rural assistance schemes financed by the Commonwealth. In many cases security is held over crop proceeds.

3. Depending on individual circumstances, those persons who have a genuine reason for not being able to meet outstandings may be given relief by extension of time to pay; payment by regular instalments or acceptance of assignment of the proceeds from farm produce.

4. The fixing of a new five-year maximum drainage rate for Berri was involved and additional information to support recommendations was required before a Cabinet decision on the rates to apply could be obtained and consequently the decision was made too late to allow rate notices to go out on time.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE POOL

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What was the reason for the increase from \$19 800 to \$22 000 in approved expenditure for the swimming pool at Government House?

2. What type of swimming pool was installed and what was:

(a) its size; and

(b) construction?

3. Who installed this pool?

4. Is the pool heated and, if not, why not?

5. Were tenders called and, if so, what was the highest and the lowest tender?

6. Why was the successful tenderer selected?

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

1. Departmental design and supervision charges.

2. The pool is an in-ground type of reinforced concrete construction of irregular shape with dimensions of 10.5 m long x 5.0 m wide x 1.2 to 2.6 m deep.

3. Marlin Engineering Pty. Ltd. of Walkerville.

4. Yes.

5. Yes. It is Government policy not to divulge contract prices.

6. Marlin Engineering submitted the lowest tender and was considered competent to undertake the work.

MONARTO

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Why has no provision been made by the Monarto Development Commission for long service leave and superannuation for its employees?

2. When will provision be made, and what are the total respective amounts involved?

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

1. The Monarto Development Commission has not previously made provision in its accounts for long service leave and superannuation in respect of its employees for the following reasons:

The majority of the employees have had relatively little service with the commission or the Government and, therefore, will not be eligible for long service leave for some time.

Almost half of the employees have chosen not to contribute to the S.A. Superannuation Fund and, therefore, the commission has no liability in respect to such employees.

It was considered that such provisions would more appropriately be made when the commission was in a position to generate revenue from the sale and lease

of land following urban development at Monarto. Provision for long service leave and superannuation would be included with the commission's direct costs and overheads and taken into account in determining required sale prices or rents for such land.

2. As the commission is now carrying out work under the Monarto (Additional Powers) Act, and is charging for its services on a cost recovery basis, it has become necessary to prepare an estimate of the cost loadings involved. Long service leave and superannuation form part of these costs, and provisions for these items will be made in the financial accounts for this year. At June 30, 1976, the provision for long service leave would have been about \$62 000. In respect of superannuation, an actuarial calculation would need to be made to determine this amount. This will be done in May/June, 1977, for inclusion in the financial accounts.

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. How many years notice or warning will be given to public servants in Government departments due to be relocated at Monarto?

2. Are persons who now join these Government departments given written notice at the time of joining that they may be relocated at Monarto?

3. What is the advice of the Minister to young public servants in these departments who are trying to decide whether to build their own house or rent one until being relocated?

4. Is it still the long-term plan of the Government to relocate at Monarto the Lands, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Environment Departments?

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

1. Any public servants who may be transferred to Monarto would have several years warning whether or not their office would be located at Monarto when their department is relocated. It is intended that individual notice be given to public servants 12 months in advance of the month in which their office is to be relocated, and at least three months notice to be given when the actual date of relocation is known.

2. Advertisements of vacant offices in the relocating departments carry a notice to the effect that the appointee will be initially located in Adelaide but will later be relocated to Monarto. This information is also included in letters of offer to applicants from outside the Public Service.

3. It is not the policy or practice of any Minister to give advice to public servants, who are liable to be transferred to and from various country locations throughout the State, on personal matters such as the purchase or rental of a home pending such transfer.

4. See reply to Question on Notice of September 14, 1976.

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Has the Highways Department investigated the feasibility of having its own heavy rescue vehicles for moving semi-trailers and similar vehicles involved in accidents especially on freeways, and, if so:

(a) what were the findings;

(b) why was the suggestion not proceeded with; and

(c) will a reappraisal be made, and, if so, when?

2. If the matter has not been considered will it be investigated, especially in the Hills region, and, if not, why not?

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

1. The Highways Department has given serious consideration to the introduction of departmental breakdown vehicles for the South-Eastern Freeway only.

(a) No general or particular freeway need was found for such action because of limited breakdowns and relatively low traffic volumes, the availability of commercial vehicle rescue services, the availability of emergency and other telephones and the availability of road shoulders, parking lanes and breakdown lanes on the freeway.

(b) See (a).

(c) Not contemplated at this time.

2. Not applicable.

MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Has notice been published in the *Government Gazette* in terms of section 119 of the Motor Vehicles Act, and, if so, when?

2. If notice has not been published, why not, and when will the section be complied with and an agreement signed?

3. Why was section 120 of the Motor Vehicles Act contravened, and when will the section be complied with, and, if not, why not?

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

1. A notice in terms of section 119 of the Motor Vehicles Act has not been published in the *Government Gazette* to date.

2. Negotiations between the approved insurers and the Crown Law Department representing the Minister have been completed, and copies of the scheme upon which agreement has been reached, together with suggested formats for notices in the *Gazette*, have been forwarded to the Minister for approval this week.

3. Section 120 of the Motor Vehicles Act has not been used. Following the unexpected reduction in the number of approved insurers that created the need to amend section 119, it has been considered to be more expedient for the remaining insurers to meet the liabilities of the nominal defendant, as has been done in the past and in anticipation of the scheme upon which agreement has now been reached.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Are further Road Safety Council instruction centres to be established, and, if so:

(a) where;

(b) when; and

(c) what will be the estimated cost?

2. If further centres are not to be established, why not?

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

1. Yes. Consideration is being given to the development of a master plan to expand the activities of the Road Safety Council, and this will include proposals for additional centres. Until this master plan has been adopted, it is not possible to say where and when additional centres will be constructed, nor what their cost will be. The establishment of an instruction centre in the northern suburbs similar to that at Oaklands Park is being considered at present.

2. Not applicable.

KILKENNY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Has the rental received by the Principal of the Kilkenny Technical College, and paid into the school fund, now been paid into Consolidated Revenue and, if not, why not?

2. What was the total amount received in rental, and, of this amount, how much was paid into the school fund and Consolidated Revenue, respectively?

3. Which company leased the warehouse and for what reasons, and what are the terms and conditions of the lease?

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

1. All moneys received in rental from the Detroit Engine and Tool Company, that is, \$500 for use of a shed, have been transferred to Consolidated Revenue.

2. See 1.

3. The company known as Detroit Engine and Tool Company was granted approval to retain the use of a shed for equipment storage. The Further Education Department had purchased the land and buildings, and the company required storage until it had completed transferring to its new location. The terms of storage were simply that "the department accepted no responsibility for insurance, fire, or any form of loss or damage to articles held."

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Why was an amount of \$10 741, paid by the Public Examinations Board of South Australia, to three firms during June, 1976, before receipt of goods?

2. Who authorised the payment and was the transaction checked?

3. What action has been taken to prevent a repetition?

4. What were the names and addresses of the three firms involved and what goods were purchased and when were they delivered?

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

1. In March, 1976, the Public Examinations Board believed it might have a surplus of funds from its 1975-76 budget, sufficient to cover the purchase of some special equipment. Consequently, provision for purchase of the equipment was not made in the 1976-77 budget. The situation then became complicated because of uncertainty as to whether the surplus funds would be needed for indexation salary increases. Consequently by the time the situation was clarified the financial year was almost completed, so in order to cover the cost of the equipment the secretary paid for the equipment at the time the order was issued.

2. Authorised and checked by the Secretary, Public Examinations Board.

3. The Secretary was not aware at the time that this was an incorrect procedure. He is now aware that it is, and will not take such action again. He acted in good faith in an endeavour to avoid problems that might have arisen if he had waited for the items to be included in the 1977-78 budget.

4. The firms involved and relevant delivery dates are as follows:

Ernsmith, King William Street, Adelaide, Sound Equipment (delivered early July),
Addressograph-Multigraph Australia Proprietary Limited, 86 Fullarton Road, Norwood, Microfiche equipment (delivered July) (1 Bruning 95 Microfiche retrieval/display still to come),

Bell and Howell Australia Proprietary Limited, 61 Manton Street, Hindmarsh, Microfiche equipment (delivered July and August).

It should be noted that all the items, with the exception of the Bruning 95 Microfiche retrieval/display were available at the time of ordering and could have been delivered to the board's office before payment. The delay in delivery was caused by the board's requiring certain modifications to the equipment.

COMMUNITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Does the Community Welfare Department intend to establish further offices and, if so, where and when?
2. How many social workers are employed by the department?
3. Does the department consider this to be a satisfactory number, and, if not:
 - (a) how many more are required; and
 - (b) what action is being taken to recruit social workers?
4. What action is being taken by the department to encourage the public to use the services offered?

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

1. In line with its policy of decentralisation, provision is included in the department's budget for 1976-77 for new offices to be established at Hillcrest, Clare, Ingle Farm, and Kadina this financial year.
2. The department has an establishment of 213 community welfare workers and 21 Aboriginal community workers. At present there are 12 vacancies for community welfare workers. It is expected that these vacancies will be filled when departmental cadets and study award holders complete their studies at the end of the academic year.
3. (a) Yes, at this stage. However, some additional social work positions for specialised services will be required during this financial year.
(b) It is not expected that there will be any major difficulty in attracting sufficient applicants.
4. The department's policy of decentralisation has been designed to provide services that are visible and accessible to people in local communities, and to ensure that consumers have access to a readily available and personalised service. The department employs an Information and Publicity Officer, and a range of information brochures and material is available for distribution to other Government departments, voluntary agencies, and local people.

SCHOOL NURSES

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. Which disadvantaged high schools have been provided with nurses seconded from the Public Health Department and how are these schools selected?
2. Why has Glengowrie High School not been provided with a nurse?
3. Will consideration be given to the appointment of a nurse at Glengowrie High School, and, if not, why not?
4. Will this facility be extended to primary schools?

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

1. Schools to which school health nurses have been seconded are:
 - Angle Park High School,
 - Croydon High School,
 - Goodwood Boys High School,

Kensington-Norwood Girls and Marryatville Boys High Schools,
LeFevre High School,
Nailsworth Boys High School,
Nailsworth Girls High School,
Port Adelaide High School,
Port Augusta High School,
Thebarton Boys High School,
Thebarton Girls High School.

These schools were selected on the basis of socio-economic disadvantage in the school's community.

2. Glengowrie High School did not qualify for assistance under the programme on the basis of socio-economic need.
3. Yes, if increased funding for such positions becomes available or if relocation of some nurses is considered appropriate by the Education Department.
4. Extension will depend on an evaluation of the effectiveness of such postings in the promotion of the health of children at school. Evaluations are now being conducted by this department and the Education Department.

FIRE BRIGADES LEVIES

Mr. BECKER (on notice): Does the Government intend to waive the levy paid by local governing bodies to the Fire Brigades Board and, if not, why not?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: No. The annual levies raised by the Fire Brigades Board to local government bodies within fire districts are in accordance with section 54 (1) of the Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1974.

TOW TRUCKS

Dr. TONKIN (on notice):

1. What progress has been made by the committee of inquiry into tow-truck operations, announced by the Attorney-General in reply to a question from the member for Mitcham on August 3, 1976?
2. When is it expected that the committee's report will be submitted to the Government, and will the report be tabled in this House?

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

1. Considerable progress has been made.
2. Hopefully, by the end of October, at which time a decision will be made regarding its being tabled in the House.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Mr. GUNN (on notice):

1. How many schools will be closed by the Education Department during the remainder of this year or early next year?
2. Which schools will be closed, and what schools will the pupils who have been affected by the closing down of their present school attend?

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

1. Two.
2. When Karcultaby Area School opens early next year, the schools at Minnipa and Poochera will close, and the pupils will go to Karcultaby.

ELLISTON-LOCK ROAD

Mr. GUNN (on notice):

1. What plans has the Highways Department, during the next five years, to seal the Elliston-Lock road?

2. Has a survey been carried out on this road to determine the traffic density?

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

1. Subject to the availability of funds, it is planned to commence work on the Elliston-Lock Road within the period stated.

2. Yes.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Mr. GUNN (on notice): What action does the Government intend to take to implement the six-point plan put to it by the South Australian Livestock and Meat Industry Advisory Committee?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Points 1 and 2 of the plan submitted by the committee have been resolved by co-operative action by Samcor and the stock agents. There is no need to act on point 3 at this stage, since private operators are dealing quite adequately with light-weight lambs and intervention by Samcor at this stage would not be warranted. While points 4, 5 and 6 are relevant to the meat industry, they are not specific to the drought situation. They are now being investigated separately by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department.

S.A. LIVESTOCK AND MEAT INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
6 point plan for drought relief

Reduction of killing charges for lower grade sheep (in between type):

Waiving of costs for slaughter of condemned sheep:

Reduction in slaughter charges for light lambs suitable for the Middle-East trade:

Abolish levy charges for meat delivered into the Adelaide metropolitan area from both intra and interstate:

No restriction on intake of meat from country works with adequate inspection staff:

Restriction on calf weights to be discontinued.

ALBERTON OVAL

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What were the findings of the Hockridge report into the dispute concerning Alberton Oval?

2. Has the Government been involved in endeavouring to settle this dispute, and, if so:—

(a) what have been the Government's recommendations; and

(b) is the Government assisting in settling the dispute?

3. Has consideration been given to compulsory acquisition by the Government of Alberton Oval, and, if not, why not?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The report prepared by the late Mr. K. Hockridge was made in an endeavour to resolve a dispute between the parties concerned. It is considered that it would be inappropriate to release publicly the report.

LAND VALUATIONS

Dr. EASTICK (on notice): In the determination of "capital value", "site value" and "unimproved value" under the Valuation of Land Act, 1971-1975, what regard, if any, is paid to the fact that the relevant land is subject to the Urban Land (Price Control) Act, 1973?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Where any land constitutes a vacant allotment of residential land situated in a controlled area, and either the allotment was created during the control period by subdivision or resubdivision of a larger parcel of land; or the holder of a proprietary interest in the allotment acquired his interest in the allotment during the control period, the Valuer-General has regard to the fact that the relevant land is subject to the Urban Land (Price Control) Act, 1973. In determining the valuation of any vacant allotment of residential land subject to the Urban Land (Price Control) Act, 1973, under the Valuation of Land Act, 1971-1975, the Valuer-General ensures that the capital value, site value, and unimproved value does not exceed the controlled selling price of the land.

BOLIVAR WATER

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (on notice):

1. How many private irrigators on the Northern Adelaide Plains have the use of Bolivar effluent water, and who are these irrigators?

2. What are the terms of the contract and the charges made in each case, and does the Government intend to make any changes in these arrangements?

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

1. See Part 2.

2. The irrigators and their terms of contract and charges are as follows:

Angle Vale Irrigation Proprietary Limited:

The present agreement is effective to June 30, 1979.

Charges are:

(a) A standing charge of \$75 a year.

(b) 0.22c a kilolitre for all water pumped.

The charge a kilolitre to be reviewed at July 1, 1977. The consumer has the right to request a renewal of the agreement for a further five years, subject to revision of the standing charge and the charge a kilolitre for water pumped.

Copanpra Pastoral Company Limited:

The present agreement is effective to June 30, 1978.

Charges are:

(a) A standing charge of \$388 a year.

(b) 0.22c a kilolitre for all water pumped. The consumer has the right of renewal of the agreement for a further five years, subject to revision of the standing charge and the charge a kilolitre for water pumped.

N. Tassone:

The present agreement is effective to June 30, 1978.

Charges are:

(a) A standing charge of \$50 a year.

(b) 0.22c a kilolitre for all water pumped. The consumer has the right to request a renewal of the agreement for a further five years, subject to revision of the standing charge and the charge a kilolitre for water pumped.

An application for an increase in entitlement has recently been received from one of the irrigators that is being referred to the Water Resources Council for consideration. Apart from this, no other changes are contemplated to the existing agreements.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (on notice):

1. What was the estimated cost of disinfectant facilities for the treatment of Bolivar effluent water in the recent report *Bolivar Effluent Irrigation Study*?

2. What would be the estimated annual cost of operating the scheme if the water were not disinfected?

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

1. The estimated capital cost of the nitrifying and chlorinating plant as proposed in the Bolivar effluent irrigation study is \$4 200 000, and the total annual cost, including operating costs, interest, and depreciation is \$870 000.

2. \$1 900 000, including interest and depreciation.

ROAD TAX

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (on notice): How much was collected under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act during 1975-76, and what was the estimated administrative cost of collecting this tax?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: An amount of \$4 242 551, with the cost of collection being \$504 081.

MOTOR VEHICLES DEPARTMENT

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (on notice): Does the Government intend to establish an office of the Motor Registration Division in the Barossa Valley, and, if so, where will this office be located and when is it to be established?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Yes, at Nuriootpa. It is expected that the office will be open within six months.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SECURITY

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY (on notice): Has a security officer been appointed in the Education Department and, if so, what are his duties?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: A security officer was appointed to the Education Department on November 17, 1975. He resigned on August 27, 1976, to take up a position with the Australian Health Insurance Commission. The vacancy will be advertised soon. The duties include the responsibility to develop, evaluate, and implement preventive security measures; investigation of illegal entries and wilful damage in schools; liaison with other departments and firms concerning security devices, and the monitoring of trials and preparation of reports.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Mr. EVANS (on notice):

1. What was the total number of persons employed by the Royal Adelaide Hospital in each profession for each of the last six fiscal years?

2. What was the total number of beds available for use by patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital for each of the last six fiscal years?

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

(a) The details of persons employed in the various professions are available for the last five years only. They are:

Profession	Number				
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Medicine	354	405	413	458	461
Dentistry	36	39	43	45	46
Nursing	2192	2131	2267	2274	2288
Pharmacy	16	19	19	19	19
Physiotherapy	40	40	40	41	43
Social Work	17	17	18	18	19
Speech Therapy	3	3	3	3	3
Occupational Therapy	3	3	3	3	4
Dietetics	4	5	5	7	8
Dental Nursing	133	112	115	114	110
(b) The total number of beds available were:					
1971					1298
1972					1325
1973					1304
1974					1281
1975					1258
1976					1273

NATURAL GAS

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. Will the price of natural gas as supplied to consumers by the Pipeline Authority increase either later this year or early next year, and, if so, what will be the extent of the price rise?

2. If there is to be a rise in the price of natural gas, will this mean an increase in the price of the gas for consumers of the S.A. Gas Company?

3. If there is to be a price rise, when will the announcement be made?

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

1. The contract for the sale of natural gas by the Cooper Basin producer companies to the Pipelines Authority allows any of the parties on or before September 1 in each year to request a price review. Such a request has been received from the producers this year and is being considered by the authority. It cannot be said at this stage whether or not a price variation will result or, if it does, how much it will be. Any variation that is agreed will be announced when known and will apply as from January 1, 1977.

2. The contract for the sale of gas by the authority to the South Australian Gas Company contains the provision that any variation in the price payable by the authority to the producers is passed on to the South Australian Gas Company. Whether such increase is in turn passed on to their consumers is a matter for the South Australian Gas Company.

3. Vide 1 above.

AYERS HOUSE

Mr. BECKER (on notice): Were any fittings from Ayers House sold during 1975-76, and if so:

(a) why were they sold;

(b) was the sale by auction or by tender;

(c) who handled the sale; and

(d) what was the sale price of each of the articles sold, and what were the total receipts from these sales?

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: No fittings from Ayers House were sold during 1975-76.

MODULOCK HOUSING

Mr. ALLISON (on notice):

1. What is the present hindrance to completion and signing of the agreement to establish the Modulock organisation in Mount Gambier, and when will the problem be solved?

2. Is substantial alteration needed to the patented Modulock design in order that components manufactured in Mount Gambier will conform to South Australian building regulations?

3. What is the expected date for commencement and completion of the Mount Gambier Modulock factory, and when will production of housing components commence?

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

1. At this time it is not certain that the application for Australian patents for the Modulock system will be granted, and it is impossible to say specifically when this problem is likely to be resolved.

2. No.

3. Vide 1 above.

MOUNT GAMBIER MILL

Mr. ALLISON (on notice):

1. Is it expected that the re-equipping and automation of the Woods and Forests Department mill in Mount Gambier will substantially increase production?

2. Will there be a substantial increase in the number of jobs available at this mill, or will automation reduce the number of employees required?

3. Will the nature of employment in the automated sections change from unskilled to skilled labour?

4. What proportion of unskilled labour will continue to be employed at the mill?

5. Will the amount provided in the Loan Estimates for the Woods and Forests Department for plant and machinery replacements be sufficient to keep that department's saw-milling operations competitive, and, if not, will adequate funding be made available in 1976-77 to complete the re-equipping and modernisation of the Mount Gambier mill?

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

1. Yes.

2. No. Automation is expected to reduce the number employed in the "green" mill, but increased throughput will create more jobs in the "dry" mill. The total number of jobs will remain at about the present level.

3. Yes.

4. The exact proportion of unskilled labour cannot be stated accurately at this stage, but it will decrease.

5. The re-equipping and automation of the Mount Gambier mill is subject to investigation by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works before consideration by Cabinet, and re-equipping will not be completed during the 1976-77 financial year.

MOOMBA AIR-STRIP

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. Does the Government support the need for an all-weather air strip at Moomba, and, if so, what action is the Government taking to ensure that such an air strip is constructed as soon as possible?

2. Because of the importance of this natural gas resource to South Australia, is the Government willing to give financial assistance to construct such an air strip?

3. Was there a danger earlier this year that the natural gas supply to Adelaide would have been cut or restricted because of heavy rains and floods and the lack of a suitable all-weather air strip at Moomba?

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

1. and 2. In view of the importance of the Cooper Basin in the supply of natural gas to both Adelaide and Sydney, the South Australian Government considers that a sealed air strip at Moomba could lead to a significant improvement in the operation of the Cooper Basin in adverse weather conditions. A further approach will be made to the Commonwealth Government on this question soon to see what financial assistance may be forthcoming. The terms of the Cooper Basin Producers Indenture provided for the upgrading of the Strzelecki Track, and the State Government already has a considerable financial commitment as a consequence.

3. There has been no threat to gas supplies in Adelaide this year because of the lack of an all-weather air strip. Considerable difficulty was experienced, however, in obtaining supplies of barytes and other mud materials required to bring the Big Lake No. 9 well back under control in December, 1975, and January, 1976. In this case it was necessary to use helicopters made available by the Royal Australian Air Force.

DENTAL HOSPITAL

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice): Was a report prepared on the dental facilities at the Royal Adelaide Dental Hospital, and, if so:

(a) what was the full title of the report;

(b) who prepared the report;

(c) what was the total fee for the preparation of this report;

(d) how long did the report take to prepare;

(e) has the report been released publicly, and, if not, why not;

(f) what were the recommendations of the report, and what action has been taken to adopt these recommendations; and

(g) what were the terms of reference for the preparation of this report?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Yes, a report has been prepared.

(a) Royal Adelaide Hospital, Dental Department, Survey of Dental Facilities.

(b) John Clements Proprietary Limited, Behavioural Scientists, Personnel and Marketing Research Consultants.

(c) \$29 460.

(d) 13 months.

(e) No. The report was prepared for the Board of Management, Royal Adelaide Hospital.

(f) The report recommended on the optimum use of facilities and building space needs for future development. Since the submission of the report the following action has been taken:

Departmental activities have been reorganised.

Work standards for laboratory areas have been adopted.

Senior nursing positions have been upgraded.

A position of Manager, Dental Laboratories has been created.

The space utilisation survey conducted by the consultants is being used as a base for future development planning of the Dental Department.

Additional staff has been recruited.

(g) To improve the working of the department and to provide a brief for architects in connection with any additional accommodation requirements.

Mr. DEAN BROWN (on notice):

1. How many persons are on the waiting list for dentures or denture repairs at the Royal Adelaide Dental Hospital?
2. How many dentures were provided or repaired during the past 12 months?
3. If there are delays in the supply of dentures, what are the reasons for the delays?

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

1. The waiting list for dentures at the Dental Hospital is now under review to assess the status of the people listed thereon. It is not possible to supply an accurate list until the responses to the review have been received and examined.

2. 6 319.

3. Delays in the supply of dentures can be attributed to the following:

- (a) a rapidly increasing number of applications for dentures from pensioners and indigent people;
- (b) difficulty in engaging and keeping professional dentists to carry out this type of work on a full-time basis. At present only part-time dentists are employed for this purpose;
- (c) output is increasing rapidly, but the increase in demand exceeds this improvement;
- (d) laboratory space is still severely limited, preventing employment of further technicians. This limitation will continue until the proposed extensions to the laboratories as recommended in the survey are carried out.

RADFORD REPORT

Mr. ALLISON (on notice): Has the Radford report on needs of the aged and other groups in Mount Gambier been finalised, and, if not:

- (a) when will the report be completed; and
- (b) will it be made public?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I am informed that the report being prepared by Professor Radford was commissioned by the Corporation of the City of Mount Gambier and is not yet completed.

- (a) It is expected that it will be available in mid-October.
- (b) This is a matter for the city council to decide.

SUPERANNUATION

Mr. ALLISON (on notice):

1. When is the cost of living increase calculated each year upon superannuation payments to retired South Australian public servants, and when are the increments added after such calculations have been made?
2. Does the Government have a fixed policy stipulating that full indexation shall apply, and, if not, what reduction formula is applied?
3. Are superannuants advised promptly of the amount of increase awarded after each indexation, and, if not, can the amounts be publicised promptly in future?

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

1. Cost of living increases are provided for under section 98 of the Superannuation Act, 1974-1976. The increase is based on the variation in the consumer price index (for

Adelaide) between June 30 of the current year and June 30 of the previous year. Described in the Act as the "adjustment percentage", this is published in the *Government Gazette* about mid-August, and pensions are adjusted from the first payment day in the following October.

2. The Act provides for the full amount of the "adjustment percentage" to apply to all pensioners except those whose pensions commenced within the 12 months prior to October 1, in which case a pro rata adjustment is made.

3. Pensioners are advised of the increase by way of circular letter with their first cheque in October, when the increase is paid. It is considered that, in general, any earlier advice of the adjustment would lead to confusion among our pensioners, particularly older ones who may expect to receive the higher rate of pension immediately following any general announcement.

GEPPS CROSS ABATTOIR

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Have charges at the Gepps Cross abattoir been increased recently, and, if so:

- (a) when;
- (b) why; and
- (c) by how much?

2. Is the Government satisfied that the present charges are competitive?

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

1. Yes.

- (a) September 22, 1976;
- (b) partly to offset wage and other cost increases;
- (c) 4 per cent on slaughtering charges only; market yarding fees have not been increased.

2. Yes, having regard to wage indexation increases and rises in council, water and sewerage rates.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Have there been staff retrenchments at the Samcor works at Gepps Cross in the last month, and, if so, how many staff have been retrenched, and why?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes. Two salaried staff and 27 award employees have been retrenched following re-organisation of Samcor's management structure and a downturn in production.

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): What proportion of stock processed at the Gepps Cross abattoir in each of the last five financial years has been for export?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Following are the details of stock exported:

	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Cattle ..	24.22	26.32	25.33	25.53	33.18
Pigs ..	0.21	1.26	1.46	0.45	3.83
Sheep ..	15.77	9.26	3.99	25.47	77.46
Lambs ..	24.36	18.47	6.59	12.69	5.16

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice):

1. Is the new boning complex at the Gepps Cross abattoir yet completed and, if so:

- (a) at what total cost;
- (b) to what use is it being put and by whom; and
- (c) what are the financial arrangements for its use?

2. If this complex has not been completed:

- (a) when is it expected to be finished;
- (b) how much has it cost so far; and
- (c) what is the estimated total cost?

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

1. No.
2. (a) January, 1977;
- (b) the sum is \$1 514 000; and
- (c) the sum is \$2 765 000.

CREDIT UNIONS

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Is it intended to introduce legislation to control credit unions and, if so, when and why?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The Government intends to introduce legislation to control credit unions this session if the legislation can be drafted in time.

MAIN NORTH ROAD

Mr. MILLHOUSE (on notice): Is it intended to replace the present pedestrian activated traffic signals on the Main North Road, Nailsworth, near Barker Road and, if so:

- (a) when;
- (b) why; and
- (c) with what will they be replaced?

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: These signals are being investigated but a decision as to their replacement or otherwise has not yet been made.

EDUCATION PAYMENTS

Mr. BECKER (on notice):

1. What was the total and respective amounts, and to which schools were incorrect payments of grants made during 1975-76?

2. What adjustments were necessary and, if so:

- (a) how much;
- (b) which schools had to make refunds to the department; and
- (c) have the amounts been repaid and, if not, why not?

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

1. The amount of grant paid to a school is determined by the category to which the school belongs—junior primary; primary (excluding schools with a separate junior primary school); primary (with a separate junior primary school); special rural; Aboriginal; area; and high together with the student enrolment. In the year 1975-76, some schools received incorrect payments according to enrolment and school type. The amounts involved in each case are believed to be small, and the net result of adjusting underpayments and overpayments was not considered to be worth the resources required to undertake that task. This was duly reported by the Director-General of Education to the Auditor-General with advice that the system of effecting payments would be reviewed and improvements made to ensure that errors such as those reported by the Auditor-General did not recur.
2. No adjustments were made.

HOUSING TRUST

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. What number of homes, units, or flats, identified according to usual administrative category, did the Housing Trust possess at June 30, 1970, in each of the following towns—Clare, Spalding, Robertstown, Eudunda, and Morgan?
2. What increases have there been in each financial year since June 30, 1970?
3. What building programme is contemplated by the trust for the 1976-77 financial year?
4. What is the waiting list of applicants applying to each of the designated towns and building categories?

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

1. Total trust housing stock in Clare, Spalding, Robertstown, Eudunda and Morgan as at June 30, 1970.

Town	Single units	Dwelling types			Total dwellings	Rental stock
		Timber frame single units	Double units (semi-detached)	Rental grant houses		
Clare	13	76*	—	6	95	27
Spalding	—	9	—	—	9	—
Robertstown	—	11	—	—	11	1
Eudunda	10	5*	—	—	15	3
Morgan	4	—	—	—	4	—

(* Includes one rural dwelling)

2. Increases in stock since June 30, 1970.

Clare	Single units	Timber frame single units	Double units (semi-detached)	Dwelling types		Total	Cum. total	Rental stock
				Timber frame	transportable			
1970-71	1	3	—	—	—	4	99	29
1971-72	—	4	—	—	—	4	103	31
1972-73	1	7	—	—	—	8	111	33
1973-74	—	1	—	—	—	1	112	30
1974-75	—	3	—	—	—	3	115	32
1975-76	4	6	—	6	—	16	131	40

There has been no construction in Spalding, Robertstown, Eudunda and Morgan since June 30, 1970.

3. The trust's envisaged building programme for 1976-77.

Clare: Since July 1, 1976, the trust has completed a further two dwellings in Clare. Four additional timber frame single units have been ordered and it is anticipated these will be completed later in the current financial year.

Eudunda: The trust has recently purchased four allotments in Eudunda and two timber frame single unit houses should be contracted shortly for completion late this financial year. If sufficient interest is shown in these units, a similar small programme will be continued.

Morgan: The trust currently has one timber frame single unit house under construction in Morgan and this should be completed this financial year.

Robertstown and Spalding: The trust has not programmed the construction of any dwellings in these two towns during the 1976-77 financial year.

4. Applications currently on hand:

Clare:

Ordinary rental applications	19
R.G.H. applications	10
Purchase applications	1
Total	30

Eudunda:

Rental applications	6
Purchase applications	3
Total	9

Morgan:

Rental applications	8
Purchase applications	Nil
Total	8

Robertstown:

Rental applications	1
Purchase applications	Nil
Total	1

Spalding:

Rental applications	Nil
Purchase applications	Nil

Mr. WOTTON (on notice):

1. What number of homes, units or flats, identified according to usual administrative category, did the Housing Trust possess at June 30, 1970, in each of the following towns—Mount Barker, Littlehampton, Hahndorf, Balhannah, Oakbank, Woodside, Echunga, and Strathalbyn?

2. What increases have there been in each financial year since June 30, 1970?

3. What building programme is contemplated by the trust for the 1976-77 financial year?

4. What is the waiting list of applicants applying to each of the designated towns and building categories?

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

1. Total trust housing stock in Mount Barker, Littlehampton, Hahndorf, Balhannah, Oakbank, Echunga, Woodside and Strathalbyn, as at June 30, 1970.

Town	Single units	Dwelling types			Total dwellings	Rental stock
		Timber frame single units	Double units (semi-detached)	Rental grant houses		
Mount Barker	25	18*	60	3	106	65
Littlehampton	—	2	—	—	2	—
Hahndorf	—	—	—	—	—	—
Balhannah	—	2	—	—	2	—
Oakbank	1	—	—	—	1	1
Echunga	—	3	—	—	3	2
Woodside	11	11	—	—	22	—
Strathalbyn	20	16*	—	3	39	3

(* Includes one rural dwelling)

2. Increases in stock since June 30, 1970.

Town/Year	Single units	Timber frame single units	Double units (semi-detached)	Dwelling types Timber frame transportable units	Total	Cum. total	Rental stock
Mount Barker—							
1970-71	—	13	—	—	13	119	71
1971-72	1	20	—	—	21	140	86
1972-73	1	6	—	—	7	147	91
1973-74	6	13	—	—	19	166	96
1974-75	12	18	—	—	30	196	104
1975-76	6	29	—	—	35	231	115
Echunga—							
1970-71	—	2	—	—	2	5	3
1973-74	—	2	—	—	2	7	3
Woodside—							
1970-71	—	1	—	—	1	23	1
1971-72	—	2	—	—	2	25	3
1972-73	—	1	—	—	1	26	4
1974-75	—	2	—	—	2	28	5
1975-76	—	4	—	—	4	32	7
Strathalbyn—							
1971-72	1	4	—	—	5	44	7
1974-75	—	—	—	5	5	49	12
1975-76	—	3	—	5	8	57	17

There has been "nil" construction in Littlehampton, Hahndorf, Balhannah and Oakbank since June 30, 1970.

3. Trust's envisaged building programme for 1976-77.

Mount Barker: Since July 1, 1976, the trust has completed a further 8 single units in Mount Barker, and there are currently an additional 62 units at various stages of construction. It is expected that about 50 single units, comprising a mix of both brick veneer and timber frame construction, will be completed there this financial year.

Strathalbyn: The trust currently has four timber frame single units under construction and it is anticipated these will be completed in the current financial year. One additional unit has already been completed since July 1, 1976. Land for future development has recently been purchased in section 2613, Ashbourne Road, Strathalbyn and it is expected that building may commence on this site sometime during 1977.

Echunga: The trust currently has one timber frame single unit house under construction in Echunga and this should be completed this financial year.

Woodside: The trust holds 6 allotments at Woodside, but construction of houses cannot commence due to existing effluent and stormwater drainage problems. When these problems are resolved, a small programme will be resumed, but it is unlikely there will be any completions for the financial year 1976-77.

Littlehampton, Hahndorf, Balhanna, Oakbank: The trust has not programmed the construction of any dwellings in these four towns during the 1976-77 financial year.

4. Applications currently on hand—

Mount Barker:

Ordinary rental applications	82
R.G.H. applications	10
Purchase applications	48
Total	140

Strathalbyn:

Ordinary rental applications	17
R.G.H. applications	4
Purchase applications	2
Total	23

Echunga:

Rental applications	1
Purchase applications	2
Total	3

Woodside:

Rental applications	10
Purchase applications	6
Total	16

Littlehampton, Hahndorf, Balhanna, Oakbank: No housing demand is evident to the trust in any of the above towns, and there are no applications (either for rental or purchase) on hand for these areas.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. Why are the terms of reference of the Committee of Inquiry into School Canteen Management so limited, and why did they not include consideration of the maintenance of voluntary assistance, the aims of providing inexpensive but nutritious foods, and an analysis of the financial benefits obtained by the schools from canteen profits?

2. Will the initial report of this committee be made available to members?

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

1. The terms of reference for the Committee of Inquiry into School Canteen Management are considered to be sufficiently broad to take into account the aspects raised.

2. Whether the committee's recommendations will be made public is a matter for Government decision at the time the report is received.

GAWLER CROSSING

Dr. EASTICK (on notice):

1. What progress has been made with the inquiry into the need for a pedestrian crossing in Murray Street, Gawler?

2. If a report has not been received, when is it expected such a report will be received and, if in favour of a crossing, will Government funds be available during the present financial year?

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

1. The investigation has been completed. The most appropriate form of protection was found to be the installation of a length of raised median, to serve as a pedestrian refuge, along the full length of Murray Street between Finnis Street and Adelaide Road. The Highways Department has sought the corporation of Gawler's agreement to the proposal prior to preparing the necessary design plans.

2. Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mr. ALLISON (on notice):

1. How many graduates are employed by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department whose tertiary education was paid fully as a salaried officer of the department?

2. In the years 1973 to 1975, respectively, how many officers in the Agriculture and Fisheries Department completed their tertiary education studies on part-time salaried release?

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

1. None.

2. 1973, 4; 1974, 5; 1975, 4.

Mr. ALLISON (on notice):

1. How many, if any, members of the staff of the Premier's Department are studying at tertiary institutions on full pay?

2. At which tertiary institutions are they studying?

3. What is the annual salary range of these officers?

4. For what qualifications are they studying?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No member of the staff of the Premier's Department is studying full-time at tertiary institutions on pay. A considerable number, however, are taking some time off to study under the Public Service scheme which allows them to do so.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. ALLISON (on notice):

1. How many positions advertised for employment in the Public Service required a minimum qualification of a recognised degree or equivalent?

2. How many of these positions were filled by graduates already within the Public Service and how many employees joined the service to fill these vacancies, respectively?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The question asked by the honourable member is too generalised to enable a direct answer to be given. For example, no time period is specified, and there is no description of the type of positions to which he refers. It is also pointed out that an analysis of qualification requirements for all advertised positions over a substantial period, say 12 months or so, would need a special manual exercise involving not inconsiderable time and, therefore, expense.

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY UNIT

In reply to Mr. MATHWIN (August 12).

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As I have stated in my reply of August 12, 1976, officers of the Unit for Industrial Democracy have had some discussions with senior officers of the State Bank of South Australia and the Savings Bank of South Australia. However, no discussions have taken place between the unit and the State Government Insurance Commission.

TOURIST BUREAU

In reply to Mr. BECKER (September 22).

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Sport has had some concern regarding the width of information sought by members of Parliament from officers of the Tourism, Recreation and Sport Department. Because of this concern, instructions were given for officers to desist from giving information to members of Parliament until guidelines had been established as to the manner in which information could be made available. These guidelines have now been established, and there will be nothing to prevent members obtaining information relating to their own electorates in respect of:

(1) The progress of any projects which have been approved.

(2) Details of previous Government activity in that electorate.

(3) Procedures which are to be followed in seeking various forms of assistance from the department. Approaches in respect of matters other than those set out above must be at Ministerial level. The member suggested that information was being sought regarding the addresses of officers and any associations that may exist with members of Parliament. No such action has been taken and any suggestions to the contrary are emphatically denied by senior officers of the department.

MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

In reply to Mr. LANGLEY (September 7).

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In October, 1972, Cabinet approved of a committee to investigate and report on all aspects of the matter. The committee comprised the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, the Public Actuary (and a member of the Premiums Committee), the Chairman of the State Government Insurance Office, a legal practitioner nominated by the Attorney-General, a representative of the insurance companies nominated by the Underwriters' Association, and a representative of the Royal Automobile Association of South Australia. The committee brought down its report in December, 1972, and concluded that it was not possible to implement a scheme which would satisfy all the requirements; subsequently, Cabinet decided not to proceed with the matter for the time being.

TAPLEY HILL ROAD

In reply to the Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL (September 9).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: Departmental investigations indicate little change with respect to traffic volume and speed on Tapley Hill Road since its declaration as a priority road. It is considered that the installation of a pedestrian

crossing near Cheadle Street is not needed at this time. Arrangements are in hand for the installation of a raised median to serve as a pedestrian refuge and the erection of pedestrian warning signs, which are considered to be the most appropriate forms of protection at this location.

KADINA DRAINAGE

In reply to Mr. RUSSACK (September 9).

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: The sum of \$670 000 is not subsidy for the complete drainage scheme at Kadina, but is the estimated amount required to meet progress payments during the current financial year. Further funding will be required next year to enable the scheme to be completed.

MURRAY BRIDGE SCHOOL

In reply to Mr. WARDLE (August 11).

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The present staffing of the school consists of a principal and the equivalent of two full-time teachers and three teacher aides. The demand referred to in the district will, I understand, increase in the future as the Mentally Retarded Children's Society is planning to increase the availability of beds in its Murray Bridge hostel. Consequently, arrangements are being made for the Murray Bridge Special School to receive an additional two staff positions for 1977 to meet existing and additional enrolments.

NEWSBOY COLLECTORS

In reply to Mr. OLSON (July 29).

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I have made inquiries in regard to the collection of newspaper subscriptions and the question of insurance cover for collectors. There are no set collection procedures, as these depend to a large extent on the area in question and whether collection is being made fortnightly or monthly. It is, however, normal practice for collectors to be paid at the rate of 2½ per cent of the amount collected, sometimes with a bonus payment for full collection. The Authorised Newsagents' Association of S.A. Ltd., with whom I have been in touch, periodically reminds members to adequately cover collectors by insuring against robbery and all collectors are automatically covered by workmen's compensation insurance.

SPORTS COMPLEXES

In reply to Mr. EVANS (September 9).

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: There is no provision in the Estimates for a feasibility study for sporting complexes. Tenders were called in April, 1976, for a feasibility study for a major sports/entertainment centre for South Australia. Commonwealth Government funds have been made available to the extent of \$15 000. It is proposed to establish an inter-departmental Government working party to consider this matter further. A feasibility study for a recreation and sport project on land owned by Samcor was completed by Hassell & Partners in July of this year. This study was commissioned by the Samcor Board, which has decided not to proceed with the project at this stage.

BLACK HILL RESERVE

In reply to Mr. WOTTON (September 8).

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: I am forwarding under separate cover a plan showing the extent of the Black Hill Reserve as proposed under the Supplementary Development Plan—Black Hill, soon to be authorised. The total area of the reserve will be 941.9 hectares; 688 ha have already been acquired.

PAY-ROLL TAX

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Premier give details of the number of firms and the sums involved in the pay-roll tax incentives granted to help industry in the iron triangle, the green triangle and Monarto, since the scheme was announced at the end of last year, and say why he has refused to release these details? Following yesterday's announcements on pay-roll tax rebates and relocation grants to firms setting up or expanding in country areas, I attempted to find out from the Premier's Department the details of what help had already been given by the Government to firms in the recognised growth areas. Although I understand that the information is available, the Premier's Department has refused to release it to me. Inquiries made by my office to the areas concerned indicate that virtually no significant benefits have been received in those areas. Will the Premier now make these details public?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get the details for the Leader. I am not aware of any instruction that my department should not give him information, but, of course, it would have been courteous of him to ask me.

Later:

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I seek leave to make a Ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Leader of the Opposition has accused my department of having refused him information concerning the assistance given to industrial development in country areas. I am told by Mr. Crease of my department that the Leader's Research Officer (Mr. Lucas) rang him between 10 and 11 this morning, asking for detailed and complex information. As a result, Mr. Crease suggested that the request should be put in writing so that we could get the details of exactly what they were after and we could have a proper reply made or, alternatively, that the question be put on notice. There was no refusal of information from my department, and I resent the misrepresentation to this House of what has happened in my department.

Dr. TONKIN: I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Dr. TONKIN: To make the matter quite clear, what the Premier has obviously not been told is that my Research Assistant (Mr. Lucas) took the proper step of asking the Development Division of the Premier's Department before he spoke to Mr. Crease, representing the Premier. That information, he was told, was available, and he was advised to contact the Premier or his Press Secretary. He did so, and the outcome was that the information was refused.

WHYALLA STRIKE

Mr. WELLS: Can the Minister of Labour and Industry say what action he has taken in relation to the current dispute at Whyalla involving workmen who work under an Australian Workers Union classification known as G.P. (general purpose labourers) and who are currently on strike? Commissioner Johns recently made an award granting a substantial increase in payments to the G.P. labourers concerned. The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited appealed against that decision, and the Full Court heard the case and referred the matter to Commissioner Pryke for consideration. My information is that Commissioner Pryke withdrew the advantages in the award that had originally been made by Commissioner Johns. Can the Minister say what is the current situation?

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: The present stoppage has been in progress for about five days, and the situation has reached a serious stage. My understanding is that this morning six or seven ships were tied up at Whyalla. It is the responsibility of the employees involved to moor and unmoor the vessels as they come in and sail out of the Whyalla port. What the honourable member said about the history of the dispute is reasonably accurate. After consultation yesterday with the union and the company (both of which were, I think, looking for some sort of compromise), I arranged for a conference today, at 12.30 in Whyalla. I think it is a big advantage to have the dispute aired in Whyalla, where the local people are involved. I hope that some time this afternoon Commissioner Pryke will be able to report to me that an agreement has been reached.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Minister of Labour and Industry say whether he made available to the member for Florey a letter to the Minister from a Mrs. Bailey that was the basis of an attack in the House on Mr. R. H. Angas and the member for Davenport? On September 22, in this House the member for Florey made a vicious attack on Mr. R. H. Angas and the member for Davenport. The charges are found at pages 1185 and 1186 of *Hansard* where, among many other intemperate statements, Mr. Angas was described as "a dirty money hungry pastoralist" who required Mr. Bailey to work 16 hours a day, seven days a week, with no annual leave, public holidays or sick leave. On the following day, I indicated to the House that, after examination of Mr. Angas's pay book and farm records, and after reading a letter from Mr. Angas to Mr. Bailey concerning terms for severance pay, there was proof that the charges were baseless. Since then Mr. Bailey has phoned me and stated that he had no contact with Mr. Wells before these charges in the House and that, in fact, Mrs. Bailey had written earlier to the Minister of Labour and Industry a letter which so far I believe has not been acknowledged. Mr. Bailey is also most upset that the matter has been raised in the House, as he believes it has also been damaging to him, as well as to Mr. Angas. If, in fact, the Minister made the letter available to the member for Florey to make this baseless attack, the whole matter takes on a much more serious complexion.

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: Yes, I made the letter available. The letter was received from Mrs. Bailey and, if that letter is required to be tabled, it can be tabled.

It is much more damaging than has been indicated in what has been said in the House. The member for Florey is a member of my industrial committee at meetings of which this letter was discussed, and I see no reason why the honourable member should not have been able to use that evidence. Moreover, I suggest that further inquiries have been made about the allegations in this letter and that Mr. Bailey has now given an assurance that he will not only write a further letter but also make a statutory declaration. Also, other employees are coming forward who are willing to make a statutory declaration about the conduct of Mr. Angas. I make no apology for making the letter available to the member for Florey.

FOOD COLOURINGS

Mr. OLSON: Will the Minister of Community Welfare ask the Minister of Health whether the Government has considered introducing legislation banning certain products that contain artificial colouring in foods? A group of my constituents is concerned that artificial colouring in foods and dyes in products are affecting hyper-active people. Mrs. J. Douglas, of Largs Bay, a liaison officer for the Hyper-Action Association in South Australia, has started a group in this area. Her son is on a special diet that restricts him from products that contain certain substances, and since following the diet he is no longer hyper-active. It is also noted that more than half the children attending the class have shown a marked improvement since avoiding such products. Will the Minister examine the report in the *Australian Medical Journal* of July 17, and also the feasibility of relevant legislation?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I am pleased that the honourable member has raised this matter because there has been much recent attention to this topic. From my reading, this is an interesting matter, because certain results have been claimed for the change in diet of these unfortunate people. This matter was earlier brought to my attention by the member for Hanson, who sparked my interest in it, and I did some reading about it. I shall be pleased to bring it to the attention of my colleague.

MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Attorney-General say what action he intends to take to relieve hardships facing many wives and their families because of the massive number of maintenance cases piling up in the courts and awaiting attention? The Adelaide Magistrates Court hears between 12 and 15 maintenance cases a week, but is months behind in this work, with a large backlog of cases. This situation is causing great hardship to several families and wives who have had maintenance payments stopped. The Adelaide Magistrates Court, as the Attorney will know, has the power and the facilities to hear these cases, whilst the Commonwealth Family Court does not have these facilities, thus causing a problem. When will the Attorney start to do something to relieve this situation, indicating his sympathy for the problems of these unfortunate people?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: It is a pity that the honourable member has been so irresponsible as to raise the matter publicly in the House, drawing it to the attention of any persons who seek to avoid their obligations to pay maintenance in the present circumstances. He has not raised this matter privately with me at all. It would have been much more appropriate for him to raise

the matter with me to find out the present situation, instead of raising it in this manner, which I consider to be irresponsible. The former Commonwealth Labor Government, when setting up the Family Court of Australia, expressed the intention that all family law matters would be dealt with by that court, and this Government desired to facilitate that proposal to the greatest possible degree. In agreeing to transfer the various relevant matters to the Australian Family Court, I intended that these matters should be dealt with in the Family Court. All the officers of the Family Court to whom I have spoken were 100 per cent in favour of that proposal. I agreed to transfer these matters because I believed the Family Court was the place in which matters which affect husbands and wives and former husbands and wives and which have arisen out of the matrimonial situation should be dealt with. Trained social workers are available in the Family Court to deal with the specialised problems that can crop up in court matters of this type.

When the Federal Liberal and Country Parties Government came to power it changed the policy of the previous Commonwealth Labor Government. It did not want to see the Family Court of Australia being the resounding success it has turned out to be. In trying to thwart the development of the Family Court, the Federal Attorney-General refused to have these matters dealt with in the Family Court and, as a result, negotiations between the Federal Government and the State Government concerning the hearing of these matters took place during several months, during which a backlog of work arose. It has become painfully obvious that the Federal Government is not concerned about the delays that have occurred. The Federal Attorney-General has refused to have further negotiations concerning this matter. I have tried many times to have the senior officials of the Family Court either come to Adelaide to discuss these matters or, alternatively, discuss them in another State with officers of my department, but they have refused to do that. I have made about five appointments to see a Mr. Yuill of the Federal Family Court concerning this matter. I understand that eventually he was told by the Federal Attorney-General that he was not to see me concerning this matter. That is the background of the matter that the honourable member has brought to the attention of the public.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: It could well have been a Dorothy Dixier because the honourable member has not harmed me in raising this matter; he has harmed his Federal colleagues. He has considerably harmed people in bringing this matter to the attention of the public. I am now trying to have these matters dealt with at the earliest possible time to catch up the backlog that has arisen as a result of the actions of the Federal Attorney-General. I can assure the people of South Australia that certainly before Christmas all these matters will be brought up to date.

RESERVOIR STORAGES

Mr. LANGLEY: Will the Minister of Works state the present holdings of our reservoirs and say whether large intakes occurred over the weekend? Widespread rain fell throughout the State, and this would have been beneficial, especially in several country areas and in the catchment areas.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have a statistical table, which I seek leave to have included in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

RESERVOIR STORAGES

The storage holdings in the various reservoirs at 8.30 a.m. on October 4, 1976, compared with the September 30, 1976, are as follows:

Reservoir	Capacity Megalitres	Storage at September 30, 1976 Megalitres	Storage at October 4, 1976 Megalitres
Metropolitan reservoirs			
Mount Bold . . .	47 300	22 562	23 582
Happy Valley . . .	12 700	8 690	9 275
Myponga	26 800	15 728	16 086
Millbrook	16 500	15 360	15 525
Kangaroo Creek . .	24 400	9 702	10 158
Hope Valley	3 470	1 759	2 049
Thorndon Park . .	640	520	520
Barossa	4 510	3 077	3 361
South Para	51 300	26 170	26 036
Total	187 620	103 568	106 592
Country reservoirs			
Warren	5 080	3 698	3 764
Bundaleer	6 370	3 011	3 110
Beetaloo	3 700	2 564	2 594
Baroota	6 140	1 032	1 320
Tod River	11 300	5 986	5 986
Total	32 590	16 291	16 774

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Fairly widespread rain fell over most of the State during the weekend. Unfortunately, metropolitan reservoir storages increased only by 3 024 megalitres (1.6 per cent) and country reservoir storages by 483 Ml (1.5 per cent). These increases are not of sufficient magnitude to decrease Murray River pumping at this stage. Unless further significant intakes occur, it is expected that about 163 000 Ml will need to be pumped into the metropolitan system from the Murray River to meet the total demand for 1976-77. It is expected that about 36 500 Ml will need to be pumped into the northern country systems from the Murray River to meet the total demand for 1976-77. This quantity is about 5 900 Ml more than was pumped into the northern country system last year. To augment supplies to consumers served by the Tod reservoir, on Eyre Peninsula, maximum pumping from Lincoln, Uley-Wanilla, and Poldia Basins is still being carried out. The metropolitan and country storages are being watched closely and, in the event of further significant intakes, pumping programmes will be amended accordingly.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Does the Minister of Labour and Industry show all Ministerial correspondence to the Australian Labor Party Industrial Committee; do other Ministers also show their correspondence to other committees and to any member of their back bench; if people write to the Minister of Labour and Industry and to other Ministers, can they expect no confidentiality at all from the Labor Party? The Minister has made one of the most outrageous admissions that one could imagine. He admitted that he had handed his correspondence to a back-bencher of his Party. He also admitted that he had had discussions with and had also given that correspondence to the A.L.P. Industrial Committee. Furthermore, the Minister made other accusations about Mr. Bailey. I understand the Minister has still not had any contact with Mr. Bailey and that he has still not replied to the original correspondence sent to him. Many people write to the Minister of

Labour and Industry, and they expect confidentiality; they do not expect that their correspondence will be flogged among the back-benchers to be splurged out in Parliament without the facts being checked.

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: It is not my usual role to provide my committee with letters from constituents or from people—

Mr. Dean Brown: Then why on this occasion?

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: I will tell the honourable member if he will listen. If he listens, he may receive a shock. On the bottom part of this letter, I was requested to publicise this action of Mr. Angas as much as possible. That was the request—

Mr. Dean Brown: That is not the request in the letter.

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: That was the request—to have this matter publicised as much as possible. That is the reason why—

Mr. Dean Brown: I didn't ask—

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Davenport that, if he continues to interject, I shall have to take action.

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: If the member for Davenport or any other member of the Opposition so wishes, I shall table the letter.

Dr. Tonkin: You are not correct.

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: I am correct. I was asked to give this matter as much publicity as possible.

Mr. Evans: Not someone else—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: That is on the bottom part of the letter. I think that is the perfect explanation as to why it was discussed with my committee. It is not usual to discuss all letters, but this was a letter complaining that a person had been badly treated in an industrial matter. I needed guidance from my committee, and it was discussed. I see nothing wrong with that when, as was the case with this letter, the matter was an industrial one and when I was asked to publicise the actions of Mr. Angas.

Mr. Goldsworthy: You didn't even check the authenticity—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Price.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Absolutely disgusting!

The SPEAKER: Order! I call to order the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Well, I am disgusted, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition and all honourable members who continue to interject when they have been called to order. The honourable member for Price.

ABORIGINAL HOUSING

Mr. WHITTEN: Has the Minister for Planning received any reply from the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Viner) to his correspondence protesting at the drastic reduction in the amount of finance available to South Australia for Aboriginal housing? In the year 1975-76, the sum of \$2 500 000 was made available for Aboriginal housing. This year, the amount has been cut to \$313 000, with detrimental effects on Aborigines in South Australia. Does the Minister agree that this is another broken promise from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: The matter has been taken up with the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

A savage cut has occurred in the funds available for Aboriginal housing. The money available last year was \$2 500 000, the sum this year being reduced to \$313 000. I understand there was some talk of a subsequent increase from \$313 000 to \$450 000, but the overall effect of the change has been to produce a substantial reduction in houses built for Aborigines from about 120 houses in 1975-76 to only 24 in this financial year. We will get 24 houses out of the proposed \$313 000 only because some of the 24 were under construction at the end of the previous financial year and some of the money spent on them was provided in last year's vote. I protested most vigorously to the Commonwealth Minister and gave publicity to my protest, because I considered that this was a complete renegeing by the Commonwealth Government on promises made regarding Aboriginal programmes; there is no other explanation. The suggestion that Aboriginal programmes, including the housing programme, were to be reviewed was just a tactic, probably suggested by the Commonwealth Treasury and adopted by the Commonwealth Government, designed to save money and to penalise a section of the community that most needs assistance. It is interesting to note that, for the general housing programme of the Commonwealth through the Home Builders Account, the sum of money provided this year was the same as that for last year, but the allocation for Aboriginal housing was cut savagely.

There is no possible justification for this, and I am happy to have had the opportunity, in replying to this question, to repeat in this House my protest to the Federal Minister and to reiterate that I regard this decision of the Commonwealth Government as a disgraceful and appalling one. I hope that it will be reversed quickly. However, even if it were reversed now, enough of a delay has already occurred to make it extremely difficult for the trust to spend anything like the sum that was made available for this purpose last financial year. I hope that members opposite will take up with their Federal colleagues the actions of the Federal Government in this respect and that they will bring home to their colleagues that, no matter what the Federal budgetary situation is, the funding of Aboriginal housing through the South Australian Housing Trust is one area of activity that should not be cut in the way that it has been cut. In fact, they should bring home to the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs that the excuse that the programmes are now subject to review is a lame excuse and a weak attempt to cover up a disgraceful situation.

SAMCOR

Mr. BLACKER: Can the Minister of Works, representing the Minister of Agriculture, say what are the qualifications of personnel who weigh meat carcasses at Samcor works at either Gepps Cross or Port Lincoln? Can he also say whether these people are sworn under oath in the same way as weigh clerks in the wool stores? In addition, can he say whether official Samcor weigh bills are issued with the advice relating to carcass weights? I have been contacted by a constituent who sold five steers over hooks to a local butcher. The steers were processed at Samcor's Port Lincoln works. The evening the steers were slaughtered a stock agent telephoned his client with the weights of the steers that were slaughtered. Because two of the beasts were Charolais and three were Friesians, it was relatively easy to identify the animals and their weights. My constituent immediately refuted the weights, saying that they were incorrect. Subsequently

he went to the Samcor works and was shown the weight book, in which a discrepancy of about 82 kilogrammes was shown for the five beasts. The Samcor weights were the higher weights. In this case there was confusion about the ownership of the carcasses at the time of slaughter. However, that there are two sets of figures for the same five beasts is subject to question. To clear up any suggested anomaly that could be attributed to Samcor in the weighing of stock when sales are made on an over-hook basis, I ask the Minister to outline the weighing procedures.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will take up the matter with my colleague and get a report for the honourable member as soon as possible.

WARNING SYSTEMS

Mr. MAX BROWN: Will the Minister for Planning outline any arrangements that may have been made to improve fire warning systems at Nangwarry? I believe the Minister would be as well aware as we all are that about 10 days ago a tragic fire occurred in a house at Nangwarry that resulted in the death of two young children. Perhaps an improved fire warning system might avoid such an occurrence in future.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I thank the honourable member for his question. I do not intend to comment on the details of the fire, because, as members would appreciate, that matter will be the subject of a coroner's inquiry, and it would be wrong for me to pre-empt that inquiry. The house concerned was one of the houses that was taken over from the Woods and Forests Department by the South Australian Housing Trust, and it was upgraded electrically before occupation. In July this year the trust officially informed Mr. John Stevens, the mill manager at Nangwarry, that it would be willing to assist in financing a new fire alarm system in the town. Mr. Crichton, of the trust, was informed yesterday that an order for a mark 1 alarm system has been placed with Telecom Australia Limited, delivery of which is expected in about a month. The system is operated through the telephone whereby eight telephones ring simultaneously in Emergency Fire Service wardens' houses. A fortnight ago (before the fire) the trust received a letter from the E.F.S. at Nangwarry asking whether the trust would provide financial backing to assist in upgrading completely the E.F.S. at Nangwarry. The trust has informed the local E.F.S. that it will assist in a similar manner to the assistance given after a request from Mount Burr, where an up-to-date and modern E.F.S. station was opened three months ago. I, like other members, was shocked greatly by the circumstances of this fire. It is particularly unfortunate that action was under way to improve the local fire warning system at Nangwarry before these events took place. Whether or not an improved fire warning system would have avoided the tragedy is impossible to say.

Mr. Rodda: Is the type of lining in the houses being investigated?

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I cannot comment on that because the matter is subject to a coroner's inquiry. If the honourable member is interested, I shall be willing to show him the confidential report I have received.

Mr. Allison: Those houses are constructed of flammable caneite.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: That may be so. I am not sure the honourable member is advocating that the houses should be demolished, but the trust has been responsible for these houses for only 12 months, and already

action has been taken. I express my sympathy (as I am sure other member do, too) to the bereaved parents because of the tragic loss that has occurred.

SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Dr. EASTICK: Can the Premier say whether the Government has, as a matter of policy, issued any direction that, where supplies and services are available from South Australian factories and organisations at rates comparable to those that apply to interstate organisations, preference will be given to such tenders? More particularly, is the Premier satisfied that any direction so given is being fulfilled? I believe that such positive action as ensuring that order books of South Australian factories (where they have shown an ability to provide services and equipment at comparable rates) are kept full is a far more satisfactory method of assisting South Australian industry than is the superficial offer that was contained in statements made yesterday.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Obviously the honourable member is unaware that that policy has existed in South Australia for many years.

Dr. Eastick: But is it followed through?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. Not only is preference given to South Australian goods and services but a substantial preference in price is given, too.

Dr. Eastick: Are you sure?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am certain.

Mr. Evans: Of 10 per cent?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It has never been the policy of Governments in South Australia to reveal the percentage, because that would obviously affect the kind of tender received. However, it is a substantial percentage preference. It is enforced Government policy that is constantly surveyed. It has been in force for a long time, and it ante-dates this Government. I am amazed that the honourable member is unaware that substantial preference has been the consistent policy of this Government and that it has been followed for some time.

ELECTRICITY COSTS

Mr. BOUNDY: Will the Minister of Community Welfare take steps to reduce electricity costs incurred by aged persons' homes and similar institutions in South Australia? I have received correspondence from Elanora, which is an aged persons' home in my district, about this matter, and I believe that the matters raised in that letter are relevant to all such institutions in this State. That letter states that electricity tariffs will be altered from January 1, 1977. The letter gives an example by citing the August 4 assessment and extending that assessment to show what the new rate will be after January 1, and what it could be if the home were rated as being domestic. Under the present assessment, the home is rated under tariffs A and G, and the account amounts to \$1 030.59. When the new rates apply in the new year, the account could amount to \$1 076. Rate S, which applies to aged persons' homes, is higher than the rate applying to hospitals. However, if the new rate M, which is the domestic rate, is applied, the cost to the home would be \$690, which is about \$400 less than the amount incurred under the new tariff S. The home's board suggests that the residents of an aged persons' home consider the home to be their home and,

therefore, it should be assessed at the domestic rate. Can the Minister either bring this anomaly to the attention of the Electricity Trust with a view to applying domestic tariffs or, alternatively, provide a subsidy to assist this most important avenue of community service?

The SPEAKER: I think that the honourable member's question comes within the ambit of the Minister of Mines and Energy.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I will have the honourable member's question examined in detail by the trust, ask it to consider the points he has made, and bring down a reply for him as soon as possible.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

Mr. CHAPMAN: Will the Premier tell the House why the State Government Insurance Commission requires Broker involvement and, accordingly, loadings on policy premiums generally and particularly on policies that cover properties which are financed and first mortgaged by the Lands Department? Will the Premier also investigate a claim that war service land settlers throughout South Australia have been grossly overcharged by the commission on their property, plant and structural improvement policies and ensure that, in cases where the claim is upheld, those persons are reimbursed not only for the claimed overcharge but also for the appropriate interest? I refer to a paragraph from a letter I have received from a responsible family of war service land settlers in South Australia in which they relate the quoted figures by the State Government Insurance Commission's field officer with the actual figures they have been charged by the Lands Department. The letter states:

Our query to the S.G.I.C. re difference between quoted premiums and those shown on W.S.L.S. insurance accounts with commission's inspector in Adelaide in August, 1976, during which he confirmed that the premiums he had quoted were correct, and that those shown on W.S.L.S. accounts were incorrect.

I will give one example of their being incorrect. The 1975-76 premiums as quoted were \$416.88, whereas the clients were charged \$731.03. For 1976-77, the clients were quoted \$441.48, whereas they were charged \$749.29. The over-charged difference over the two years was \$621.96. I think the important factor is that the writers claim that they have consulted the inspector over this problem, which does not only involve these clients, the inspector having claimed that the problem also exists throughout the war service land settler scheme on Kangaroo Island, at Wanilla, and in the South-East, involving 108 accounts on Kangaroo Island and more than 400 in the whole State.

The inspector estimated recently that each of the policy-holders on Kangaroo Island has been over-charged an average of about \$200 a year since these clients were required to have their insurance with the commission after the contracting company, New Zealand Assurance Company, lost the business in, I think, May, 1974. The writers continue, and I conclude on this final comment, by saying that they understand that the brokers have been charging 9 per cent commission for their part in the mishandling of this war service land settlement insurance. The writers say that they believe that the commission has eliminated the brokers from further transactions of this nature as from August 1, 1976, as a result of their over-charging. I particularly refrain from mentioning the names of the writers as, indeed, I have refrained from mentioning the name of the officer. However, if the Premier is willing

to take up the serious matters I have brought to his attention, I shall be pleased to furnish him with the names of the persons referred to in the letter.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I shall be grateful if the honourable member gives me the information, so that I may have the necessary inquiry made.

COMMUNITY WELFARE SERVICES

Mrs. BYRNE: Will the Minister of Community Welfare ask the Minister of Health to supply me with a report on the operations of the Eastern Regional Geriatric and Medical Rehabilitation Services Eastern Domiciliary Care Service over the past 12 months, with special emphasis on and detail of its operations in the Tea Tree Gully District?

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

DIRECTOR OF TOURIST BUREAU

Mr. EVANS: Can the Premier say whether there is any sign on the horizon of someone suitable for appointment to the position of Director of the South Australian Tourist Bureau? This position has been held in abeyance for a long time. Advertisements calling for applicants were made, and 23 persons applied for the position, but the Premier said that not one of the 23 was a suitable applicant. A public statement was made that a person was to be appointed; this statement appeared in a Public Service document as well as in the daily newspaper. However, subsequently that person was not appointed. Recently, I asked by interjection whether a person would be appointed, and the Premier said that none of the applicants would be appointed. He said that the position would be readvertised, but he did not say whether the position would be filled. He said that, as soon as there was a sign on the horizon that there was someone suitable for appointment, he would be appointed. My concern is that it seems that the Premier waits until he finds a suitable person before advertising, instead of advertising to see whether there is a suitable person anywhere in the world.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Let me disabuse the honourable member of that misapprehension. No-one has been recommended to the Government, and the Government has no-one in mind for appointment to this post. After discussions with the Chairman of the Public Service Board, it was decided that we should delay no further to readvertise the position and advertise it more widely both in Australia and overseas, and that is being done.

VOLVO BUSES

Mr. RUSSACK: Can the Minister of Transport say when Volvo buses will be brought into service and in what numbers and over what period of time they will be put into commission? The following report, referring to older buses, appears in the *Advertiser* of September 22:

Some of the buses in the former privately owned lines are expected to be "scrap value" when replaced by the new Volvo vehicles. Many of them have led three lives—used by the M.T.T. for the normal period, bought secondhand by the private lines and finally reinherited when the South Australian Government took over South Australia's private bus operators.

It seems that the safety of many of these buses is being questioned. It is considered that, because of the past

inactivity and procrastination of this Government and the refusal of the Whitlam Government to make money available for new buses, old and worn-out buses are now being used in South Australia.

The Hon. G. T. VIRGO: It is unbelievable, Mr. Speaker. First, I refer the honourable member to page 1106 of *Hansard* in which is reported a reply to a Question on Notice on September 21 from the member for Torrens and in which about 80 per cent of the information he now seeks is detailed. The honourable member has said that the safety of these buses has been questioned, but he carefully omitted to say who was doing the questioning. Obviously, it is the honourable member. I assure him that there is no problem or doubt about the safety of the travelling public, and I deplore his action in making a public statement suggesting that the safety of the public may be in jeopardy. That is unforgivable of him, and I would have expected him to do better. Also, he referred to the provision of funds. What he has been doing for the past seven years means that Rip Van Winkle has nothing on him: it was the Whitlam Government that first provided any State with funds for urban public transport, but it is the present Fraser Government that has withdrawn those funds. For heaven's sake let the honourable member get his facts right. Had the Whitlam Government remained in office, probably we would not have had to take \$20 000 000 out of State funds. The honourable member must realise that a few weeks ago he voted to provide \$20 000 000 from State funds to be used to buy buses that we should have been getting from money supplied by the Fraser Government.

AYERS HOUSE

Mr. BECKER: Will the Minister for the Environment obtain a detailed report from the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Sport on the validity of the statement made by the Auditor-General on page 231 of his report for the financial year ended June 30, 1976? My question is supplementary to Question on Notice No. 34 today. Page 231 of the Auditor-General's Report states:

The item "Other Receipts" included rents and the sale of fittings from Ayers House totalling \$39 000.

At page 172 of *Hansard* of July 27, 1976, the report shows that, in reply to a question concerning the rent for Ayers House, I was told that the rent was \$31 000 a year. The reply I received this afternoon from the Minister's colleague stated that no fittings from Ayers House had been sold during 1975-76.

The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS: I will refer the matter to my colleague.

NUCLEAR WASTE

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Will the Premier give an unequivocal assurance that the Government will do nothing to allow this State to become the world's nuclear garbage dump (or even part of it), but will, on the contrary, do everything it can to prevent this happening? Yesterday's *Advertiser* contained a report of a statement by a Dr. Sabine at some seminar in Western Australia that Australia should be the world's nuclear garbage dump and a suggestion that a good spot would be somewhere 1 000 kilometres west of Alice Springs. Also, there was a report from some Western Australian Government source that that State was

ready to go nuclear. Many northern parts of our State are not dissimilar from some parts of Western Australia and the part referred to by Dr. Sabine. I hope that in his reply the Premier will give this unequivocal assurance I seek. I remind him that there is growing disquiet in the world about the use of nuclear energy, especially the disposal of waste. I have only to refer him to what has been leaked, apparently from the office of President Ford in Washington, concerning the moratorium on nuclear matters in the United States. Therefore, with some confidence this time, I seek the unequivocal assurance for which I have asked.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think that the honourable member, despite his interest in this subject, has not paid attention to the Government's previous statements. The question of the use of some part of Australia for the disposal of atomic wastes was first raised by a Senator in the Japanese Diet at a time when I was in Japan. I then made clear that, whatever was the attitude of Sir Charles Court on this matter, the South Australian Government would not in any circumstances contemplate that this State would harbour atomic wastes of any kind, and that the offer of the Senator to come to Australia to speak about this matter was not one in which we were interested, as we would not be speaking on this topic if he were to come. I do not think he came: he certainly did not come here.

The Hon. G. T. Virgo: Didn't they think he was a bit of a rat-bag?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not think that they regarded him highly. When I returned to Australia I repeated what was the attitude of the Government in relation to the disposal of nuclear wastes: that, in no circumstances, would we contemplate that occurring in South Australia. Our concern about any mining or enrichment of uranium was to ensure that it was safe to provide a customer client with uranium in one form or another, and that the safety has to be something that the public can be satisfied about. It is no proposal of this Government that part of that programme should be that nuclear waste be disposed of in South Australia.

ETHNIC FESTIVALS

Mr. ALLISON: Following the Government's support of the present Italian festival in Adelaide, will the Premier consider assisting other ethnic festivals to be held in remote country areas? The South-East has many first generation migrants, among them being many Italians. Following my discussions with leaders of the Italian community, it is clear that remoteness from Adelaide has precluded most migrants from attending the present Adelaide festival. I am pleased that responsible members of the Italian community have also pointed out that to hold an Italian festival may tend to divide the migrant community in the country, but that a joint ethnic festival would be desirable.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The ethnic affairs officers in the inquiry section of my department are now preparing with the Policy Secretariat a proposal for the Government in relation to ethnic festivals. Some festivals have received support from the Government previously, either from the Tourist Bureau or from the Arts Grants Advisory Council where the ethnic festival has some artistic component that could be supported. It is obvious that some of the needs of ethnic festivals fall between those two stools and there

is not an adequate policy to cover them. Consequently, that situation is currently being investigated and I expect to make an announcement in due course.

CHILD-MINDING CENTRES

Mr. WOTTON: Can the Minister of Education say whether there is a need for child-minding facilities in this State? A recent article in the *Advertiser* concerning the lack of enrolments at a suburban child-minding centre stated the following:

A \$250 000 suburban child-care centre which opened this week has everything it wants—except children. The centre in Henry Street, Stepney, has three playrooms, a nursery and two kitchens, one specially equipped to prepare baby food. It is air-conditioned and gas heated and has a large play area at the back . . .

Its director, Mrs. V. J. Robson, said yesterday the centre was registered to handle 60 children . . . The number was increased by about one child a day. There would be 12 enrolled by next week, but the prospect of reaching 60 was far from good, Mrs. Robson said. She said she did not know what would happen if this number was not reached.

Can the Minister explain the position?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The question could as easily have been directed to my colleague, the Minister of Community Welfare, but I do not mind taking it. As I understand it, as a result of the publicity surrounding this matter that centre has had a considerable increase in enrolments. The centre was built under the old Act introduced by the former Liberal Government before 1972. If the publicity brought forward at least part of the truth about the situation it does give somewhat of the lie to some of the statements that have emanated from Canberra recently about the necessity to restructure the way in which money in the childhood services area should be delivered. This matter has been the subject of a debate in this House initiated by the member for Tea Tree Gully. This highlights the fact that people have to look closely at the situation in the different States before they race into this area. It may well be that massive commitments of money are required in the inner suburbs of Sydney and Melbourne to the whole of the child-care area. The present funding arrangements seem to be handling the child-care situation fairly well in this State. That could not be said about pre-school facilities; no doubt the honourable member would agree with me there is a continuing demand for an expansion of these sorts of facility. As to the specific situation raised by the honourable member, I understand there has been a considerable interest in the facilities available at that centre and enrolments have increased as a result of the publicity given. In the event of an improvement in economic conditions generally, one would expect an upsurge in demand for these facilities. Given the present unemployment level, and in particular levels of unemployment amongst women, it is not surprising that the demand for these facilities is rather less than had previously been expected. I assure the honourable member that I and my colleagues the Minister of Community Welfare and the Minister of Health, each of whom has a nominee on the Childhood Services Council, continue to review this situation so that we can give appropriate advice to the Commonwealth authorities who now, as a result of the change in procedures—

At 3.15 p.m., the bells having been rung:

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act, 1936-1975. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

EXPLANATION OF BILL

It gives effect to the Government's undertaking of September 2 to abolish land tax for genuine farmers in rural areas and to reduce land tax rates at the top end of the scale. The Government has already eased the incidence of land tax on farms greatly so that, in fact, only a small proportion of rural landholders were liable to the tax in the 1975-76 financial year. Even so, depressed prices in the rural sector, coupled with the severe drought which has affected most of the State, have now produced a situation in which the whole rural community is facing considerable hardship.

The Government has decided, therefore, to take what measures it reasonably can to alleviate these problems and to assist people in country areas to overcome their present difficulties. The effects of the decision should not be measured simply in terms of the immediate relief which it brings to those farmers still liable for land tax, but also in terms of the assurance which it gives to other farmers that increasing land valuations will not result in their becoming liable for land tax at some future date. In this way the Government is making a very real contribution towards encouraging those who so desire to remain in the rural industry.

In the metropolitan area, owners of business and commercial properties have borne the main impact of rising land values. The Government is conscious of the effects of its taxation measures on private enterprise and, at all times, endeavours to strike a balance between the need for revenue and the need to encourage industry to develop. In the present budgetary circumstances the Government feels justified in offering certain concessions to the private sector and thereby making it somewhat easier for businessmen to expand their activities and to create more jobs. Apart from the direct effects which the concessions should have on the unemployment situation, it is also the Government's hope that, by reducing business costs, the measures will help to stabilise prices and so assist in the fight against inflation. This will naturally have beneficial secondary effects on employment.

Previously, properties valued at more than \$200 000 were taxed at the rate of 38c for each \$10 over \$200 000. Between \$150 000 and \$200 000 the marginal rates increased in steps of 28c to 38c per \$10. The top marginal rate will now be 27c for each \$10 over and above \$150 000, and for values between \$40 000 and \$150 000 the marginal rates have each been cut by 1c per \$10. Together, the abolition of land tax for farmers and the reductions in the rates for other landholders are expected to cost the Government about \$6 200 000 this financial year. In the light of certain comments which have been made following my announcement of several weeks ago on this matter, I should make it clear that the measure is not intended to reduce the liability of the average suburban householder for land tax. For most people land tax is a relatively small liability and any reduction would have an insignificant effect on their financial

position. Further, the last adjustment of the scale of land tax was most favourable to those whose properties are assessed for tax at the lower end of the scale.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on June 30, 1976. This date ensures that the concessions provided by this Bill will apply during the current financial year as land tax is calculated on the aggregate taxable value of all land held by a taxpayer at June 30 preceding the financial year for which the tax is levied.

Clause 3 varies the definition of "declared rural land" to limit its application to land so declared before the date of operation of this Act. Land tax will not be payable on declared rural land in future years although the differential tax outstanding in respect of past years will become payable if such land ceases to be "declared rural land" under the existing provisions of the Act. Clause 4 exempts land used for primary production from land tax. Clause 5 deletes the existing provisions reducing the taxable value of land used for primary production by the previous statutory exemption of up to \$40 000.

Clause 6 provides the new rates of land tax. Clause 7 varies the existing provisions of section 12c of the Act which contains special provisions for rural land within the "defined rural area". Land used for primary production within the defined rural area will be exempt from land tax in future. However, it is necessary to continue certain provisions of that section in operation so that differential tax in respect of past years will become payable on any land which ceases to be "declared rural land". Clause 8 contains an evidentiary provision facilitating proof of the service of notices in cases where Court action is taken for the recovery of unpaid tax. Because land tax accounts are now prepared for despatch by computer, it is extremely difficult to prove posting, and hence service, of the account in a particular case. It is hoped that the provisions of this clause will overcome the problem.

Dr. TONKIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (GIFT DUTY AND STAMP DUTIES) BILL

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer) obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Gift Duty Act, 1968-1975, and the Stamp Duties Act 1923-1975. Read a first time.

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

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

EXPLANATION OF BILL

The purpose of this Bill is to extend the period during which gift duty and stamp duties on the transfer of an interest in the matrimonial home from one spouse to the other are reduced. Originally, this concession was to have effect from July 14, 1975, until July 14, 1976. It has been decided to extend that period for six months, ending on the last day of January, 1977, and in order to ensure the continuity of the operation of the section, this Bill has been made retroactive to July 14 this year.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on July 14, 1976. Clauses 3 and 4 are formal. Clause 5 amends section 11a

of the Gift Duty Act to continue the operation of the provisions remitting gift duty on the transfer of an interest in the matrimonial home until January 31, 1977.

Clause 6 is formal. Clause 7 amends section 71 of the Stamp Duties Act by extending the remitting provisions of that Act.

Dr. TONKIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 3)

In Committee.

(Continued from September 23. Page 1204.)

Schedule.

Premier's, \$4 192 000.

Dr. TONKIN (Leader of the Opposition): When we were last looking through these lines, I think the Premier said that a consultant to the Premier's Department and the South Australian Film Corporation prepared the Government information films. Who is the consultant; how much has he been paid; what has been the total cost of producing the Government information films; does that figure include a nominal amount for the value of the work being done by the South Australian Film Corporation; what proportion is that amount; what has been the cost so far of booking television time; and on what television stations and channels in South Australia are these films shown?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I certainly do not have all that information at the moment. To date the films have been prepared by Mr. P. R. Ward, who left my department as an executive assistant and was employed on contract for a period as consultant to the department on the anti-litter campaign and the preparation of the Government information films and the preparation of some Government publications. He has since terminated that contract and is now head of the bureau for the *Australian* in Adelaide. His work is now being carried out by Mr. Mitchell of the Publicity Branch. As I do not have the figures concerning the other matters, I will get them for the Leader.

Dr. TONKIN: Regarding public relations, I understand that the Premier was not able to give exact details of the Government's contracts with advertising agencies, and I understand his difficulty. He has twice refused to provide these details. Which of the advertising agencies that his department has used has received the greatest amount of work? Has it in fact been the firm he mentioned previously, Hansen Rubensohn-McCann Erickson Proprietary Limited?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Dr. TONKIN: Could the Premier give some indication of the firms involved, the type of work involved, and the cost to the Government in each case of any work that has been contracted to public relations firms during the year, as apposed to a publicity and advertising agency? I am referring to work that has been contracted by his department or sections of it to public relations consultants during the past financial year. I understand that the Premier would not have the information at his fingertips.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I know of no case of our contracting with public relations consultants. Could the Leader be more precise?

Dr. TONKIN: I had in mind the sort of activity that has been undertaken on behalf of another department, for example, the State Transport Authority regarding the North-East Freeway. That is not a matter that comes under this line.

The CHAIRMAN: The Leader cannot refer to any other line. Transport matters come under the line for the Minister of Transport.

Dr. TONKIN: I refer to administration expenses and commissions by Publicity Branch, Office of Premier, items 1001 and 1010. I think the Premier understands the example that I was giving, and I take it that no such contract has been let by his department.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Not that I am aware of.

Dr. TONKIN: I refer now to the production of the Government Tourist Bureau films that have featured the Premier and have been shown in other States, I understand, quite regularly. I am still referring to item 1010. Does the figure for the total cost of production of these films include a nominal amount for the work done by the South Australian Film Corporation, have the films been shown on television in the other States, and, if they have been, what has been the cost of television time for the showing of these films promoting South Australia?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will have to get that figure. The departments make submissions to a committee for a share of the moneys paid by the Government to the Film Corporation for Government films. The corporation charges a full commercial fee to the Government for the films that it makes. The publicity films for the Tourist Bureau were amongst the films that were made within that budget area, so the Film Corporation was reimbursed as to its costs. As to the amounts that have been paid by the Tourist Bureau for the placing of those films on television channels in other States, that comes under the Tourist Bureau line and under the appropriate Minister.

Dr. TONKIN: I understand that the Premier will obtain for me the answer about the cost of television time, and so on. What has been the total cost of setting up the facilities for the media monitoring unit, what was the cost of running the unit last year, how many people are involved in the operation of the unit, and are their salaries or portions of their salaries included in the annual cost of running the unit?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get those figures. The unit is quite small, and the cost is only a fraction of the cost of staffing the unit set up by the New South Wales Liberal Government.

Mr. Allison: Mr. Wran scrapped that.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not know that he did. He did not approve of it, but it was quite a vast electronics exercise, one of the kind we do not have.

Mr. Gunn: You are working towards it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, I am not; I have been quite frugal about this unit, and the cost has been quite low. I will get the individual figures.

Dr. TONKIN: So that we can make worthwhile comparisons regarding the staffing in the Premier's Department, and bearing in mind the admonition that the Premier gave us that we must not read into the relevant figures for year to year what is not there, I refer to item 0013 and ask how many people are employed in the office of the Minister of Mines and Energy and what specifically are their duties.

The CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition is out of order. It comes into the line for the Minister of Mines and Energy.

Dr. TONKIN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I refer you to page 13 of the document. It is headed "Premier" and, in the section headed "481 Premier's Department", item 0013 deals with the office of Minister of Mines and Energy. If that is not under the Premier's line, I do not know what is.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not an expenditure on that line. The notation at the bottom of page 13 is "Now provided under XVII—Minister of Mines and Energy". There will be opportunities for the Leader to bring forward his question under that.

Dr. TONKIN: I am referring to previous expenditure. However, we cannot have the same criticism about item 0015, dealing with the arts development section of the Premier's Department.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Chair has made a decision and I hope that the Leader will not reflect on the Chair. It is quite correct to refer to the section headed "Arts Development" and to the Arts Development Officer and clerical staff.

Dr. TONKIN: I did not intend any reflection. I pay a tribute to the work done by officers of that section. There has been a big tendency for people to believe that some monopoly on culture and the arts is held by the present Government. I pay a tribute to the officers concerned and to the Government, but a Liberal Government would take equally as much interest in the matter and would depend on the officers as much, if not to a greater extent. How many people are employed in the arts development section of the Premier's Department, and what are their duties?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There is a present staff of seven. It is intended to recruit one additional graduate officer. The section is headed by Mr. Amadio and I think there are three other officers in it, apart from clerical staff. There is Mr. Walsh, Mr. Brown, and one other officer whose name escapes me. I know him quite well but just do not recall his name. The duty of the Arts Development Branch is to provide a service to the Arts Grants Advisory Council and to prepare material for the council on applications made for arts grants assistance, to monitor the work of the statutory companies in South Australia and to report on their programmes, to assist in the work of the Festival of Arts, and to assist with organisations such as Carclew. Some of the officers sit on the boards of the statutory companies and also on numbers of subcommittees dealing with the total arts development area. They have been advising on the planning of arts facilities in the city as well as in country areas, including the regional arts centres proposed by the Government. They have been most hard working; in fact, I think they have been quite seriously overworked, and the case for an additional graduate officer was clearly made out to the Public Service Board.

Dr. TONKIN: How many people are employed in the office of the Director-General for Trade and Development, in the Ombudsman's section of the department, and in the Parliamentary Counsel's Branch of the Premier's Department?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not have the figures for the trade and development division or for the Ombudsman's section, but I will get them.

Dr. TONKIN: Also, I trust, the figure for the Parliamentary Counsel's Branch?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The staff in that branch now numbers nine.

Dr. TONKIN: How many people are employed in the Planning Appeal Board and the associated section, in the immigration section, and in the Unit for Industrial Democracy?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Provision is made for five full-time commissioners and three part-time commissioners in the Planning Appeal Board. I cannot state the number of clerical staff in the board, but I will get that information. Nine clerical and 16 general officers are employed in the immigration section, and occasionally casuals are taken on

as required, depending on the work of the section. A considerable amount of this is in staffing the immigration hostel. The staff in the Unit for Industrial Democracy number six. In the Women's Adviser Unit, apart from the Women's Adviser herself there is provision for a graduate officer and an office assistant.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I take it that the item headed "Justice Division" provides for the payment of magistrates under the rather idiotic situation we now have with all the magistrates being in the Premier's Department now that they cannot be in the Legal Services Department because of the recent decision of the Full Court. I do not reflect upon that decision. I have too much respect for Their Honours to do so, except in an appellate tribunal, but I have called the present arrangement idiotic, and I must leave it at that. Is the present arrangement meant to be permanent, or is something else being brewed up by the Government in this regard? I suppose one could justify having the Parliamentary Counsel in the Premier's Department rather than, as has been the case ever since we amalgamated the departments when I was Attorney, in the Attorney-General's Department. There is some case to be made out for that but, except as a matter of convenience and to fulfil the letter of the law as enunciated by the Full Court, there seems to be nothing to commend having the magistrates under the jurisdiction of the Premier, and a great deal against it. Is this to be a permanent arrangement, or is something else to be done?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: At the moment, we do not have anything else brewing up. I was the reluctant recipient of the responsibility for magistrates. I agree with the honourable member that it is inappropriate for them to be in my department. The Government's view was, and in fact remains, that the sensible course was the one previously followed. However, the difficulty with the judgment of the Full Court is that the magistrates cannot be in any department that has a prosecutor. On looking at the departments, one finds that many have inspectors or other people who take some prosecutions in some way. The Premier's Department was about the only one that fitted the prescription of the Full Court. I find that distressing, but at the moment we have not found any other way of coping with the situation.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Another point is the perennial one which the magistrates themselves have put to successive Attorneys. I refer to the matter of their being taken out of Public Service altogether. I know that difficulties are involved. When I was Attorney, I at first favoured this, but certain actions of some of Their Honours rather took away my enthusiasm for it. It would be one way out of the difficulty, and of course in theory there is much to be said for separating judicial officers from the control of the Executive, even though only in matters of administration and pay. I have asked the Attorney questions about this and have not got far with him. In the light of this recent development, has the Government given serious consideration to this as a way out of the present situation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We have given consideration to it, but have not acceded to the proposal. The honourable member will be aware from his experience as Attorney-General, as I am aware from mine, that good reasons exist in relation to the minor judiciary why some control at any rate should be left in the Public Service positions, for the good of the public. That position is to be maintained.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Will the Premier provide details of the names, qualifications, and positions of persons presently employed in the Policy Division, the Economic Intelligence Unit, and the Publicity Section of his department?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have asked for that information, but I do not have it here as yet. I shall get it for the honourable member.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: When the Leader of the Opposition was seeking information concerning the Unit for Industrial Democracy, the Premier stated that there was a staff of six, and the expected expenditure is the princely sum of \$89 000. Can the Premier say who these people are, what their duties are, and how much each one is paid?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have not got the individual amounts here, but I will get them for the honourable member.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The line "Payment to industrial consultant on termination of employment" no doubt refers to Mr. Ray Taylor and his ceasing duty with the Monarto Development Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I have already ruled that we are discussing expenditure for 1976-77, and there is no expenditure for this line.

Mr. Goldsworthy: What's it doing there?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: Because it was expenditure for last year.

Dr. TONKIN: How many people are employed in the Agent-General's Office in England, and what are their duties?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: From memory, the staff numbers between 20 and 30: the Agent-General, his Secretary (Mr. Deane), Immigration Officer, Trade Officer, Chief Clerk, and clerical assistants. I will obtain a detailed report for the honourable member.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Premier give details of the amount to be spent this year in his department on entertainment, purchase of liquor, and working lunches?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The actual payment last year was \$18 824, which was less than the amount voted, and the proposed amount this year is \$20 000.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: On August 5, the Government advertised for two project officers in the Unit for Industrial Democracy. These positions were to carry salaries of between \$13 800 and \$15 148, and tertiary qualifications were desirable. The duties were to conduct the design of industrial democracy and monitor processes involved. Can the Premier say whether these people have been appointed and whether they are included in the staff of six? If they have been appointed, what are their names, and what are their functions in the unit?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I believe that one has been recommended for appointment, but no recommendation has been made for the other position. As far as I am aware, those officers are within the list that I have, but I will check that. It is possible that the unit will exceed the manpower budget this year: it will depend on the burden of work, which is proving heavy at present.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Has the Premier details of the names and positions of all persons employed in this unit? I understand that it already has well over full staff.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get that information.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Premier give details of the \$1 200 allocated for assurance premiums in this unit?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It provides for superannuation for the executive officer, who is under contract.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Has the Premier details of the \$12 000 allocated for the purchase of motor vehicles for the Agent-General in England?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is for the replacement of two vehicles.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Why has \$24 000 been allocated for the transfer of officers?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It provides for the Agent-General to return in October and Mr. W. Scriven to take up duties in London as the replacement.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Has the Premier details of the \$14 500 provided as payment to consultants for services in the Office of Premier?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It includes a retainer for Dahl and Kelly; an amount for Mr. P. R. Ward, which is now discontinued; and payment for Dr. Cheryl Larson, who has been appointed a consultant to the recently appointed Women's Adviser.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: An amount of \$3 900 has been allocated for the purchase of a motor vehicle for the Arts Development Branch. Who is to use that vehicle?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It will be used by the branch. It is necessary for these officers to move about quite a deal to visit a number of sites.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Does the Government intend not to replace Mr. Scriven when he takes up his position as Agent-General in London? Mr. Scriven, who has done a great deal for South Australia, is one of the few people in the Premier's Department who have understood the problems experienced by private enterprise. Who will take over Mr. Scriven's responsibilities?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is not intended to appoint a Director of the Development Division, but that does not mean that Mr. Scriven's duties will not be taken over by a senior officer of the department; they will be. It is not intended to appoint someone to the position of Director of the division, because we have a Director-General of the division.

Dr. TONKIN: The Auditor-General's Report at page 201 makes special mention of last year's item "Entertainment, purchase of liquor, and working luncheons." Can the Premier estimate how much will be spent this year on entertainment, purchase of liquor, and working luncheons?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not have the figure for entertainment and working lunches and things of that kind. I do not anticipate any significant change in the figure. The additional expenditure is largely a result of the fact that the Premier's Department is now involved in a series of interstate conferences. Increased interstate travel has been required, and this figure is to cope with it.

Dr. TONKIN: It still seems a large sum. I refer now to the allocation for overseas visits of the Premier and officers. Since the time that the allocation was announced, there have been press reports that \$25 000 has been set aside for overseas visits of the Premier. Can he explain the apparent anomaly?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have not made any report of that kind, and I do not know where that comes from. I have no plans for visits overseas. The allocation of \$800 is a contingency amount as against the conceivable receipt of some additional accounts from Europe and Japan in respect of the trip that I made with officers earlier this year. It is not certain, but it is thought that there may be a few outstanding accounts that have not yet reached us through our agents.

Mr. Mathwin: The sum of \$25 000?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am talking about \$800, which is set aside against any outstanding accounts. Sometimes accounts come to hand very late. It is simply a contingency amount.

Dr. TONKIN: I have no doubt that the Premier could give a breakdown of the sum of \$56 939 actually paid in respect of overseas visits last year. Regarding the Development Division, does the figure for payments to consultants

for services include an allocation for the employment of Mr. Ray Taylor? In connection with the allocation, it appears that the position has been used to find something for other people to do; it may be a temporary arrangement while a sideways promotion or a retirement arrangement is being made. What are the functions of the consultants and who are they?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: From time to time the Trade and Development Division has a number of feasibility studies done on particular topics. For this purpose it hires outside people to work with officers within the division. I do not have a list of them here, but I will see whether I can get a list for the Leader.

Dr. TONKIN: When will the publication *South Australian Development 1975-76* be produced? How much did it cost to produce last year, and what is the reason for the increased allocation this year? Is the increase a result of increased printing and production costs, or is it a result of an increase in the number of publications? This attractive document makes a brave showing of the state of industrial development in South Australia, but it is not much more than a showing. The compilers of the last publication must have scraped the bottom of the barrel, not that any industrial development is not welcome; it is. We desperately need industrial development of any sort.

Mr. Millhouse: That is a bit sweeping—"of any sort".

Dr. TONKIN: Industrial development of almost any sort would be very welcome here.

Mr. Millhouse: You have made a qualification now.

Dr. TONKIN: Judging by the accomplishments of the Development Division in the year before as set out in the document, they are pretty meagre in comparison with what is needed. It is one thing to put on a show. The publication said in one place "A considerable sum was expended," but no figures were given. Can the Premier say whether the sum will be spent on trying to put on a facade in connection with the degree of industrial development that has not been achieved in South Australia in the last financial year, or will it put the real picture? Why is there an increased allocation in this connection?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The provision for increased costs relates to increased costs of printing and to the fact that the department intends to use more extensive press advertising. The document will be a good document and it will be specific about what has been done in South Australia to assist industry and about what will continue to be done in that vein. Unlike the Opposition, this Government deals with specifics. The Leader has a grand habit of saying that something should be done but he does not know what it is that should be done.

Dr. Tonkin: That's not true. We've made many suggestions.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Leader has not suggested a single industry that we could attract to South Australia.

Dr. EASTICK: This time last year the Premier outlined the possibility of an exchange of officers between the South Australian Government and the Penang Government under an allocation for the Office of the Director-General for Trade and Development. Can he say whether such an exchange was undertaken, whether further provision has been made this year for such exchanges, and what advantages have accrued both ways in this regard? Last year I said that this suggestion had distinct merit. The sum of \$1 200 has been allocated for overseas visits of officers of the Ombudsman's office. I believe the Ombudsman has just returned from an overseas visit. Can the Premier say whether that visit was undertaken in the terms of the

Ombudsman's office or whether it was an invitation from another organisation whereby the cost was not met from this Government's sources?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In 1975-76 and 1976-77, allocations were or have been made for an overseas trip by the Ombudsman to attend an Ombudsman's conference in Alberta, Canada. It was a short trip, and the Ombudsman undertook other activities during a leave period, which was not a cost to this Government. His trip to attend the conference was at Government expense. The sum allocated for overseas visits of officers in the office of the Director-General for Trade and Development provides for visits to Malaysia and to North America that are expected to occur this financial year. I will get for the honourable member the present position about the exchange of officers.

Mr. EVANS: What is the result of discussions, if there have been discussions, between the South Australian Film Corporation and the South Australian Government about industrial democracy?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Discussions have taken place between the unit and employees of the film corporation about the introduction of an industrial democracy programme. The discussions are continuing.

Dr. TONKIN: This year's allocation for the immigration hostel has been increased only moderately compared with last year's allocation. Many South Australians do not even appreciate that such a hostel exists in South Australia. A great tribute should be paid to the staff of that hostel for the work they did after the Darwin tragedy. Can the Premier say what use is being made of the hostel, how many people are on the staff, how many people are cared for there and whence they come, and whether it is an operating proposition?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It varies. I will try to get last year's figures for the Leader. I have already given him figures relating to staff numbers.

Dr. TONKIN: The immigration hostel being situated where it is could provide a worthwhile source of accommodation for country children coming to the city on a project when they cannot afford to stay elsewhere or they cannot be billeted. Has this form of use been considered?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Mr. BECKER: Can the Premier say how operating costs of the Agent-General in England when Mr. Taylor was Agent-General compared with operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries whilst Mr. White was Agent-General?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will ascertain whether I can look back at that, because it was a long time ago.

Mr. MATHWIN: I presume that the allocation under Development Division of \$25 000 relates to fees and displays for overseas representation of the development division and that the allocation of \$60 000 relates to overseas trade fairs. Is this to be a repetition of Penang, or does it involve Penang and areas in the Far East? Also, does it include any trade fairs further afield in Europe?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is for the Government sponsorship of an exhibit at the S.I.M.A. Agricultural Machinery Fair in Paris.

Mr. ARNOLD: I refer to the line relating to the Planning Appeal Board. Will the Minister say how many appeals are currently before the board, and what is the current delay in having appeals heard?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will have to ask for a report from the Chairman of the board.

Mr. MATHWIN: I refer to the line "Operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries" for the Planning Appeal Board, and note that actual payments in 1975-76 amounted to \$31 886, whereas the proposed expenditure for 1976-77 is \$50 000. Will the Premier say what staff increases have occurred or are to occur in that department?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! There is nothing in the line relating to staff, so the honourable member is out of order in asking that question.

Mr. MATHWIN: I refer, then, to the line relating to fees for the members of the Planning Appeal Board. This allocation has increased, although not steeply. I combine these two matters, as they both relate to the Planning Appeal Board and involve the Premier's Department.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member cannot combine the two questions relating to staff. He has an opportunity, under the line "Secretary and clerical staff" on page 14, to refer to staff.

Mr. MATHWIN: Then I will ask the Premier my original question. What is the situation regarding the Planning Appeal Board's staff? Does he expect to increase that staff?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have already answered the question about the staff of this department. It is intended to provide five full-time commissioners and three part-time commissioners. I said that earlier this afternoon. This Parliament has charged this tribunal, which is really a series of tribunals, with a whole series of additional duties. There are a number of administrative tribunals that must be dealt with by the branch of my department that covers the Planning Appeal Board. I refer, for example, to things like water right appeals and things of that nature. There are about seven different tribunals that are covered by this. The additional work has been given to this department and, in order to meet the difficulties of servicing the people who come before these tribunals, we must be able to provide the staff, equipment and expenses to do it. That is what is proposed.

Mr. EVANS: I note that the proposed expenditure of \$251 500 for 1976-77 for members' fees and for the Secretary and clerical staff of the Planning Appeal Board is only about \$30 000 more than actual expenditure of \$221 867 in 1975-76. An inflationary trend of only 8 per cent or 10 per cent would take it to near that sum. However, the operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries vote has increased considerably to \$50 000, actual payments last year being \$31 886. That is a substantial increase if there has not been an increase in staff. Will the Minister therefore say why this increase is necessary?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The area in which the Planning Appeal Board was operating was too small. The expenses include the board's shifting to the Grenfell Centre, as well as the hiring of office space suitable for the tribunal at a rather higher rental than was previously being paid. This was the most suitable accommodation that the Public Service Board's Accommodation Committee could find.

Mr. EVANS: Will the Premier bring down details of the difference in accommodation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will try to do that.

Mr. MATHWIN: I seek information on the line, "Conference of Good Neighbour Council—grant towards expenses of country delegates". The conference is to be held in about two weeks. I notice there has been no increase in this allocation, which, from memory, has been \$850 for the last three years that I have been a member of this place. This is a well worthwhile organisation, of

which I was a member for many years. In fact, at one stage I was on the council's State Executive. The Premier will well know the advantage of this conference and what it does for ethnic groups in this State, which he supports. As accommodation costs much more now than it did three or four years ago, has the Premier considered allocating a little more for the accommodation of the country delegates who attend this conference?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No; nor do I recollect any approach from the council, which, I understand, is able to meet its expenses out of its current finance.

Dr. TONKIN: A short time ago the Premier was able to say "Yes" when I asked whether consideration had been given to the use of immigration hostel facilities by visiting country schoolchildren. Will the Premier say whether this happens now or to what extent it is proposed for the future?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will give the Leader a run-down on the use of the hostel.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I refer to the line "Operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries" for the Development Division of the Premier's Department. I wish to ask a question about how I understand part of that money is being spent. I refer to a letter sent by Mr. W. L. C. Davies, Director-General of Trade and Development, on July 16. It relates to a survey seeking information from companies in this State. I understand that the survey has been sent to all major companies in South Australia. I ask the Premier to what companies it has been sent, whether it has been sent to any specific types of industry or company, to every company listed or to any company that is known or that pays pay-roll tax? As the Premier frowns as though he does not know what the survey is all about, I shall briefly outline some of the information collected in the survey. I refer to the survey of manufacturing industry 1975-76, which requires information on the name of the firm involved, its location, postal address, and so on. It goes on to ask about capital and developmental expenditure, how much was spent last year and how much is proposed to be spent during the current year. It refers to the expansion and/or relocation of the companies, and to joint ventures and those manufacturing under licence. It also refers to certain other information concerning product promotion or assistance, mode of transport, and so on. Is this information really necessary? I imagine that considerable cost is involved in trying to obtain this information. I wonder whether the Australian Bureau of Statistics would already have much of this information that it could make available. What guarantee can be given that this information will be kept confidential? Obviously, if the survey seeks information on capital expenditure and development expenditure, companies would not want their rival companies or anyone else to know what that expenditure may be. Will the Premier guarantee that this information will not be passed on to any other person? We had a classic example this afternoon of the Minister of Labour and Industry passing on information to his back-benchers.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is now moving away from the line under discussion.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I am referring to the way in which money under this line is likely to be spent this year, and I am seeking certain assurances on how it will be spent.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The survey has been taken regularly by the trade and development division almost since its inception.

Mr. Dean Brown: More information is required this year than in past years.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The information sought is necessary to provide the department with the basis for advising this Government and the Commonwealth Government on trends in industry. The information is always confidential; no details of it are passed on. It is only the totality of the figures that are derived. It is vitally necessary for us to keep up to date with what is happening in our own industrial area. It is certainly not possible for us to rely on the Australian Bureau of Statistics, whose figures are usually well behind our own. In discussions with industry, it is vital for us to have a general idea of what trends are taking place, intentions regarding development expenditure, and the experience of industry in the area. We need to be sensitive to this information. This is a normal function of any development department, and I believe that it should continue as in the past effectively to serve industry in South Australia.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The Premier has given me the answer I expected. Why in the past has he not been willing to give information about which companies have closed in South Australia and which have relocated, part, if not all, of their manufacturing enterprises? When replying to such questions in the past, the Premier has refused to supply such information, saying that it was not available. He has admitted that this survey has been carried out regularly, so this information has always been available to this department. He is unwilling to reveal these facts, because they are so devastating. The information would show that his Government has failed over the past two or three years to attract any major industrial development to South Australia. Why has he not given this information when I have asked for it? Why has he continually dodged behind the claim that this information was not available? He admitted this afternoon that it was available, and no longer can he make that shabby kind of reply when such questions are asked.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: My replies have been perfectly correct, and the honourable member knows it. One moment he says that he wants an assurance from me as to the confidentiality of the information contained in a survey, and the next moment he demands to know why I have not given him particulars. The fact is that, although the survey is taken voluntarily, we do not always obtain information about people who have relocated. It is obvious that the honourable member in seeking information of this kind never wants to use accurately whatever information he has. I know that he issued a statement concerning Freighter Industries Limited, saying that it had relocated out of South Australia, whereas what happened was that the Government bought the company through the Housing Trust and leased it to the Leyland company, with a large expenditure of Government money, thereby increasing employment. That is the way in which the honourable member wants to carry on. If he has any specific allegations to make, let him make them. I heard him make the allegation to which I have referred, and I imagine that others would be equally as inaccurate.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: My questions have always concerned how many industries have closed down (I have requested no specific or confidential information) in this State, and the Premier has continually refused to supply the information because he knows how embarrassing that information is. Again to correct the Premier's claim about Freighter Industries, I claimed that the company had closed down in South Australia. My claim is correct, and the Premier knows it.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I know the representations given.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The statement appears in *Hansard*, and was made here two months ago. The Premier has not refuted that statement before. If he looks at the exact wording of it, he could not refute it, because it is correct. I could cite several other companies that have closed down. The Premier is continually trying to hide such information. I believe that his department has the information, but is unwilling to give it. Can we have this information (not confidential information) on the total number of companies that have closed down or relocated elsewhere? I am sure such information is available, if the Premier were willing to give it.

Press officers would probably come under "Administration expenses, minor equipment and sundries". There are two aspects to my question, first, regarding the number of press secretaries employed by the Government.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member is aware of this Committee's procedure. Under this line, I cannot allow him to continue in this vein. "Administration expenses, minor equipment and sundries" has nothing to do with press secretaries or their salaries. Is that the line to which the honourable member is referring?

Mr. DEAN BROWN: That was the line I referred to, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you could correct me by telling me under what line travelling, entertainment and accommodation expenses for the press secretaries and other press personnel employed in the Premier's Department appear.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member should know what line is involved.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I think that the provisions for travelling expenses come under that line.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: In reply to a question I asked on September 14 of this year, the Premier refused, in his answer, to list what allowances were available for press secretaries in his department. He said:

No special allowances are paid to these persons. Public Service arrangements with respect to entertainment, travel and accommodation apply to these officers.

What entertainment, travel and accommodation expenses have been allowed for the current year and what was the expenditure in the past year (I am prepared to have the total amount for the two people, to save embarrassment for either one) of Mr. Crease and Mr. Templeton, in respect of whom the Treasurer refused to give me information earlier?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We certainly have not got figures out for specific amounts spent by specific people, and it would be difficult to get them. However, I will see what I can do. The position is that officers are allowed to take people concerned with their work to lunch or a meal occasionally. Largely this has to be done to reciprocate for the same sort of thing done for them occasionally, and it is involved with their work. Every one of those occasions must be approved by me. No special allowance is paid for it. Frankly, it will be difficult to compile specific amounts for specific officers, because they are not tabulated in that way; but I will inquire of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I would not for a moment deny these people the opportunity to be involved in such expenditure, but the Auditor-General refers specifically to the amount spent on entertainment by some officers in the Premier's Department.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to keep to the line under consideration. It is hard for me to understand to which line the honourable member is speaking.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I was referring again to line 1001. I seek information that the Premier refused to give me in reply to a Question on Notice concerning the salaries paid to some of his press secretaries; I simply got the answer from the Premier (who listed the 14 press secretaries employed by the Government overall and the two to whom I am referring) that these people were employed simply under Public Service grades 1 to 5 and he refused to list the appropriate salaries. I think the Premier was literally just trying to be difficult in this issue. When this question has been asked in previous years, the Premier has given the information. Why did he not give it on this occasion? Can he now indicate, or get the information and supply it, which specific grades of grades 1 to 5 Mr. Crease and Mr. Templeton are employed under; what is the salary range appropriate to that grade; and also what special overtime allowances are paid to either of them, if any?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get the specific grades.

Mr. MATHWIN: Is the Women's Adviser under contract employment or is she employed by the Public Service?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have already answered that question here.

Mr. Mathwin: Today?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Not today, but only in the last week or so. I wish the honourable member would pay attention to the answers given in this place. The Women's Adviser is employed on contract because it was not possible to second her to the post in my department from the college of advanced education where she was employed. Therefore, she is employed on contract.

Line passed.

Public Service Board, \$2 534 000.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I move:

To reduce the vote of the Public Service Board Department by \$100.

I explain to members who are interested that this is a vote of no confidence in the Government. I do this at the first opportunity I have had since I received an answer to a Question on Notice on September 7 concerning the enormous and continued growth in the Public Service as a whole. It seems to me (and I have been advised) that this is the appropriate line under which to make my protest.

Mr. EVANS: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I believe the ruling in the past has been that, where this action is taken to decrease the amount of a line, it precludes any other questioning on the line subsequently; is that the case or not?

The CHAIRMAN: Standing Order 315 (4) states:

An amendment to omit or reduce any vote, item or line may be moved and members shall speak only to such question until it has been disposed of. When several amendments are offered, they shall be taken in the order in which, if agreed to, they would appear in the estimates.

Mr. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, if I can have your attention—

Mr. Millhouse: Is this another point of order or what?

Mr. EVANS: Yes. My recollection is that in the past the interpretation of that Standing Order has been that there can be no further debate other than on this motion moved, in this case, by the member for Mitcham. I support his move. Mr. Chairman, you have read the Standing Order to us but you have not given us the Chairman's interpretation of that Standing Order. I should like to know what it is.

The CHAIRMAN: May I repeat "An amendment to omit or reduce any vote . . .". It has been moved to

reduce this line, and that means that the honourable member can speak only on this line. On the motion to reduce the vote, he can speak on this line.

Mr. Millhouse: And the reasons therefor?

The CHAIRMAN: That is the question before the Chair.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: If I may now continue despite the member for Fisher's obstruction—

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I should like to get the position clear, because the matter before us is the line in the schedule. The estimates of payments from Revenue Account are simply explanations to which we may refer in the course of the debate. The matter actually before the House is the line in the schedule, \$2 534 000. If the honourable member moves to reduce that sum that will be the end of that line.

Mr. EVANS: I rise on a further point of order. I hope that the member for Mitcham will accept that it is reasonable to question the situation. Past practice has been to give members the opportunity to ask questions of a general nature before the motion to reduce the line is moved. I ask—

Mr. Millhouse: It would be at three tomorrow morning, the way you fellows are going on.

Mr. EVANS: —whether that can be done in the circumstances, which is in line with past practice. Moreover, I make the point that the member for Mallee was on his feet first.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the member for Mitcham whether he is willing temporarily to withdraw his amendment.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: No, not really. Let me explain the reason why. I have sat here for an hour and a half—

Mr. Venning: That's most unusual!

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes, it is, because I have been waiting all that time for this opportunity while we have had the most trifling question and time-wasting by members of the Liberal Party on the preceding line, and I am damned if I will wait for another hour and a half while they put equally trifling questions on this line when I have already moved to reduce it by \$100. I got to my feet and you, Mr. Chairman, saw me. I moved a perfectly proper motion and I cannot see why I should be held up, or why the Committee should be held up, indefinitely while Liberal members ask these trifling questions, such as those asked on the previous line. That is why I am not willing to do this. By the way Liberal members are going on, they are inviting the use of the guillotine by the Government. I am not willing to do as requested.

The CHAIRMAN: Further to what was said by the member for Fisher, I point out that at all times I look around the Chamber and try to give the opportunity as much as possible to each and every honourable member to ask a question in Committee. The opportunity is always available to an honourable member to stand at any time. I have always given first preference to the honourable Leader of the Opposition. When I have noticed honourable members waiting to rise I have given the first opportunity to the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. On several occasions I saw that the honourable member for Mitcham was ready to rise but I still gave the opportunity first to the honourable Leader of the Opposition. In the end, I thought it was the Chairman's prerogative to give the honourable member for Mitcham the opportunity to ask a question and in this case, in my opinion, he was first on his feet. Does the honourable member for Mitcham wish to continue?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Thank you, Sir. The reason—

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I seek—

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am going to go on with my speech. He has not said it's a point of order.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Will the honourable member resume his seat?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I will—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Deputy Leader.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY moved:

That the Chairman's ruling be disagreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable Deputy Leader of the Opposition has moved that the Chairman's ruling be disagreed to on the grounds that my ruling constitutes a breach of Parliamentary practice.

The SPEAKER: Order! I uphold the Chairman's ruling.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY moved:

That the Speaker's ruling be disagreed to.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member must bring up his reasons in writing. The honourable member for Kavel has moved that the Speaker's ruling be disagreed to. The honourable member for Kavel.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: We have witnessed in this House in the past few minutes a deliberate attempt by the member for Mitcham to preclude proper discussion on the Budget. The member has stated in the House that, in his judgment, we were wasting our time, and he has moved the motion simply to preclude further discussion on this line. There has been no discussion on the line concerned with the Department of the Public Service Board, and the member for Mitcham, who sat here for only part of the Budget debate, did not intend to sit here and listen to any more. In other words, he admitted to this House that it was not a question of confidence in the Government: he admitted that his move was a complete and utter sham and he was prejudging any questions that the Opposition may have had on this issue. It seems to me coincidental that the Minister of Mines and Energy was in animated conversation with the member for Mitcham previously, but that may be beside the point.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: It is beside the point, and you're a nasty—

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Well, someone from the Government side admitted by interjection that this was their form of the guillotine.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Who said that?

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: For this motion to come from the member for Mitcham, who on television in the past week has stated that being a member of Parliament is a half-time job and that no-one else should say otherwise, is complete hypocrisy. We know that he spends less time in this House than does any other member on this side, but his action today is a deliberate attempt—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I rise on a point of order. The opinion that the member for Kavel has of the member for Mitcham, however relevant it may be to the internecine warfare among the Liberals, has nothing to do with his motion to disagree to the ruling.

The SPEAKER: I must uphold the point of order.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I will not pursue that matter further, but everyone in this House (and that includes Government members and the Chairman of Committees) knows the reason for the moving of this motion.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: We do not. We did not hear the member.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: If the Minister had been in the Chamber, he would have heard it.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: I did not hear what his reasons were. I heard him move the motion.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: He was on his feet and he gave his reasons to the House. If the Minister had listened to that he would know, as the Chairman would know, what were the reasons for moving the motion. The motion was moved to stifle debate on this line. The next question that arises is that of recognising who is to get the call. The member for Mallee was first on his feet, as other members on this side of the House know.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member has moved a motion of disagreement to your upholding the Chairman's ruling as to the procedure applying when a member moves for the reduction of a particular line. So far, the member for Kavel has not said a word about it. With great respect, I say that he must speak to his motion or stop speaking.

The SPEAKER: I must uphold the point of order. The honourable member for Kavel must speak to the motion.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I am moving a motion of dissent from your ruling because I believe that, in the first instance, the Chairman's ruling was wrong and that your upholding of his ruling was therefore wrong. I say that because, based on any past practice, members of this House have been given the opportunity to ask questions on each line, and for the Chairman to allow the member for Mitcham to take precedence of the member for Mallee, who was the first on his feet, simply to gag the debate is contrary to all past practice in the House. If we look at the time spent in past years on Budget debates, we find that the time spent so far on this Budget debate is a fraction of the time that the Labor Party, in Opposition, required for proper discussion on the Budget papers.

It comes very hard on the Opposition, knowing that the Chairman is aware that the purpose for which the member for Mitcham moved this motion was simply to curtail debate, that the Chairman still persisted in not recognising the member for Mallee, who was the first on his feet. This makes a complete farce of any proper discussion of the Budget papers. During the debate on the Loan Estimates, the Chairman co-operated with members. There was a move to reduce the provision for the Monarto Development Commission, but the Chairman called other members. He made perfectly clear, with guidance from the officers of the House, that, if a motion of that kind was moved, it would preclude any other discussion on the line dealing with that provision. The Chairman invited Opposition members to ask their questions before that motion was moved. That was a genuine motion of no confidence in the Government. However, this is a patently phoney, false, cooked-up move by the part-time member for Mitcham to stifle debate, and he has been aided and abetted by Government members.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you direct the member for Kavel to withdraw those remarks. This is not a phoney, cooked-up (and whatever else he said) motion. The honourable member is impugning my motives. My purpose in moving the motion was one of no confidence in the Government, and I bitterly resent his imputation against me that this is not a genuine move. I ask that those adjectives be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: I feel that there is no point of order.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: In conclusion, let me say that, if this motion of dissent is not upheld, a very serious blow to the rights of members of this House will have been struck by the two rulings. The precedent was set during the Loan Estimates debate. The opportunity was given to members then to ask questions before a genuine motion

of no confidence in the Government was moved. The member for Mitcham made perfectly obvious in previous comments the reason for moving for the reduction of the line. *Hansard* will show that, and in those circumstances I believe it only reasonable and just that my motion be supported.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer): I ask the House to uphold your ruling, Mr. Speaker. The honourable member has adduced absolutely nothing in support of his motion to disagree to your ruling. The ruling that the Chairman gave was perfectly proper, in accordance with the traditions and practice of the House. They have been that, when a motion is moved to reduce a particular line in Committee, that then becomes the debate on that line and, when it is disposed of, that disposes of the line. Because of that previously, as the member for Kavel pointed out, the Chairman, being appraised that there was a move to reduce the line, asked members to get their questions in first. However, on this occasion the Chairman was not aware that there was to be a move to reduce the line and, when objection was taken by members opposite, he asked the member concerned whether he would be willing to withdraw. The member was not willing to withdraw. That, then, is entirely out of the Chairman's hands, and, if members opposite cannot arrange their business with the member for Mitcham, I should think they would go better about it if they want to get the kind of—

Members interjecting:

Mr. Allison: He's never here when he is wanted.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am sure that, if members opposite had had some communication with him about his intention, they would have been in a position to make an arrangement, but that did not happen. There is no point in the position taken by the honourable member about the Chairman's needing to recognise the member for Mallee first. It was suggested during the debate that the member for Mallee was on his feet first. The Chairman rejected that, and pointed out the basis on which he recognised honourable members, which is perfectly in accordance with the traditions of this House. No point of order was taken about that matter, so the honourable member cannot be arguing about that. He is arguing only about the correctness of the Chairman's decision, which is in accordance with Standing Orders and the practice of this House, and which the House is bound to uphold.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (20)—Messrs. Allen, Allison, Arnold, Becker, Boundy, Dean Brown, Chapman, Coumbe, Eastick, Goldsworthy (teller), Gunn, Mathwin, Nankivell, Rodda, Russack, Tonkin, Vandepeer, Venning, Wardle, and Wotton.

Noes (24)—Messrs. Abbott, Blacker, and Max Brown, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Corcoran, Duncan, Dunstan (teller), Groth, Harrison, Hopgood, Hudson, Jennings, Keneally, Langley, McRae, Millhouse, Olson, Payne, Simmons, Slater, Virgo, Wells, Whitten, and Wright.

Pair—Aye—Mr. Evans. No—Mr. Broomhill.

Majority of 4 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Now that the honourable member for Kavel has vented his malice, envy and spleen, and has thereby wasted 30 minutes, perhaps we can get on—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the honourable member to speak to the motion before the Committee.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: —with what is intended to be a motion of no confidence against the Government. As I was beginning to say when I was interrupted, I take this,

the first opportunity I have had since I received a reply to a Question on Notice on September 7 regarding the size of the Public Service and its continued growth. It seems to me (and I have taken some advice on this) that this is the proper line on which to make as strong a complaint as I can about the Government's intention to continue to increase the size of the Public Service. I had thought, before the circus of the past 30 minutes or so, that I would have had the support of the Liberal Party in moving this motion, because its own Federal Leader and his Government have asked the States not to go on increasing the size of the Public Service *ad nauseam*; and that is precisely what I am complaining about in this motion. Let me remind members (and those on this side obviously need some reminding) of the question and answer of September 7, at page 808 of *Hansard*. I suggest that, in the answer the Premier gives to this question, he convicts himself and his Government out of his own mouth. These were my questions:

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?

Perhaps I shall deal first with the answers to that question. They were 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;

The most one can say about that is that it is rather less than the increases we have had in the past six years, to which I shall refer in a moment. So, at least the South Australian public has the satisfaction of knowing that the increase in the Public Service is to be slowed down. In response to the second part of the question, "Why is there to be such an increase?", the only reply we got, and it is an insult to members, was as follows:

To cope with increased demands for services and to implement new Government policies and initiatives.

I would have hoped that members on this side would not need to have pointed out to them that one of the best ways of fastening socialism on a community is to increase continually the Public Service on one pretext or another. It is a classical way of doing it, because socialism means either Government ownership or Government control. The Australian Labor Party, if it can, always leans towards Government ownership and control. And, to implement new Government policies and initiatives, of course it needs more public servants. We did not get in the reply any details whatever about the reason for this; all we got, in response to the question "In which departments will the increases be made?" is the following statement in part (c) of the reply:

Throughout all departments, the principal increases being in the following departments: Hospitals/Health, Community Welfare, Engineering and Water Supply, and Transport. I remind members of the Liberal Party that Mr. Fraser has said that it is obviously impossible for the size of government to go on and on increasing, yet that is precisely what is happening in this State, and apparently, if that reply is genuine, for the sake of increases themselves, and for no other reason. That is why I make this complaint. I was surprised at the time that there was no publicity given to the question and the reply. The Liberal Party was utterly supine about it. I have had to wait until now to take some action about it.

Let me turn now to the second question I asked and to its answer. This is a comparison of the way in which

the honourable gentleman has, since he became Premier again in 1970, increased the Public Service of this State. The so-called Leader of the Opposition has from time to time asked about increases in specific departments, the Premier's Department, and so on. Here we have the overall increases from the Premier's own mouth in the total of the Public Service. I would have thought it was far more appropriate to complain about this (because there can be no argument about the figures, which have been produced by the Government itself) than about individuals in certain departments.

The Premier referred to the increase in the Public Service in the last six financial years. My question went back to the time when the present Government came to office in June, 1970. The Premier said that in 1970-71 there was an increase of 727 persons, an increase of 7.09 per cent. No member should forget that these increases are compounded; it is an increase on an increase. In 1971-72 there was an increase of 664, 6.05 per cent; in 1972-73, there was an increase of 940, 8.07 per cent; and in 1973-74, 1 589 extra bodies had to be paid for by the taxpayers of this State, an increase of 12.63 per cent. In 1974-75, the increase dropped to 695, a mere 4.9 per cent; in 1975-76, there was an increase of 799 persons, 5.38 per cent. Even if one adds this up and takes it as a simple addition, one gets an increase of about 44 per cent in the size of the Public Service over that period. This enormous increase is paid for by the taxpayers.

The member for Davenport, in a question that was perhaps less a waste of time than some of the comments made and questions asked by some of his colleagues, asked about press officers. We have 14 press officers, who are a complete and utter waste of time. If a Minister is not good enough to get his own publicity across, he is no good at all. Apart from the Premier, and I acknowledge that this is one of his abilities, none of the other Ministers has come across any better because of the appointment of press officers. No Minister has put himself across any better than have Ministers of previous Governments, under which there were no press officers. If a man is worth his salt he will get himself across without the barrier of a press officer. But that is only a detail.

When the Leader of the Opposition complained about the lack of industrial development in South Australia, I chided him on the sweeping allegation that he made—an unqualified suggestion that any development was good development. We have not had any industrial development. The only industry that has really developed in South Australia in the last six years has been the Public Service, which has increased enormously. I do not know what the Liberal Party will do in connection with my motion, after the silly dust-up led by the member for Kavel but, if the Liberal Party has any sense at all, it will support my motion, which is the only protest we can make about the way in which the burden of government is increasing in this State for no purpose whatever, except for the sake of increasing the burden of government, because that is in line with the Labor Party's philosophy.

I do not know whether, even now, I have shown the member for Kavel that there was more in my motion than simply to stifle debate on this line. I hope I have convinced even him that there is something to complain about, something basic in the governmental structure of this State, something far more important than the trifling questions we have been having from Liberal Party members in the past few hours. I have given the reasons for my motion clearly and briefly. The motion relates to a scandalous situation in South Australia, and the only time

I, as a lone member in this House, can take any effective action is during a debate on a line in the Budget. I take this opportunity of complaining most bitterly about this matter.

Dr. TONKIN (Leader of the Opposition): The action taken by the member for Mitcham disappoints me somewhat, not because of the tenor of the motion but because of the sheer bitterness that has come through in this debate toward Liberal Party members. I am absolutely shocked to find that the honourable member feels the way he does, that he is willing to act so selfishly in a way that does him no credit, and to pre-empt and stifle the rights of his colleagues in this place, whether they be in Opposition or on the Government side. We would not expect to hear much from the Government side by way of questions, but the honourable member has been willing to stifle by his actions—

Mr. Millhouse: Why don't you get on with the substance of the motion?

Mr. Goldsworthy: Why don't you shut up?

Dr. TONKIN: The member for Mitcham is still carrying on in a petulant and childish way. This subject has been raised before. Opposition members had a number of questions that they would have liked to ask on this line. As I understand Standing Orders, the motion will preclude any further discussion on the line. I certainly support the tenor of the motion; indeed, it would be inconsistent of Opposition members if they did not support it. If the member for Mitcham had taken the time and the trouble, during his two trips to talk to me this afternoon on various matters, to mention that he had this in mind, I would have been very happy to support him.

That subject has been raised many times. It was raised by the Opposition as recently as September 22 and September 23 in the debate on the motion to go into Committee. We have been considering the matter for some time. The member for Mitcham said this was his first opportunity as an individual member to raise the matter. I would point out to him that he spent much time in this Chamber on September 16 trying to denigrate yet another member of the Liberal Party. He was given an opportunity by the Opposition when he specifically asked the Opposition for that favour.

Mr. Millhouse: It's not for you to decide who speaks in a grievance debate.

Dr. TONKIN: I resent it when the honourable member does not come and speak with me when he has in mind to attack the Liberal Party rather than the Government in this Chamber. He has fallen right into the trap that has been made for him: the trap of moving the guillotine, in effect, because he has stifled debate on this line. Be that as it may, and whatever the honourable member's motives may be and no matter how shameful some of his attitudes are, I still believe that there has been an excessive growth in the Public Service, particularly in the Premier's Department. I spoke for a considerable time about that matter.

The Premier's Department increased from 18 in 1966 to 27 in 1968, 30 in 1970, 147 in 1972 and 182 in 1974. It was estimated that there were probably 238 staff members of that department in 1975. Certainly, there have been moves in and out of the Premier's Department. I accept that. The question which was asked today, and which the member for Mitcham did not follow because he was not here for the first part of the questions asked at the end of last week, so could therefore not be expected to understand, was to establish exactly what departments had moved in or had moved out and what were their

comparable figures in and out so that we could get a picture of the growth of the Premier's Department. There is no question at all, although those detailed figures have been given or have been promised, because they are not all available, that there has been a remarkable increase in the size of the Public Service generally and in the growth of the Premier's Department.

I cannot justify, even with the concentration of all policy-making and decision-making in the Premier's Department and with the whittling away of power from Ministers and senior public servants in other departments, the growth that has occurred in the Public Service. I support the motion, but I do so dissociating myself from the slur that is implied on members of the Public Service Board. The member for Mitcham may laugh, but I believe South Australia has a fine Public Service. It does the member for Mitcham little credit to criticise, by implication, the board. The line we are considering is not the appropriate line for a discussion on this matter. He had every opportunity previously to ventilate his concern, but he did not choose to take action until now. I repeat that I am bitterly disappointed that he has seen fit to create a situation whereby he will undoubtedly say that there was no co-operation with the Liberal Party in Opposition. If there has been no co-operation, I can only say that it occurred because the honourable member did not seek co-operation but deliberately chose to keep quiet. He was obviously more concerned to take advice from the Minister of Mines and Energy.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Mines and Energy): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable Minister cannot make a personal explanation in Committee.

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: Then, in brief reply to the Leader of the Opposition (I do not wish to enter into the debate) I wish to say that the suggestion made by the Leader when he repeated the innuendo put out by his deputy is completely and utterly false. The discussion that took place between the member for Mitcham and me was about another matter that had nothing to do with this matter.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I support the motion. I greatly regret that the member for Mitcham has decided to sit in judgment on the Opposition because it is his belief that the questions we ask in connection with the Budget are of no significance. I also regret that he is so frequently absent from the Chamber in pursuit of the other occupation, which he says that every member in this—

The Hon. HUGH HUDSON: I rise on a point of order. I do not see what the member for Mitcham's absence, frequent though it may be, has to do with the motion before the Chair.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I uphold the point of order. I hope that, during the course of this debate, the Deputy Leader and other members will stick to the question under consideration.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The new-found friendship between the Minister and the member for Mitcham is refreshing. This motion is a repetition of what has been said by the official Opposition in this Chamber and publicly many times in the past. Although the motion is repetitious, we support it because, in its terms, it is consistent with what we have been saying for a long time. It is well known that the growth of the Public Service in South Australia has outstripped the growth of public services in other States. From memory, the growth rate in the

past three years in South Australia has been quite spectacular if compared with the growth of public services in other better endowed States which are, by virtue of their natural resources, better equipped to sustain a public service. The trend in South Australia is alarming.

I am pleased that the member for Mitcham referred to the Prime Minister, because in the Federal sphere there has been a deliberate attempt as a matter of policy to curtail the growth of this sector. Everyone realises that, in the Federal sphere, as a result of publicly stated activities by Mr. Crean, there was an attempt to build up the public sector to the detriment of the private sector. Everyone except members of the Labor Party and its apologists realises how harmful that has been on the Australian scene.

The record of succeeding Labor Treasurers on the Federal scene has shown a deliberate attempt to transfer resources from the private to the public sector. It is realised by all reasonable people that that was a disastrous trend. That trend has been repeated in South Australia. During the six years of Labor Administration in South Australia the public sector has grown tremendously. Anyone who suggests that that trend is not detrimental to the private sector has his head in the sand. The public sector must be supported by the revenue that flows to the State from the productive sector. I make no apology for saying that one of the highly productive sectors as far as the State Government is concerned is that in the country. The country areas of this State produce about half the State's export income and are responsible for about 40 per cent of its total production. That productive sector must be taxed heavily to support the public sector. Not only has the growth of the Public Service in South Australia been spectacular in the six years that Labor has been in office but also, hand in hand with that and to support it, there has been a tremendous and astronomical growth in State taxes and charges.

The time has come to call a halt in this respect. Fortunately, we have on the Federal scene a Treasurer and a Prime Minister who are willing to call a halt. In view of the country railways deal and the present situation in relation to our State surplus, the time has come for us to see a diminution of and a reduction in the level of State taxes. The Government cannot continue indefinitely to put people on the public pay roll. The Opposition has on numerous occasions drawn attention to what is happening in this State. In these circumstances, despite the petty motives that led the member for Mitcham to move this motion and deliberately to preclude discussion on the lines, the Opposition has no option but to support the motion.

Mr. EVANS: I strongly support the motion, as I believe there is no doubt that many people are concerned that the Public Service is getting too large. They are concerned that the man in the street is possibly not getting a fair return for the taxes he pays. I should like to give an example of the sort of thing that happens in this area, and to refer specifically to the Premier's own department, with which he has lost contact. When the Public Service gets too big for the Premier to keep his finger on the pulse of things, it is indeed a serious situation. We are now in that situation.

I refer to the appointment of Director of the Tourist Bureau. The Public Service Board advertised many months ago in order to fill this position. However, the Premier said that those advertisements were not successful. Although 23 applications were received, there was not a suitable person, in the Premier's opinion or that of the Public Service Board's interviewing committee, to take it on. The

Premier said last week that, when there was a suitable person on the horizon (or words to that effect), the department would readvertise the position. He also said that the department would advertise overseas, when in fact the department has advertised the position four times. We know the result of the first advertisement but not of the other three advertisements. The department has advertised overseas each time, and I have been told today that the position, which has been advertised four times, was last advertised only last week. Despite this, the Premier said today that it had only just been decided to advertise the position. Also, I was told today that, on each occasion, it was advertised nationally throughout Australia, in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom. If that is not advertising overseas, what is? That is one example of the member for Mitcham saying that there is a problem in the Public Service and of my saying that there is a problem of the board's not communicating with the Premier.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: What's that to do with the size of the service?

Mr. EVANS: We are discussing the Public Service, and the board is a part of it. The Premier is incapable of keeping his finger on the problems that arise or on the decisions that are made. That is an example of the service becoming too big for the Premier to handle. If that is not the reason, he may like to tell me his reason for giving inaccurate answers to questions. He cannot deny that. I believe that, in fairness to the opening remarks of the member for Mitcham, I should at least have the opportunity to comment. My point of order was not to prevent him from moving his motion. I have always tried to liaise with him and to inform him of anything my Party intends to do along these lines. I hoped that he would do the same as we have done in the past, namely, give us the opportunity of asking questions first, and then for him to move his motion. He could have withdrawn it, and that is all I was seeking at the time. If that is an unreasonable request, I must be a bad judge of what is a reasonable request. It is important that members ask general questions on a line, and I hope that that practice continues. What may be important to one member may not be important to another member. However, that is not for Parliament but for the member to judge, and I hope that the member for Mitcham remembers that. Each member should operate in the way in which he thinks is best for his line of thinking.

Mr. Keneally: I think he appreciates this lecture, as he is such a new member!

Mr. EVANS: The member for Stuart is sarcastic; he would be better off if he did not comment. The motion is a protest against the large increase in the Public Service. I, too, believe that the increase is too great, and I believe that most people in the community, and even some members of the service, realise that. I do not say that to discredit individuals in the service; the decision is not theirs but of those in power who allow us to progress in that direction. I say that it is progress in inverted commas. I support the motion.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The member for Mitcham has protested about an increase in the Public Service forecast at about 4 per cent as a total this year; that means that he believes that the departments should cut back on their intended delivery of services to the community. Also, he has reflected on the increases that have been made in the past few years. I tabled only today the Public Service Board's report, and I propose to deal with the areas in which new positions had to be created. A total of 79 positions were abolished, and new offices were created

in a number of departments. The Leader of the Opposition said that there had been a gross increase in the Premier's Department, and that this was absolutely terrible and was an outstandingly dreadful figure! It was 14 positions out of a total of 1 253 new positions created and 79 abolished. As most departments go, it was really one of the smaller increases.

Mr. Dean Brown: What did it represent as a percentage?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member can get the figures; I have tabled the report. He can do his sums afterwards, if he likes. There was an increase in the Agriculture and Fisheries Department of 40. The member for Kavel said that we needed to provide services to country people. We did increase the services in this area by the creation of 40 new positions in the Agriculture and Fisheries Department. We increased the expenditure in fisheries by 100 per cent. That was an election promise, because we had under-spent and under-served that area previously. The Community Welfare Department increased by 64, the reason for that increase being the regionalisation of services of that department and our being able to provide much needed services in this area where this State until 1970 had poorly served the community.

Mr. Keneally: A move, of course, by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. Another largish increase was in the Education Department—96. I have just received a deputation from the South Australian Institute of Teachers saying that our increases for this year are too small; that in fact we are not meeting the staffing requirements to give that department similar staff conditions to those of other States.

Mr. Venning: That's not true.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member can argue that with the South Australian Institute of Teachers. There was an increase in the Engineering and Water Supply Department of 95. That was necessary for us to service the Water Resources Branch and to provide for the filtration of water services in Adelaide.

Mr. Millhouse: When will that happen?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Those programmes are continuing. We must have the staff to carry them out. There was an increase in the Environment Department of 39, which was vitally necessary for us to provide services to the large areas of land for conservation and recreation purposes which have been bought in South Australia; so we now have the best provision of any mainland State. We have to service those areas. There was an increase of 404 in the Hospitals Department, by far the biggest increase of any department.

The Hon. Hugh Hudson: Oh, that's wrong!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Leader is more impressed by 14 extra in my department than he is by 404 extra in the Hospitals Department. We had to staff the Flinders Medical Centre.

Mr. Millhouse: They were left out of the figures you gave me in your answer to my question.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I am now giving the figures that have come to hand only today in the report on the Public Service Board.

Mr. Millhouse: I am complaining about the answer you gave me.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member has the material here now. There was an increase in the Public and Consumer Affairs Department of 29; in the Public Buildings Department the increase was 69, and, in the Public Health Department, 62. Those were the other larger increases. All the others were small figures.

Mr. Dean Brown: Does that include people appointed outside the Public Service Act?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No; this applies only to public servants. The honourable member will be in difficulty in finding many people appointed outside the Public Service Act compared with the previous year.

Mr. Dean Brown: Do you deny that most South Australians—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I further warn the honourable member for Davenport.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The increases in the Public Service have been necessary to provide the services for people in South Australia for which they have voted, and this Government has never gone to the people, when it is putting forward proposals for expansion of services, without saying what the cost will be. On the one occasion I could go to an election and say, "I shall be able to reduce costs to the community", members opposite fought me about it.

Mr. Chapman: If one listened to you today, one would think you were going to an election next week.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Alexandra knows he is out of order interjecting when he is out of his seat.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Members opposite are showing, I think, a very poor spirit in that they are complaining, when I have reduced a number of taxes, that I am stealing Liberal policy. When I introduce something which one would think they would support with great glee and gladness, all I can get from them is mealy-mouthed nonsense. They are churlish. They exhibit this very poor spirit. The increases in the Public Service have been necessary, and the Government in no way apologises for them. It is carrying out the policy it has put to the people of this State and for which the people have voted. We have the best services in Australia, and we intend to maintain them.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I appreciate the way in which the Premier has debated this issue, but I have one or two points to make in reply. First, as I said clearly in moving this motion, my complaint springs from an answer the Treasurer gave me on September 7. I point out to him that the last sentence in that answer was as follows:

Note: The above figures—

and they are the figures I quoted to him in moving the motion—

do not include personnel for the Flinders Medical Centre. So that, in the figures I gave for some thousands of extra employees, all the percentages are less than those for the Flinders Medical Centre, about which I certainly did not complain.

My next point (and the Treasurer was careful to skirt around it and give no indication about it) is: is this process ever to come to an end or is it to go on everlastingly—4 per cent this year, 3 per cent next year, 7 per cent the following year, *ad infinitum*? Do we ever, in his estimation, reach a position of stability in the size of the Public Service or are we to go on for ever and ever increasing Government activities at the expense of the private sector? That is the question I suggest the honourable gentleman or one of his Ministers could answer, because my underlying fear is that, as long as we have this Government, this process will continue. It is not giving value for money to the people of this State or to the taxpayers of Australia, who foot the bill. It is doing nothing for our community. Those are the points, but the Treasurer gave no clue on that. He did not answer the central matters about which I complained.

I appreciated the Minister of Mines and Energy lumbering to his feet to say what he did. He was quite right. He came over here to do some lobbying with me on a matter absolutely different from anything we have discussed in this Chamber today. While he was over here, we did not discuss this matter at all, so it was merely a typical mean-spirited interpretation by the member for Kavel of the conversation I had had with the Minister. I am sorry that this motion, which I regard as of great importance in a Budget debate, has been marred by the ill temper we have had, first from the member for Fisher and then notably from the member for Kavel, and carried on in the principal debate by the Leader of the Opposition. I suppose I should be thankful for small mercies in that at least I have had the grudging support, but no better than that, of the Liberal Party.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member must refer to the question before the Chair.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: You are correct to pull me up at that point, Mr. Chairman, but I had finished what I had to say on the motion.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes (22)—Messrs. Allen, Allison, Arnold, Becker, Blacker, Boundy, Dean Brown, Chapman, Coumbe, Eastick, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Mathwin, Millhouse (teller), Nankivell, Rodda, Russack, Tonkin, Vandepeer, Venning, Wardle, and Wotton.

Noes (22)—Messrs. Abbott and Max Brown, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Connelly, Corcoran, Duncan, Dunstan (teller), Groth, Harrison, Hopgood, Hudson, Jennings, Keneally, McRae, Olson, Payne, Simmons, Slater, Virgo, Wells, Whitten, and Wright.

Pair—Aye—Mr. Evans. No—Mr. Broomhill.

The CHAIRMAN: There are 22 Ayes and 22 Noes. There being an equality of votes, I give my casting vote in favour of the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

Line passed.

Art Gallery, \$680 000.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Premier give details of purchases of historical items and works of art, and can he say whether we are concentrating on Australian, and especially South Australian, artists and historical items? Can he also explain the significant increase in the allocation for transfer to the Art Gallery Board for the Art Gallery?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Apart from the normal increase that has been built in to cover inflation, the following additional or extraordinary items will be essential to the gallery operation for 1976-77:

	\$
To provide for telephone, rental, security and other expenses at the off-site store	2 000
To provide handling equipment at the off-site store	2 500
To provide special equipment for the conservation section to which a new curator is to be appointed	3 500
To provide additional publicity and advertising	4 000
To undertake regional services in accordance with the widened responsibility of the board: to advise and assist the Minister in the area of the fine arts throughout the State as well as in the city, in accordance with the recent amendment of the Art Gallery Act	2 000

In order to maintain services, it has been necessary to increase the following sublines by a greater percentage than that normally allowed for inflation:

	\$
Travelling Art Exhibition	3 500
Education Service	2 000
Insurance	2 000
Interstate travel	1 500

Concerning the purchase of historical items, Dr. John Tregenza, a former Reader in History at the University of Adelaide, was recently appointed to the gallery as Curator of Historical Collections. Apart from developing the collection within the gallery, he will be actively planning the development of the Legislative Council and the armoury building complex as historical museums. Adequate funds are required for this programme.

For the purchase of works of art, the provision of \$104 000 requested for works of art is an increase of \$19 000 over the sum provided last year. This is an absolute minimal increase that does not reflect present inflationary trends both in money values and in the art market. Additional sums are required if the collections of the Art Gallery of South Australia are to be developed in a logical manner.

Line passed.

Premier, Miscellaneous, \$6 805 000.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Premier name the members of the Arts Finance Committee and the Arts Grants Advisory Committee, and say what are the principal functions of these committees?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I cannot give the names of members of both committees, but I shall obtain that information for the honourable member. The function of the Arts Finance Committee is to scrutinise the budgets of all funded companies and the Film Corporation. This is done as a specialised exercise for the Treasury, and the budgets for the South Australian Theatre Company, Festival Centre, Carclew, State Opera, and Film Corporation are all examined closely.

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

Dr. TONKIN: A large sum was allocated to the anti-litter campaign in the last financial year but little of that sum was actually spent. The sum of \$140 000 is now set down for the coming financial year. How will it be expended? What public relations firm was involved and which advertising agency is involved (if there is a change), how much was each organisation paid and to what extent will they be employed in the coming year?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The \$140 000 is set because some of the bills that were incurred in the last financial year had not come to hand by June 30. That is why there was an under expenditure, and that has inflated the figure allocated for this financial year. The advertising agency involved in the anti-litter campaign was Mullins Clark and Ralph. The Litter Control Council has been asked to reassess the work of advertising agents for the remainder of the campaign and to seek a South Australian agency, if that accords with its view of the type of campaign that is to be mounted. It is expected that some other agency, but none has yet been determined, will be responsible for the remainder of the campaign.

There will be a follow-up campaign next year following the extremely successful campaign we have had so far. There has been a marked effect upon litter in public areas in South Australia as a result of the campaign that we have had this year, far beyond anything that Kesab had been able

to achieve on its own. Naturally, we have been working with Kesab on this, but the campaign has gone far beyond anything that has previously been mounted. The Education Department has been co-operating well and the social reinforcement of the litter campaign by children in the community has been marked. That has meant that in numbers of public places where normally litter has been found in the extreme, we have had almost no litter at all. It is working extremely well, but it needs a follow-up campaign, and that is why the provision is made.

Dr. TONKIN: I, too, pay a tribute to the community for its magnificent effort, particularly at the Royal Show, in reducing littering of public places. Much credit should be given to the Kesab organisation for the work it has done. Does the Premier believe that on-the-spot litter fines that have been introduced were necessary in the light of the successful publicity campaign that has been mounted?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes.

Dr. TONKIN: Last year \$1 037 800 was allocated to the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, whereas \$1 751 000 was spent. The sum of \$1 250 000 is allocated this year, but last year's expenditure was an increase of about 68 per cent above the allocation. Why was there such an increase? Last year's expenditure was far above the amount allocated. Is the Premier confident that the estimate of \$1 250 000 will be sufficiently accurate? No Festival of Arts will be held in this financial year. Such a large sum is not poorly spent if it promotes our festival, but will this sum cover this year's needs?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. The 1975-76 amount included the payment of \$1 151 470 to meet a short-fall in income in relation to operating expenditure, an advanced payment of \$500 000 to be off-set against the 1976-77 grant and payment of \$100 000 to recoup entrepreneurial losses over the previous two years. The 1976-77 amount provides for a net grant of \$1 150 000 to meet a short-fall in income in relation to operating expenditure and payment of \$100 000 to enable the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust to continue its entrepreneurial functions. It has an entrepreneurial function and, in fact, a Bill will be introduced to the House in this session to enable it to carry on its entrepreneurial function in other States; that is, it is able to import artists who can then go on tour.

Dr. Tonkin: What was the first short-fall?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The first was \$1 751 470, and we are providing \$1 250 000 this year to meet a short-fall in income. The \$500 000 bridges the two years.

Dr. Tonkin: But what about the \$1 250 000?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Those are the operating expenses of the centre. The expenses are much less than most comparable centres. In fact, we are doing well; we have had a high occupancy rate in the centre, but it is inevitable in such a centre that one makes a loss.

Mr. COUMBE: Several questions have already been raised this year concerning the cost of the return visit to Penang. The sum of \$2 500 has still not been paid, yet the visit took place in November, 1975. Why is this sum still outstanding? I refer to the North Malaysia Week in Adelaide, for which \$500 000 is allocated. Less expense is involved because we have had them here before. When is this week to be held? What form will it take? Why has the name changed from Penang Week to North Malaysia Week? How is the \$500 000 made up?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Regarding the return visit to Penang, some of the items transported to Penang have not, in fact, been sold, or we have not recouped the money for them. That is why that figure is there. In relation to North Malaysia Week, the reason for the change of name

was that there was a request from the Federal Government of Malaysia that we expand our activities for the State of South Australia from Penang to the four north-western States of Malaysia and that we include in our arrangements not only business ones but also cultural exchanges, the States of Perlis, Kedah and Perak, as well as Penang.

In consequence, we have invited the Mentri Basars of the four States for Malaysia Week and have invited them all to take part in the visit. It is expected that the visit will take place in March next year, that Her Majesty will be here at the end of the week, and that the week will centre on activities at the Festival Centre and at Elder Park. A quite ambitious exhibit has been prepared and is under discussion. Mr. Bakewell has been in Malaysia. In fact, he is present this evening, but I have not had time to talk to him. He got back only today, but it is expected that this will be an improvement on and an extension of what happened on the occasion of the Penang visit to Adelaide, and that it will be a tremendous festival time for Adelaide and will cement the unique relations we have with the Malaysian Government.

We get markedly preferred treatment with Malaysia, and in relation to the North Malaysian area we have had two specific studies done as a result of my trip to Malaysia early this year and my consultation with the Malaysian Prime Minister. One is on the cement products industry in Malaysia. The second is for an extensive feasibility study to be funded by the Asian Development Bank on paddy straw, and it holds a whole series of possibilities for us, particularly in building materials and the provision of agricultural equipment.

Mr. Coumbe: What about timber?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No. We have done some investigations on the timber industry. Frankly, we do not think we can contribute terribly much to Malaysia in that particular area. In the States that we have been particularly asked to investigate, they have a fairly well-established industry, but the study done on paddy straw is remarkably effective and quite exciting, as a result of which we have prepared a submission for this big feasibility study on the total use of paddy straw, and it is now with the Malaysian Government for submission to the Asian Development Bank, but that would cover those four northern States, where this is a considerable unused resource and one that we could help to develop to advantage to ourselves.

Dr. TONKIN: I refer to grants and provisions for the arts. Last year \$226 000 was paid to New Opera, compared to \$105 000 provided this year, a decrease of about 115 per cent. New Opera, which has become the State Opera of South Australia, has made a remarkable contribution to the cultural life of Adelaide and the State. I should like to know what progress has been made, what were the reasons for the large increase last year, whether it is expected that a similar increase will be necessary this year, and whether the Premier can give a breakdown of the main recipients of the grants that will be made.

A few weeks ago a question was asked about whether the State Opera would be helped by the State Government with the purchase or acquisition otherwise of Her Majesty's Theatre as a permanent home. That theatre could provide a permanent home also for other organisations in Adelaide and the near-metropolitan area. Can the Premier give a breakdown of the recipients of the grants and say what progress is being made with State Opera and the acquisition of Her Majesty's Theatre or some other suitable site as a permanent home?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I can give the honourable member a breakdown of the grants for 1975-76. Probably, the best thing to do is to send him a copy of this document, because the list is fairly extensive. The provision shown here is the provision recommended by the Arts Development Branch as being sufficient to cover grants and provisions for the arts. In relation to State Opera, the amounts we provided (and it was done by some juggling within the lines) were to meet the needs of State Opera, which is an extremely good company. It required some additional finance because of the kind of programme that it mounted.

It was an extremely good and successful programme. The standard of its productions in many cases has exceeded those of the Australian Opera Company, and I expect that the State Opera will continue at a world standard level, given its present administration and its Musical Director, whom we are fortunate to have here.

Regarding the provision of a permanent home, a measure will be introduced this session to make the State Opera a statutory company in the same way as the South Australian Theatre Company is, and there will be provision for it to borrow money to acquire permanent premises. Whether that will be Her Majesty's Theatre depends on negotiations with J. C. Williamson Theatres Limited. At this stage those negotiations are proceeding, but not very quickly. It has been made clear to J. C. Williamson Theatres Limited that there is no way in which the City of Adelaide Development Committee will agree to an alteration in the use of that building or agree to its demolition. In those circumstances, negotiations will be proceeding.

Dr. Eastick: On what basis?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member ought to know the composition of the committee, and its activities in the city of Adelaide are quite clear.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The sum of \$30 000 is to be voted for the South Australian Industries Assistance Corporation. The name has been changed, and I wonder whether this vote was shown previously under a different line, because no previous allocation has been given. How will the \$30 000 be spent? Is it to be spent on consultation fees, on staff, or in some other areas? An actual payment of \$18 892 was made last year in respect of reimbursement of incentive payments to establish factories throughout the State. The amount to be allocated this year is \$160 000. Does this refer to the incentives announced last night by the Premier, in which he forecast a total expenditure of \$1 200 000 over the next five years? If so, why is the figure shown for this year so low? Is it expected that few companies will take up the offer? How much is being paid out under existing schemes to companies in the iron triangle and in the green triangle, one company being the Fletcher Jones organisation, which receives a rebate of pay-roll tax?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The sum for the South Australian Industries Assistance Corporation is a reimbursement to the corporation for loss of interest through investments made in Professional Consultants (Asia) Proprietary Limited. Approval has been given for departments providing a service through P.C.A. to impose a levy of 5 per cent on all work performed and to include the levy in the price charged to the client organisations. A number of concerns in South Australia have formed a consortium to provide this consultant service from South Australia. It was necessary, to get them work in the areas in which they are going to operate overseas, to have a Government investment, not of a great amount, but a Government component must be included,

simply because Governments in other countries in most cases will not deal with an organisation of this kind which has not got a Governmental input. Particularly is this the case with the Malaysian Government and the Governments of the Middle Eastern countries.

Mr. Dean Brown: What sort of consultants are you talking about—Pak-Poy, for instance?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Pak-Poy organisation is part of the consortium. Other people are involved. This was to make a reimbursement to the South Australian Industries Assistance Corporation in relation to that investment. The majority of the money for the corporation comes from semi-governmental borrowing, and does not appear on the Revenue lines. Turning now to the reimbursement of incentive payments to establish factories throughout the State, the 1975-76 target was not reached in order to qualify for reimbursement to be made to the Industries Assistance Corporation of an amount equivalent to bring pay-roll tax incentive into line with Victoria. The 1976-77 year provides funds in accordance with the Government's pay-roll tax rebate scheme, as announced in November, 1975. It may well be that the line is exceeded this year. It is hard to say whether it will be, simply because one does not know the number of applications that will be received. We have struck a figure as near as we can get. It is expected that applications are likely to build up over a period. The Fletcher Jones commitment is without restriction; it was made without any terminating date; it is a permanent grant. It is for a grant equal to a complete remission of pay-roll tax.

Mr. Dean Brown: For a term?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, it is indefinite. There is no period of years involved.

Mr. Dean Brown: None whatever?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member had a chance to ask his question at the appropriate time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: That is the position. Applications have been made in respect of pay-roll tax rebates, and the department has asked for specific conditions to be laid down. This has been done, and a whole series of applications will be processed. The department had made a submission to Government about the widening of pay-roll tax rebate grants and, after considerable investigation of alternative methods, the decision has been made as to the way in which this should go.

Mr. WOTTON: Can the Premier give a break-down of the expenditure of \$580 000 for the South Australian Theatre Company? Is it intended that this will be a recurring expenditure? How advanced is the Torrens bank development, and how much more money is to be spent on consultant fees in that connection?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The provision for the South Australian Theatre Company was to meet the deficiency in returns from its performances. The company provides not only performances but a whole series of extra services outside the theatre company to involve the community in theatre development: a number of community organisations, much of the Education Department, some primary schools, and so on. It is expected that we will have to continue to subsidise this theatre company, as does every other State in the world that has a theatre company of this standard. The plans for the development of the Torrens bank are going well. We are getting a reasonable outline of development programmes, and development and improvement are taking place in some areas. Perhaps the honourable member would care to go to the Dunstan Adventure Playground to see it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I was interested to see at dinner time that the river is quite high, but it is about time the plug was pulled out, because there is a great deal of flotsam and jetsam up by the zoo. In relation to the return visit to Penang, I cannot share the implied complacency of the member for Torrens. While \$177 000 was budgeted last year, we have not heard a peep from anyone so far that the total amount spent was \$208 702, a mere \$30 000 extra! I do not know what value we have got for money. We have had some eloquent speeches from the Premier about the values of the exchange, but they have never been put into terms of dollars and cents. I doubt whether we have received value for money, except for the holidays that the Premier and others had in Malaysia; I think the member for Torrens was one of them. Why was an extra \$30 000 spent, to make the enormous total of well over \$200 000 on this trip? Is the Premier still satisfied that the taxpayers get value for this money and, if he is satisfied, how do they get value?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The benefits for South Australia in this area have been explained at length before, and I do not intend to go into them again.

Mr. Millhouse: You cannot.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member can carry on as he usually does, but I do not intend to carry on, in reply. The benefits of the week in Malaysia have been explained at considerable length in South Australia and have been spoken of by numbers of people who contributed to the week in Penang—not only the member for Torrens but very many members of the public in South Australia and also the Federal Government and its officers, who pointed out that it was the most successful public relations exercise that Australia has ever had in the South-East Asian area. People who were involved in the Penang exhibition are constantly telling me that they have received orders. This is of long-term and continuing benefit to South Australia.

Mr. Millhouse: Why did you go over the estimated amount?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We had under-estimated the costs originally.

Dr. TONKIN: What is the commitment in respect of the Fletcher Jones factory worth in annual value?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not have the figure here. It is difficult to give the Leader a precise figure because the Fletcher Jones factory has expanded three times since its original provision. The commitment is for an amount equal to remission of pay-roll tax. We had to match the Victorian provision, which had been offered to the factory at Warrnambool, and we did so.

Mr. RODDA: When the Naracoorte meat works functions again, will it come within the ambit of the pay-roll tax concessions that have been announced?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No. It will get pay-roll tax remissions in respect of new jobs. I point out that the Naracoorte meatworks had a very considerable input of Government funds to the extent of \$300 000. Some people in the South-East have not appreciated what the Government has done; I am talking not about the average person in the South-East but about some members. The Naracoorte meatworks was established with an enormous amount of Government assistance. If we can get it going again, we will be happy.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member for Alexandra is out of order, and I warn the honourable member.

Mr. Chapman: What for?

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is interjecting, and I warn him.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Naracoorte meat-works will have to come into the same category as do other businesses. We cannot take re-employment in the area as being new employment; it is not. In connection with the expansion of the normal work force, the meat-works would qualify for a pay-roll tax remission.

Dr. TONKIN: In connection with the reimbursement of incentive payments to establish factories throughout the State, for which item \$27 000 was proposed last year, as far as I can understand, the Fletcher Jones agreement accounts for nearly \$18 000 of the \$18 892 that was actually paid; so, very little is left for any payments to any other company.

Mr. Arnold: None.

Dr. TONKIN: I agree. The scheme has been in operation since November last year for the iron triangle, the green triangle, and Monarto. The sum of \$160 000 may be one thing in proposal, but it is another thing entirely as to whether it will be utilised. The reimbursement of incentive payments to establish factories is in respect of the Fletcher Jones factory, and no other. What other companies have benefited in the past seven months, since the scheme has been in operation? What companies will benefit from the provision of \$160 000 in the coming 12 months? What gives the Premier any cause to believe that there will be \$160 000 worth of incentive? When will the Premier make reasonable concessions under reasonable conditions to ensure that the incentives about which he has so proudly boasted are really worthwhile? When will he do something to help industrial development in this State?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not know whether the Leader is condemning me for providing too little or too much in respect of this item. One moment the Leader states that he does not believe that I can spend the money allocated and the next moment he states that I should be providing more money. I suppose that is par for the course as far as he is concerned. The sum of \$160 000 was set by the Trade and Development Division because of the applications in respect of the 1975 announcement. Those applications are already before the department and must be met this financial year. It took some time for the applications to be made, they are before us, and we expect to make a considerable payment out on them.

Mr. Venning: You move very slowly.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As outlined previously, companies do not always race in. Fletcher Jones got in for its cut and is doing well.

Dr. Tonkin: Who else?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a list for the Leader. Regarding the Riverland, the honourable member may hear a separate announcement about companies in that area tomorrow.

Dr. TONKIN: What reason does the Premier have for supposing that the present scheme, as it applies to country areas, will be any more successful than the scheme that has applied to the green triangle, the iron triangle and Monarto over the past seven months? It is all very well for the Premier to say that various measures have been taken and certain decisions made, but it is clear from inquiries that I have made today that the Premier is side-stepping the issue every time and is not giving deliberate replies. It is not that the information is unavailable; I understand that it is. The Premier is unwilling to tell us what firms or to what extent people have benefited from incentives in recognised growth centres. As far as we are concerned, Monarto is not a recognised growth centre.

Who drew up the conditions that apply to the most recent announcements, and who decided that those were the conditions that should be followed? Who said that the exemptions and relocation allowances would apply only to companies moving into country areas, that they must use local materials, that they must export their product out of that area, and that they must not compete with existing industries? Who said that they should be totally new industries? Who set down the conditions, which will virtually have the effect that few people can take advantage of them? The fatuous statement that 500 jobs a year would be created by these concessions is so much pie in the sky, and is typical of the show we see from the Premier.

With the current situation as it is, and with the major disincentives to industrial expansion in this State, how on earth does the Premier believe that these measures will do anything significant to increase industrial development, induce industrial expansion or help in any way that multitude of industries in South Australia that are now in dire straits and do not know which way to turn? Will the Premier give us some straight replies about how he believes this scheme with this insignificant allocation will help?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: One gets a little tired of the Leader's carry-on.

Dr. Tonkin: You'll get more tired, too.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have no doubt about that, because the Leader's capacity for tediousness is illimitable. The scheme was prepared by the Trade and Development Division of my department and then examined by a working party consisting of the Policy Secretariat, Treasury, and the Trade and Development Division. All aspects of the proposals before the Government were investigated at length, and the scheme that was announced was recommended overwhelmingly by the working party and approved by Cabinet. Funds of this kind have been provided because a number of applications are before us under existing schemes, with the result that we can help industry in South Australia. Regarding the conditions that have been laid down, I suggest that the Leader pay some attention to the conditions that are laid down for such grants in New South Wales and Victoria.

Mr. Venning: But we are in South Australia.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I know we are, but if we do not have these conditions we may create an extremely fair position for existing industry.

Mr. Venning: What about Fletcher Jones?

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: As far as Fletcher Jones is concerned there is no unfairness, because there is not another comparable industry in that area.

Mr. Becker: You were lucky to get it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We got it because we went out and got it. This Government has given far more money, more assistance and greater benefits to country industry than has any previous Government in the history of this State.

Mr. WARDLE: If I heard correctly a report on the radio, incentives to be offered to industry to establish in Murray Bridge will be withdrawn when Monarto has been established. That is totally unfair. Will the Premier explain why the incentives must be withdrawn?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: A provision for considerable industrial development in Murray Bridge would be bad from the planning viewpoint once Monarto is established. Murray Bridge will get considerable benefit

from Monarto. When Monarto is established, it is essential that we concentrate industrial development in that planned area.

Mr. Wardle: It's not fair to Murray Bridge, though.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If industry is to be put into Murray Bridge indefinitely, a considerable planning problem will be created there. Murray Bridge has not been planned for marked industrial development, and we would be faced with a series of planning difficulties and problems if the situation there was compounded in that way. In the interim there is reason to assist the establishment of small industry in the Murray Bridge area, but when Monarto is established Murray Bridge will get a tremendous spin-off. It is essential that we then concentrate the areas of industrial development in a planned development area. We must do this from the viewpoint of pollution and of the total plan. There is no question that we are not assisting Murray Bridge: industry in the honourable member's district has received enormous assistance from this Government. No industry has had more assistance in the history of this State than that in Mannum, which, but for this Government, would be a ghost town.

Dr. TONKIN: Would it be fair to say that, regarding reimbursed incentive payments to establish factories, no more than two companies have benefited throughout the State in the past seven months since the scheme was first announced for recognised growth centres? How many of the applications received—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! We are discussing the sum of \$160 000, which relates to a reimbursement of incentive payment to establish factories throughout the State. I hope the Leader will stick to that line. We are not discussing a comparison with \$18 892; we are discussing the amount proposed for 1976-77—\$160 000.

Dr. TONKIN: Indeed we are, and I am grateful that you are so conscious of the fact, Mr. Chairman. I simply ask: how many of those applications, which I understand were responsible for the unit's considering this proposal, will now be met out of the \$160 000 or anything else? Will the \$160 000, that princely sum, be sufficient, or does the Premier expect that more money will be available, or will the discrepancy be as much as it was last time when only two-thirds of the money was used—in this case, slightly over \$100 000? First, how many companies were there? Were not more than two satisfied? How many of those applications will be satisfied under the terms and conditions announced yesterday?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have already told the Leader that I will get him a list on this matter. As far as the \$160 000 is concerned, if it is necessary for us to meet a larger sum than that, the money is there, and we can easily do it; there is no problem about that.

Mr. EVANS: Is it intended that for this year the Film Corporation will continue on the path of attempting to become self-funding within 10 years of its first being established? On February 3 of this year the Premier said:

As I have stated previously, my Government requires the corporation to work towards becoming self-funding within its first 10 years of operation. On October 18, 1974, in the *News* of Friday of that date, referring to the then Director (Mr. Brealey), an article stated:

The corporation would be a "failure" if at the end of his five years it became larger than it was this year—

referring to 1974. The article then quotes him as saying:

I would like to think that in 10 years there would be hardly any corporation at all.

So, the immediate past Director intended gradually to wind down the Film Corporation, and that article made that point, in another way, too. However, Mr. Morris, the present Director, is quoted as saying on oath:

The main thing I would like to say is in February of this year I was awarded the directorship of this corporation and I find that I am now the executive officer of an organisation that last year ran at a loss of \$390 000 and this year, using the same accounting criteria, will have a deficit of \$500 000. It is difficult, I know, because this is a public court, but those figures are not yet available to the Government or the Premier or the Opposition.

This was in June of this year. Mr. Morris continued:

I am expecting trouble when they do become available. Is it appropriate for me to ask that these figures, that second figure, be kept confidential?

This was the Industrial Court, and Mr. Quick said:

I can give you an undertaking for my part.

His Honour said:

I can give you an undertaking as far as this court is concerned. I am afraid I don't know how far that extends. There are more parties in this courtroom than my powers can reach.

Then Mr. Morris said:

That is the situation that I am in and given an organisation that is expected to become self-funding . . . as has publicly been said by the Premier on many occasions within 10 years of its inception, which means we have got seven years to go on the present path. Not only are we not going to become self-funding in seven years time but we will have a deficit of several millions; but it is obvious that certain changes have to be undertaken. I am planning these and they involve three main steps.

What does the Premier see as the purpose of the Film Corporation? In the same court, in giving evidence, Mr. Jay, an employee of the corporation, definitely indicated that the intention was to pass all the smaller 16-millimetre film work out to companies as they became more expert in that field, and it was also intended to put out all feature films to the outside contractors so that the corporation, as an end result, would act only as an adviser and stop producing films. With that background, it is important that Parliament should know whether Mr. Morris is right in saying it is setting out to be a self-funding organisation, and whether the former Director (Mr. Brealey) and Mr. Jay are right in saying that it is intended to wind down the operations of the corporation to the point where it is an intermediate body, deciding who will produce which films.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not propose to comment on the representations that the honourable member has made to the Committee from material that he himself quotes as having been confidential. I have not seen it and do not know about it.

Mr. Evans: It is not confidential.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member quoted the person giving the evidence as having asked that it be treated as confidential. The honourable member knows perfectly well what he is doing in this Chamber. He has proceeded to try to denigrate the Film Corporation since its inception. He has produced a situation where he is bitterly resented, as is his Party, by the staff of the corporation because of the way in which he has acted and has condemned, on behalf of the Liberal Party, the work of one of the most successful corporations that this State has seen.

As far as the funding of the corporation is concerned, it is expected by the Government, by Mr. Morris and by the board that it will be self-funding as to its commercial operations within 10 years of its inception. That does not mean to say that the Government will not have to provide moneys for the services that are not

commercial—it will have to. For instance, the Film Corporation runs the film library: we have to provide for the cost of the film library in the same way as we have to provide for the State Library Service. With respect to commercial operations, we expect the Film Corporation to be self-funding within that time. When Mr. Morris gave the evidence that has been quoted, the corporation faced the problem that it had been funded partly by semi-governmental borrowing for a period, and it needed an injection of capital funds. We have altered the basis of the servicing of its capital structure, and that has altered the total situation and the forecasted deficits referred to by the honourable member. The forecast of the Government and of the board that self-funding of commercial operations would occur within 10 years still stands, and the corporation will go on with the tremendous success which it has had and which has led Liberal Governments everywhere in Australia to want to set up the same thing.

Mr. EVANS: It is wrong for the Premier to suggest that my questions reflect on the Liberal Party, and is typical of his approach when questioned on any issue. The evidence I am reading is available from the Industrial Court for anyone, and the Premier knows that. Does the Premier intend to make a grant available to the Film Corporation following the other statements made by Mr. Morris when he referred to several problems? Mr. Morris is accepting his responsibilities, and in his evidence he stated:

One is to reduce our overhead, and that means I have to stop doing a number of things that are money making. I have got to try and find a grant, if the Government will give me one, or a grant to cover those operations, or else have them moved to the library side of the corporation, which is of course fully funded. In other words, I am going to be cutting down on staff much more than the few that were asked to leave last year. The other thing I have got to do of course is to increase by productivity, I have got to do that also. Now, there are a number of things that we have been undertaking that I am afraid we cannot continue to do, because they are desirable, attractive, idealistic, but non-commercial.

Can the Premier say whether a grant has been made available to cover that aspect, or has that operation been moved to the library?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member has not been listening. I said that we had altered the capital structure of the corporation. Mr. Morris and the Chairman have stated that it meets their needs and they are satisfied with arrangements made by the Treasury and, consequently, they are able to meet their objectives.

Mr. EVANS: Is the Premier aware that costs to the film industry in this State are high and, if he is, what action does the Government intend to take to reduce costs to help the corporation? I refer to the film *Don's Party*. In relation to that matter, Mr. Jay stated:

It works both ways, but especially when there is a feature film being shown, that is an exceptional situation. It is very difficult with rising costs and this is another thing which is a barrier to increasing feature film projects, and this affects your members. Last November, there was a film which we were hoping to have shot here (*Don's Party*) and the producer of the film negotiated with us to have it produced in partnership with the corporation and the decision not to shoot it in South Australia was because it would cost \$25 000 more to shoot it here than in Sydney or Melbourne; so the film was not shot here—will not be, which means that it does not bring work here as our other feature films have done. This is the type of problem we are faced with all the time.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member has not considered the costs in that case. For *Don's Party* it would have been required that the actors be those who were previously in the cast, and they would have to be paid

a locality allowance and the like. They do not have to be paid such allowances in Melbourne and Sydney. How can I reduce costs? It is not a governmental cost: the honourable member should know what the position is. The problem in that film was the payments needed to be made to the cast, which was not a local one. In several cases costs can be lower in this State, depending on the nature of the film and the recruitment of people working on it. We set out to reduce costs by providing the expertise and infrastructure locally, but we were attacked by the honourable member for doing so. When we lost a feature film because we did not have people here to do the work, when we imported them, the honourable member attacked us. He is constantly complaining about the corporation in this way, and I have had expressed to me not only by Mr. Brealey and Mr. Morris but also by members of the staff of the corporation their disgust at the way in which the honourable member has attacked the corporation.

Mr. RODDA: Concerning the Naracoorte meatworks, if the Premier implied that people at Naracoorte were not grateful for the assistance given by the Government, I allay his fears, because people are grateful for the \$300 000 Government assistance at a time of crisis.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: And Housing Trust houses.

Mr. RODDA: Yes, and we have 28 foundations down now. Concerning the new pay-roll tax concessions in new areas, will there be a ceiling on the number of employees? I think there were about 180 employees working at the meatworks at the peak stage. As all the incentives that can be granted will be needed, has the Premier any information about the number of employees and pay-roll tax?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We will negotiate and no doubt will consider a mean figure: however, we will ascertain how help can be given.

Mr. EVANS: I have not attacked the corporation this evening; I asked the Premier to help it, and I have also made a public statement that I supported the move to split the portfolio into two. In that way the corporation has a much greater chance of success than it had previously. As the Premier tends to become upset when questioned, I wonder whether he is completely satisfied with the situation: I trust that he is. I am concerned that we have spent a large sum of money on the Norwood studio, with about \$250 000 for equipment, etc.; we pay about \$1 500 a month to rent the premises; and there is a large quantity of mixing equipment there. However, both *The Fourth Wish* and *Storm Boy* have had to be sent to Sydney to be mixed. What is the reason for that? Why is business being sent from our own corporation to Sydney? Our equipment is suitable regarding classification and size to undertake 35 mm work. As these two films involving a large sum are to be sent to the Eastern States, is there a technical or a staff problem in relation to the Norwood studio? Does the equipment need to be upgraded?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I will get a report from the Chairman for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: A press report indicated that a film *The Elements* was to be produced in South Australia, but I believe it will no longer be proceeded with. Can the Premier say why this is so and to whom the contract for this film is now let? I understand that problems were associated with university students and the paying of less than award wages to young people which would have resulted in an unprofitable film. I believe \$30 000 was the estimated cost of the film.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: For whom was it to be produced?

Mr. EVANS: The South Australian Film Corporation. I understand that the ex-director, Mr. Brealey, had the contract in a company's or his own company's name to produce it. Is the film to be continued? Am I right about who had the contract for the film?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I know nothing of it, but I will get a reply for the honourable member.

Dr. EASTICK: Concerning the State Disaster Committee, in 1975-76 \$253 was spent, yet \$10 000 is allocated this year. I support preparedness for disasters that might arise, and I know that investigations have been under way to cope with any eventuality. What approach has been undertaken requiring the expenditure of this sum?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The 1975-76 payment covers minor expenses incurred by the committee for part of the year. The 1976-77 provision is to cover sundry operational expenditure requested by the committee.

Dr. EASTICK: The sum of \$43 680 is allocated to various committees of inquiry. Can the Premier provide further detail regarding that expenditure?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It provides working expenses for committee secretariat, the publication of a Government publicity book, expenses for an industries assistance study and the following committees: Animal Welfare Committee, the Office Accommodation Working Party, and the Staff Development Committee.

Mr. BECKER: Will the Premier obtain information about members of the State Disaster Committee? Will the committee bring down a report concerning co-ordination of matters relating to disasters in the metropolitan area, especially in the vicinity of Adelaide Airport, and any future plans?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The State Disaster Committee operates continuously. Mr. Bakewell is involved with it, as is the Commissioner of Police. I will get a list of committee members for the honourable member. I do not expect that there will be a public report on State disasters. It is a continuing operation involving a whole series of contingency plans.

Dr. TONKIN: There has been a considerable increase in the provision for the South Australian Craft Industry Authority. The sum of \$470 000 is allocated this year in comparison with about \$239 000 last year above actual expenditure, representing an increase of 96.7 per cent. The 1973-74 allocation was only \$50 000. The authority produces fine work and fulfils a worthwhile purpose. The authority is necessary, but it has been the subject of comment by the Auditor-General on two occasions. I refer to page 352 of the Auditor-General's Report, as well as to his comments in previous years concerning the need for additional help. When the subject came up last time I asked whether specific accounting help and other assistance could be given to the authority. I am not decrying in any way the increased allocation to the authority, as it performs a useful and important function in our cultural community, but I would like the management of the authority to be more rigidly controlled, with finances being administered so that there is no possibility of loss and so that there is an accountability that so far has not existed. As it is important that we get value for money, even in the cultural field, can an undertaking be made that special assistance will be given?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Yes. The increase in the 1975-76 grant is to cover unforeseen salary and wage increases under various awards and determinations. The 1976-77 grant provides increased operating expenditure for promotion and marketing activities (\$90 000), the appointment of full-time master craftsmen for pottery and leather

workshops, and the establishment of leather and lapidary workshops, the latter to be integrated with the jewellery workshop. Additionally, the Chairman and the deputy chairperson of the authority are to spend much more time with the authority, in effect, as its managing directors. Mrs. LeMercier is extremely experienced in this area, and both Dr. Hackett and Mrs. LeMercier will be studying the work of overseas craft authorities and will be proposing the extension of the authority's activities into more industrial and commercial activities than has previously been the case. It is expected that, as a consequence of these arrangements, the work of the authority will be upgraded and extended to provide additional employment opportunities in South Australia over a much wider sphere than has previously been the case. I assure the Leader that the accounting facilities are being carefully monitored.

Mr. BECKER: I refer to the allocation of \$20 000 for the Royal visit. Can the Premier say from what date Her Majesty will be in South Australia, how long she will be here, and whether she will be invited to open a session of State Parliament?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Her Majesty will be here in March. I cannot give the exact dates. The programme will be published as soon as it is finally agreed to by Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty will not be asked to open a special session of Parliament.

Mr. RUSSACK: I refer to the provision for the Builders Licensing Appeal Tribunal. Apparently, there is a large increase in the number of appeals, and I ask whether this is because of the review of existing licences or because there are more applicants for new licences. Are more persons applying for restricted licences, or is the standard higher, creating the need for these appeals? In some country areas, employees of builders who are going out of business are applying for restricted licences. I wonder what is the percentage of those applying for licences who are being rejected, and I should like to know the reasons for this steep increase in the amount provided for the tribunal.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The amount provided in 1975-76 was arbitrary. There had been virtually no appeals prior to that time. It proved insufficient to meet the total expenditure required, and the provision for 1976-77 makes allowance only on the existing known requirements of the appeal tribunal for the fees and expenses of the board, and fees and salaries of members of the tribunal. I cannot answer the honourable member about the situation regarding builders' licensing appeals, because the Builders Licensing Board is not part of my department. The Builders Licensing Appeal Tribunal occurs in my department but the total policy of administering the Builders Licensing Act is under the Minister of Labour and Industry. I will get from my colleague a report on the question the honourable member has raised.

Line passed.

Auditor-General's, \$1 195 000.

Dr. TONKIN: For administration expenses, there has been a big increase. An amount of nearly \$45 000 has been provided this year. I am all in favour of the Auditor-General and his department. He is a most important officer and has a most important independence. I am curious to know why the provision has been increased by nearly 90 per cent. One expects that the Auditor-General has much work to do, with the tremendous growth of the Public Service.

Members interjecting:

Dr. TONKIN: As the member for Ross Smith says, the increase is a reflection of the Government's inadequacy in government.

Mr. Jennings: I didn't say that at all.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE (Minister of Community Welfare): The general heading is "Contingencies", and under that heading there are administration expenses, minor equipment and sundries. The increases are due mainly to travelling expenses for adult country travel required for country audits, such as at councils and schools. Also, a sum of \$15 000 has been provided for data processing services and computer usage, which has not previously been paid for by this department.

Mr. MATHWIN: An amount of \$11 800 is provided for the purchase of motor vehicles, and actual payments last year were \$6 663. I should like to know how many vehicles, and what type, will be purchased this year.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I cannot make a stab at what happened last year, because I was not involved. However, I guess that the amount must have been provided for the replacement of two vehicles. I can tell the honourable member that the amount provided this year is for the replacement of three vehicles.

Mr. RUSSACK: How many councils in South Australia are taking advantage of the audit by the Auditor-General's Department, and is the service made available to councils free of charge?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I do not have accurate information on that, but I will obtain it for the honourable member.

Mr. MATHWIN: Is the amount of \$250 allocated this year for purchase of office machines and equipment for payment of outstanding accounts from last financial year? If not, for what is the \$250 allocated?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: One would expect that, if anyone was likely to be circumspect in these matters, it would be the Auditor-General's Department, and I suspect that that is the case. This amount is for the purchase of additional filing equipment only.

Line passed.

Police, \$45 585 000.

Mr. GUNN: Last week the Minister of Transport opened the new Eyre Highway.

The Hon. R. G. Payne: Very well, too.

Mr. GUNN: There will be reference later to the Minister's comments when he insulted the people of Western Australia. I ask what plans the Government has to provide further police facilities, now that the new Eyre Highway has been completed. The police station at Penong is the only station west of Ceduna, and only one officer is stationed there at present. I understand a new police station is to be built at Penong. With the increased traffic across the Nullarbor, it is essential that more police officers should be stationed in the area, and many people think they should be stationed west of Ceduna, and on the other side of Penong.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I do not have specific information in line with that request, but I shall endeavour to obtain it. I appreciate the earnestness of the question.

Mr. EVANS: Is it correct that the age of acceptance of women for training in the Police Force is higher than that of men? If that is so, what are the reasons for it when equal opportunity is to be given to women?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I am in favour of equal opportunity for women in any sphere, whether in the Police Force or elsewhere, and I think many members would

support me on this. The question is not specifically covered in the line, but I shall endeavour to obtain the information.

Mr. EVANS: Many people in the Mitcham Hills area are concerned at the lack of readily available police assistance. I do not necessarily share that concern, because I believe the local police work effectively until 11.30 p.m. and that the patrol that then comes into the area gives reasonable service. Some people believe that the community is not served efficiently after 11.30 p.m., and that a 24-hour service should be established. Has consideration been given to the establishment of a 24-hour police station in the Mitcham Hills area? Some problems have caused concern; my office was raided recently.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: In my own portfolio, a similar problem is arising regarding the Hills areas; a district office exists at Mitcham and a branch office is located in the foothills. I am sure the Police Department would have similar problems brought before it, and that consideration would be given to the problems outlined by the honourable member. I am pleased that he agrees with my own summation of the position: the police are doing the best they can in the present situation, particularly with the use of mobile patrols in the area. I shall try to obtain accurate information in relation to the query he has raised.

Mr. WOTTON: What is the policy of the Government regarding one-man police stations? Some cause for concern exists, especially in my district, where some one-man stations have been closed or are being closed. Can the Minister provide any information on the proposed expenditure of \$35 000 for North-West policing?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I am surprised about the second question; I did not know the honourable member's district took in the North-Western areas. However, I appreciate his general interest in police matters. Provision is made for operating costs, aircraft running, fuel and maintenance for four-wheel drive vehicles and accommodation expenses for policing of Aboriginal reserves in the Far North-West of South Australia. In Perth last year I was able to help in obtaining some of the funding from Federal sources for associated ancillary matters in connection with the policing of the area. I do not have a line in my copy of the schedule in connection with one-man stations, but the question raised is of interest and warrants a reply. I shall endeavour to get the information.

Mr. MATHWIN: I am delighted to hear the Minister's attitude in relation to the equality of the sexes. How far is the Women's Police Auxiliary to extend, and what type of training is being undertaken by these officers? About 12 months ago I was told that women police officers would not be directing traffic at that time. Is it expected that women officers will be doing point duty along with their comrades in arms, providing an efficient arm to the Police Force, one that is delightful to the eye?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The line relating to the Women's Police Auxiliary refers to certain duties carried out within the Police Force by women operatives; there are also women police officers. As I understand it, the Police Force does not have any specific preclusion from the carrying out of certain duties by women. As this is not my portfolio, I would need to get a report on this matter. I shall do that.

Dr. EASTICK: I seek information on the totality of police protection accorded to the community of South Australia, against the background of the recent statement by the Commissioner of Police that dark forces were

abroad in the community. Such a statement from a person as respected in the community as is Mr. Salisbury would have excited the Government to obtain from him an indication of the dangers he had in mind and whether those dangers required the upgrading or increasing of the availability of certain organisations or certain additional support units within the Police Force. Has the Government acquainted itself with Mr. Salisbury's views, and does it accept his views? Further, is Mr. Salisbury seeking additional assistance? The Minister of Community Welfare and the Attorney-General have referred to the dangers arising from drug abuse, and we all realise that the Police Force enforces the law in this connection.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Most of the matters raised by the honourable member have applied to the Police Force since the days of the Bow Street runners. The Police Force has always had problems and not enough officers to handle those problems. I am not privy to what thoughts the Commissioner had in mind in connection with dark forces.

Dr. Eastick: Cabinet has not checked it out?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The increase from actual payments of \$39 852 529 last year to proposed payments of \$45 585 000 this year suggests that increases in the police work and staffing are necessary, and it is evident that provision has been made accordingly.

Mr. BOUNDY: Does the increase in the allocation for police cadets mean that there will be an increase in the recruitment of cadets?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Salary determinations which became effective during 1975-76 resulted in increased costs, and provision is made for the carry-over effect of the above salary determinations to 1976-77. Further provision is made for the appointment of an additional 154 cadets during the year to replace those graduating for appointment to probationary constable. Provision is also made to meet automatic age increments which will become effective during the year.

Mr. RUSSACK: Is the interest in civil defence being maintained throughout the State? Are preparations in hand to cope with local disasters, or is there a decline in the interest in civil defence?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The questions raised by the honourable member are general, rather than financial. The small increase in the allocation for civil defence indicates that the level of activity is to be maintained, with a rather small expansionary effect. There is a State emergency plan, and the Government has given due consideration to the problems that would face the State if a disaster should occur. Beyond that, I would have to get further information for the honourable member if he desired more.

Mr. VENNING: In connection with State Emergency Services, \$1000 is allocated for the purchase of motor vehicles and \$400 for the purchase of plant and equipment. Can the Minister give further details of this proposed expenditure?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The present vehicle will reach the accepted economical change over mileage during the year, and will be changed in accordance with Government policy. Regarding the purchase of plant and equipment, the item relates to the purchase of monograms for the State Emergency Service to replace monograms carrying the old civil defence insignia.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Many unfortunate things have been said about the three police officers named in connection with the case that involved David McPherson. Can the Minister say whether the Police Force has carried out an internal investigation?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Keneally): Order! I am not sure whether this matter is *sub judice*.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: No. The court decision was reached about three weeks ago, and there is no indication of an appeal at this stage, to my knowledge. The Police Force has been denigrated by some people in connection with this incident, and it is important that, as far as possible, any accusations be confirmed or cleared up. What action has the Police Force taken to resolve this issue, which has been going on for about 12 months? The jury found in favour of the Police Force.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I understand that when a court finding has been reached it is a public finding whereas juvenile court matters are not fully publicised. The person to whom the honourable member has referred would be aware that the police were vindicated in the matter referred to. I cannot add anything useful or sensible to this discussion because I have no direct knowledge of the case.

Mr. MATHWIN: What is the present strength of the dog squad in the South Australian Police Department? Dogs were used to good effect last weekend to track down absconders from McNally Training Centre.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I am disappointed that the honourable member was unable to restrain himself from referring to McNally. The only information I have about the dog squad relates to the provision of certain motor vehicles, so I will try to obtain the information for the honourable member.

Mr. BECKER: During the financial year ended June 30, 1975, 928 prosecutions were made under the provisions of the Lottery and Gaming Act. Of that number, 309 prosecutions related to playing an unlawful game and 468 related to people being present at unlawful games.

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

Mr. BECKER: I am referring to "Administration expenses, minor equipment and sundries" under "Police Department". The report of the Police Department also states that 54 prosecutions related to common gaming houses. Can the Minister say what sort of games were involved, and whether they related to card games or to two-up?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I will try to obtain that information for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: What is the total number of males in the Police Force as against females? In addition, can the Minister say whether the off-setting of the high cost of third party insurance premiums paid by Emergency Fire Service units has been considered? Certain branches of the E.F.S. have stated that these costs are becoming quite high and that they are compelled by law to insure their vehicles. E.F.S. vehicles do not travel many kilometres and are not on the road much during the year. If this matter has not been considered, will the Minister suggest to the Minister responsible that the matter be considered?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I hope that there are not too many males in the Police Force against females or, if there are, that it is not too unpleasant. I agree that the matter of third party insurance premiums needs to be further investigated. I believe the correct title for the organisation to which the honourable member referred is Country Fire Service and not Emergency Fire Service.

Mr. BECKER: Is the Government satisfied that the Police Force in this State is at full strength? Recently I took a deputation of service club members to speak

to the Police Commissioner and to discuss what could be done about public awareness in relation to crime against the individual. We were surprised to hear the statement that murder is no longer considered to be a serious crime in this State. The service club is so concerned about public apathy towards crime that it wishes to assist the police to improve their image and to make the public aware of how people can protect their property. The level of all crime is increasing. Statistics show that 44 per cent of crime in this State is committed by people 17 years and younger. In America, the percentage for the same age group is about 45 per cent.

The South Australian crime rate is reaching alarming proportions. I gather that the Police Commissioner and other members of the Police Force are worried about that situation. In the latest report of the Police Commissioner, which was tabled in Parliament on July 27 this year and which is dated June 30, 1975, it will be noted that there were 3 452 incidents of vandalism in 1970-71 and that the number of offences reported in 1974-75 rose to 6 863. In 1970-71, the number of arson cases was 73, and that number grew to 203 in 1974-75. In 1972, 2 990 motor vehicles were reported stolen at a value of \$2 500 000. In 1975 the number of vehicles stolen increased to 4 679 at a value of \$4 700 000. The total number of offences against morality dropped from 1 369 the previous year to 1 177, a decrease of 192. We would be concerned to know how those figures relate to the present 12 months. If we look at drugs, for smoking and being in possession of Indian hemp, in 1973-74 there were 301 cases, and in 1974-75, 490. The use of narcotics remains the same at 63 for both years. The supply of drugs of all kinds, 37—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Keneally): Order! Will the honourable member indicate what information he is seeking from the Minister from the figures he has given?

Mr. BECKER: I am asking whether the Government is satisfied that the Police Force is at full strength. My case, from information which alarms me (and I am reading from the report of the Police Commissioner, which has not yet been printed, so it is difficult for members to obtain information), is that there has been an increase in crime in this State, that the proportion of crime committed by people aged 17 years and under is 44 per cent in this State, and in America it is 45 per cent. Surely the Government, Parliament and the public must be getting worried about this. I am, and I want to know whether the moneys we are allocating to the Police Department are sufficient and whether the Police Force is satisfied that it is at full strength and that it is getting the co-operation of the community that it deserves.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: One question is: is the Government satisfied with the Police Force? Of course the Government is more than satisfied with it and its performance. The Government has, on more than one occasion, expressed its satisfaction with the Police Force. It needs no extolling from me. It has a reputation second to none in Australia, and I am sure South Australia holds it in high esteem, and will continue to do so. The public generally extends it much co-operation and I know, from personal contact with members of the Police Force, that on many occasions assistance is given when the members of the Police Force have difficult criminal problems to solve.

Another question is: what are we doing about the numbers in the Police Force? The information I have, apart from the normal financial provision for 26 pays for the year, is that further provision is made to appoint four

additional chief inspectors and one additional inspector, so that, at senior level, the honourable member can see that the Government is expanding activities in police work in that area. At the level of non-commissioned officers, provision is also made for the appointment of 39 additional sergeants, which would please the honourable member as it pleases me. It is in this area possibly, without singling out any particular area, that the great strength of the force may well be shown, and the provision of 39 additional officers at that level will greatly assist the South Australian public. Those are two areas where I can cite figures, as I have done, that are reassuring. In respect of the honourable member's crime figures and the percentage he attributed to persons under 17 years of age, those figures do not appear to agree with my figures, but I will endeavour to obtain accurate information for the honourable member on those matters.

Line passed.

Correctional Services, \$7 577 000.

Dr. TONKIN: I refer to "Probation and Parole Staff", and I note there has been a significant increase in the amount of money proposed. Is that increase a reflection of wage increases? Has there been an increase in the number of staff, or are more staff with increased skills being appointed? It is important at this stage, with rehabilitation still one of the major aspects of our Correctional Services Department, that people with special skills are appointed.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I appreciate the Leader's interest in these matters. During 1976-77 an additional five probation and parole officers are to be employed further to reduce the case load of probation officers, as recommended by the Mitchell report. The balance of the addition can be attributed to the carry-over of salaries awards.

Dr. TONKIN: I am pleased to hear that. The next obvious question (and I am sure the Minister will have the information at his fingertips) is: what is the average case load now of probation officers and social workers working for the Correctional Services Department? It has in the past been remarkably high, much higher than many of us believe is fair, in the context of their being able to perform their duties satisfactorily and doing the best they can for the people under their control. What is the average case load of the departmental parole officer now?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I do not have the information at my fingertips, as suggested by the Leader, but I will try to obtain it for him.

Dr. TONKIN: Has the Government made any determination about preserving the Adelaide Gaol—phasing it out as an institution of the Correctional Services Department and converting it to what I understand could well become a historical museum? It represents a valuable part of our history and heritage. What progress has been made in that direction?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I suppose there are many prisoners who hope its transition to the state suggested by the Leader of a historical institution will be very soon. I do not have any direct information on that matter. However, clerical service at the Adelaide Gaol is to be upgraded, and provision has been made for the appointment of an additional office assistant; a transfer of the administrative officer and his staff also has affected proposed expenditure on this line. The transfer is a result of the rationalisation of clerical services and the implementation of a departmental documentation system to be operated from that institution.

Dr. TONKIN: Can the Minister say how the \$9 000 allocated for costs associated with the education of prisoners is to be spent?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I will obtain that information for the Leader.

Dr. TONKIN: In connection with country gaols, new allocations are made both for materials for trade shops and for the purchase of motor vehicles. Has the Minister details of these proposed expenditures?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Materials for trade shops are required to stock the workshop soon to be commenced at Port Augusta Gaol, at which basic skills will be taught in country locations, in order to enhance the likelihood of prisoners obtaining semi-skilled work on release.

Dr. TONKIN: I refer to the \$444 000 allocated for provisions and expenses incurred in the normal operation and maintenance of the Labour Prison. Concern has been expressed at the change in visiting arrangements. Because of the activities of a small group of prisoners, I understand that a no-contact system of visiting has now been reintroduced. Can the Minister say whether a proposal is being considered to divide prisoners into groups in order to provide alternative visiting arrangements?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: As the Leader would know, I would be sympathetic to such an approach. However, I will refer his question to the Chief Secretary in order to obtain the information he requires.

Mr. ALLEN: The sum of \$250 000 has been allocated for salaries and wages for the Women's Rehabilitation Centre. In 1973-74 and 1974-75 there were 22 prisoners with a staff of 21; in 1975-76 the average daily number of prisoners was 11, but the staff numbered 25. It seems strange that the allocation has been increased by \$39 000 this year, although the number of prisoners has been reduced.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE (Minister of Community Welfare) moved:

That the time for moving the adjournment of the House be extended beyond 10 p.m.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (22)—Messrs. Abbott and Max Brown, Mrs. Bryne, Messrs. Corcoran, Duncan, Dunstan, Groth, Harrison, Hopgood, Hudson, Jennings, Keneally, Langley, McRae, Olson, Payne (teller), Simmons, Slater, Virgo, Wells, Whitten, and Wright.

Noes (22)—Messrs. Allen, Allison, Arnold, Becker, Blacker, Boundy, Dean Brown, Chapman, Coumbe, Eastick, Evans, Gunn, Mathwin, Millhouse, Nankivell, Rodda, Russack, Tonkin (teller), Vandepeer, Venning, Wardle, and Wotton.

Pair—Aye—Mr. Broomhill. No—Mr. Goldsworthy.

The SPEAKER: There are 22 Ayes and 22 Noes. There being an equality of votes, I give my casting vote in favour of the Ayes.

Motion thus carried.

Mr. ALLEN: Will the Minister explain the reason for the increased allocation concerning the Women's Rehabilitation Centre, to which I have referred?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The honourable member's query relates to increases in salaries because of indexation and expected indexation. Such centres require a 24-hour, around-the-clock operation. All honourable members would agree that one must make proper provision for however many inhabitants may be in such an institution, which is only sometimes fully occupied.

Mr. VENNING: The sum of \$600 is to be spent on maintenance of the Gladstone Prison this year, nearly \$16 000 having been spent last year. As the prison has

been closed for some time and is at present a liability to the State, what plans has the Minister for the prison's future?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: An amount of \$600 is provided for provisions and expenses incurred in normal operation and maintenance. Apparently, we agree that no provision for the other item is satisfactory. A nominal amount has been placed on the operating lines as a number of disputed claims is being negotiated. The Government has made provision that, should a finding be made in favour of the persons making the claims, sufficient money will be available to meet those claims.

Mr. BECKER: The amount proposed for probation and parole staff is substantially more than actual payments in 1975-76. Will there be sufficient trained staff to handle the workload contemplated in the report of the Commissioner of Police, dated June 4, 1976? The department recently opened an office at Glenelg, and I understand that the department will desire to decentralise such offices by placing the probation officer in certain regions. I also understand that the workload for the Glenelg office could be about 45 cases. In his report, the Commissioner of Police states:

Crime generally is increasing at an average annual rate of 10.1 per cent against an average population increase of 1.5 per cent. Of the total serious crime (homicide, serious assault, robbery, rape, breaking offences, motor car theft, fraud) in 1974-75, 25½ per cent was contributed by juveniles aged 14 years and under, and 58.44 per cent was contributed by juveniles under 18 years of age. Police view this as a sinister progressing development and a possible legacy for the future, for in addition to its general significance and demoralising effect on the community at large, it provides a protected and fertile climate for apprenticeship for more extensive activities in these young people's future adult lives: it will also provide suitable experienced material for organised crime if such a development should overtake South Australia.

I want to be assured that the amount of \$651 500 provided for probation and parole staff will ensure that we have sufficient trained probation officers in future to deal with any escalation in the number of criminals in the State.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The honourable member is concerned about the provision for probation and parole staff; the staff is employed in the area of adult offenders. The honourable member then cited the figures for juvenile crime. I realise that juveniles eventually become adults. He quoted juvenile crime figures for 1974-75. As I told the House about 10 days ago, there has been a marked decrease in the rate of increase in juvenile crime: the figures for 1975-76, which are collected not by politicians but by statisticians, show that there has been only a small increase in this area. That indicates that, in the following year, when we reach the adult area, with any luck we can expect some kind of plateauing. I have mentioned that there will be an additional five trained officers, and this will be a useful increase in that area.

Mrs. BYRNE: Can the Minister tell me the role of the visiting justices referred to in this line?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I know that the honourable member will forgive me if I make a guess, because this matter is not in my portfolio. I recall the question of visiting justices being raised when a serious problem occurred at Yatala a few years ago. Allegations were made by prisoners about the treatment of them. One role of visiting justices is to visit prisons and hear complaints by prisoners about treatment. I cannot give the honourable member more direct information, but I will try to find out from my colleague.

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister give me a list of the number of probation and parole offices that the department has in the metropolitan area and in country areas, and can he indicate the future expansion of the service and comment on the success of the existing service?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I will try to obtain the information.

Mr. MATHWIN: I ask the reason for the provision of \$8 000 for materials for trade shops in country gaols, compared to the \$212 000 provided for these materials at the Labour Prison.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The allocation for materials for trade shops at the Labour Prison for 1976-77 reflects only an 8 per cent increase for inflation. It is expected that some economies can be made to absorb expected increases in production levels. I think the honourable member referred to that amount in comparison with the amount for materials for trade shops at country gaols. The same matter was raised by the Leader, and I told him that the allocation for country gaols was a new provision. It will allow for commissioning and stocking the workshop at Port Augusta Gaol and enable basic skills that are now taught at Yatala to be taught in the country.

Mr. EVANS: Last year, \$20 000 was voted for terminal leave payments and \$37 215 was paid out. This year, we are to allocate \$40 000. Has there been a substantial increase in the number of people leaving the department? Is there any disillusionment in the department? It is a reasonably new department, and the amount to be voted has been increased by 100 per cent. Under the line referring to probation and parole staff, last year we voted \$518 000 and spent \$526 261, and this year we are to increase the vote to \$651 500. It has been claimed that the number of juvenile offenders has decreased. If that is so, why has there been such an increase in the area of probation and parole staff?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Probation and parole staff employed in the Correctional Services Department have nothing to do with juvenile offenders. That fact may have escaped the honourable member, and perhaps that will clear up the matter for him. The increase in terminal leave payments reflects the cost of increased wages and its effect on amounts paid to retiring personnel. The honourable member made some comment about disillusionment.

Mr. Evans: It went up from \$20 000 last year.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I understand that. The answer is the same as the one I gave the honourable member last year in reply to a similar question. This is always an estimative area. People retire for various reasons, most of which cannot be foreseen. The amounts payable are dependent on the length of service involved and the wage received at the time of retirement. Because of these variables, estimates can be exceeded or not reached without causing any worry to us, as a Parliament faced with the job of scrutinising expenditure. Probation and parole staff are not really involved with juveniles. This line refers to the appointment of five additional parole officers, together with certain carry-overs in relation to salary awards.

Line passed.

Services and Supply, \$9 660 000—passed.

Chief Secretary, Miscellaneous, \$2 680 000.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Why has the figure to be allocated for the South Australian Fire Brigades Board been increased to such an extent? The Auditor-General's Report shows that in 1974-75 the State Government contributed \$870 000 to the board. The figure increased last year to about \$1 190 000, and now it has increased to about \$1 700 000.

In only two years the allocation from the State Government to the board has doubled. Can the Minister give an estimate of how much money the board will receive from the actual levy from insurance companies?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I have no idea of the amount of the levy. I cannot find an item in front of me on which that matter is mentioned. In relation to the item mentioned by the honourable member, the figure is the estimated amount based on the required contribution by the Government of 12½ per cent of the estimated total running cost of the board. That figure will change from year to year, as the total running costs of the board change.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I am interested in the figure of 12½ per cent. The contribution made by the State Government to the overall running costs of the board has decreased. The Government contributed 14.2 per cent in 1974-75 and 14.6 per cent in 1975-76. We have had a nebulous reply from the Minister, yet we have this incredible increase in expenditure. Although the State Government contribution has doubled, it is still not holding the same percentage as it held two years ago, indicating that the estimated expenditure of the board has more than doubled. I should have thought the State Government would take a greater interest in how that money was being spent. I have raised this matter because of the recent controversy concerning the South Australian Fire Brigades Board in the Salisbury area, during which controversy some interesting facts were revealed. I understood that the cost of supplying the services in that council area was tremendous. I have asked questions about this, and the exact figures are on record. The whole board seems to be escalating its services considerably, and the State Government should indicate why this expenditure has increased by such a substantial amount. I repeat that it has doubled: a 100 per cent increase in only two years. Has the Minister any further information on this item, or is that all the information the Government can supply in allocating \$1 700 000? If so, I suggest that the Government has failed to supervise adequately the expenditure or the grant to the board, and I think it needs further investigation by the Minister.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Perhaps the Government has more faith in the ability of the board than has the honourable member.

Mr. Mathwin: It doesn't; that is shown by the amount of money it puts into it. The Government leaves it all to local government and insurance companies.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: From what I could hear, the member for Davenport made an attack on the board. It may be that he wished to correct that.

Mr. Mathwin: He was attacking the Government.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: He made an attack on the board. I do not intend to enter into that controversy. I shall obtain the information the honourable member has requested.

Mr. WOTTON: The sum of \$7 500 has been allocated to Austcare and \$5 000 to the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, both fairly nominal contributions. Why has there been no increased allocation to either of these funds? I am sure the significance of these two organisations is realised.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The honourable member would be the first to point out to members on this side that his Federal colleagues have indicated that we are in a time of some financial stringency. If some modicum of economy is being exercised in matters such as those

before us, I should have thought he would support the exercise of such care in financially stringent times. As a result of hearing the Treasurer give explanations in previous years, I can say that many of these grants are subject to discussion between the organisations concerned and the Government. To satisfy the honourable member, however, I will try to obtain further information about the grants.

Mr. BLACKER: Does the allocation for the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron in any way encourage the squadron to extend its activities to other than the metropolitan beaches?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: Funds amounting to \$24 000 which were deferred in the 1975-76 estimates are now provided to assist with the purchase and installation of radar equipment in units of the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron. A provision of \$1 000 is made to enable the supply by the Police Department of 1 500 gallons of fuel to the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron. This assistance is necessary as a result of cuts in the amount of free fuel supplied to the squadron by petroleum companies.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: In connection with the allocation for the South Australian Fire Brigades Board, if the Minister thought I was attacking the board, he is obviously thick in the head. In fact, I was attacking the Government for making such an incredible grant without even knowing how the money was being spent. When I put a Question on Notice in regard to this matter, all I got in reply was a complete whitewash. The Government refused to give details: it simply said that I ought to look at the annual report and that the Government took virtually no interest in the board. In the past two years the expenditure has doubled, but the Minister's only excuse is that it is in line with estimated increases in expenditure. If that is the Minister's degree of interest in the matter, he should resign. I beg the Minister to show a little more respect for the people's money and to get some meaningful information on why the costs of this board have escalated to such an extent in the past two years.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: That is probably the most suitable position for the honourable member—begging! He does not do too well in any other position. I told the honourable member earlier that the amount was an estimate. I suggest that the honourable member has never noticed the word "Estimates" at the top of each page of Parliamentary Paper No. 9. The amounts are estimates in connection with the running of the South Australian Fire Brigades Board, and a certain percentage is provided under this line. For some reason, the honourable member purports to be dissatisfied with the other offer that I made, because he studiously avoided referring to my earlier undertaking to obtain additional information for him. I repeat that I will obtain additional information, as requested by the honourable member.

Mr. WOTTON: Is there any significance in the doubling of the allocation for payment of rewards for information in respect of drug traffic offences, and is it in line with what seems to be a national attempt to overcome the problem of drug abuse?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: The 100 per cent increase in the provision has been made to enable the payment of rewards for information received by the police in respect of drug traffic offences. The honourable member will agree with me that the provision seems to be a modest attempt to ensure that funds are available for such rewards.

Mr. VENNING: Why has there been a 300 per cent increase in the allocation for special appeals?

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I thank the honourable member for his question, particularly because I have in mind the sympathetic reaction to the unfortunate earthquakes in Italy. Money needs to be set aside to finance special appeal grants. Disasters cannot be accurately foreseen, and it is prudent for the Treasurer to make such a provision.

Dr. EASTICK: An application was made 15 months ago to the Government for assistance to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The work done by the society would otherwise have to be done by the Police Department, the Agriculture Department, or other officers not necessarily versed in what is involved. The important issue to be raised relates to the word "prevention" in the society's title, because it is not an organisation that has tried to bring about prosecutions; it is an educational organisation and has undertaken that role. It has taken a significant interest in the junior area of our society by providing information and documents to schools. The additional allocation in the past two years has allowed more inspectors to be put on the road and has also enabled the society's activities to be extended beyond the metropolitan area with occasional sorties into the country. It has also allowed the society to make more frequent country patrols for the purpose of education and the alleviation of cruelty if and where it occurs. It has also indicated to people at stock markets and in other places what action can be taken that is in the best interests of the animal kingdom.

It is not difficult to become emotional about this topic. The society offers a worthwhile service to the community. Comment I have received from across the State indicates that the society is well respected by the community and that it is no longer considered to be an organisation that pries into people's business. I hope that the Government will continue to allocate money under this line to update the best interests of that other kingdom.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: If office holders of the R.S.P.C.A. read in *Hansard* the remarks made by the honourable member, I should imagine they would be proud because the objectivity of the honourable member concerned is beyond doubt.

Mr. BECKER: Funding of the Fire Brigade Board is made up of funds from the State Government and municipal and district councils with insurance companies contributing 75 per cent of the funds. The Opposition wants to be assured that taxpayers, particularly property owners who insure their properties, are not paying more than once in this area. I understand that the State Government already benefits by collecting stamp duty paid by policy-holders to insurance companies. In 1976 the Government received from insurance companies more than \$6 000 000 and also received stamp duty on that sum. That charge was pushed on to the policy-holder who is really paying to the Fire Brigade Board the 75 per cent insurance company contribution plus stamp duty. From stamp duty the Government collected just over \$1 000 000 in 1976. Councils also pay \$1 000 000 to the board.

Does the Government intend to review completely the funding of the Fire Brigade Board because, from evidence presented to me, it seems that the current system is unfair since the property owner pays to insure his house and also pays council rates? The Government should ask the board whether a different method could be used to finance the board's activities. Perhaps everyone should have to insure properly his property, because the charge would then be more evenly spread than it is now.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: I expect that my colleague will consider what has been put forward by the honourable member. However, I do not believe that what

we are considering this evening relates to what the honourable member has raised. What we are considering is whether the 12½ per cent specified should be passed.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Concerning the *Government Gazette*, I have calculated that last year \$94 000 less than allocated was spent, whereas this year \$79 000 above what was actually spent last year is being allocated, which is \$15 000 less than was voted in 1975-76. Certain economies and procedure changes in the presentation of the *Gazette* must have been effected.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: There were no specific economies; there was an actual decrease in demand for printing that resulted in a lower expenditure.

Mr. GUNN: Will the Minister discuss with his colleague the possibility of making the *Government Gazette* available to members at their electoral offices each week, a matter that has been discussed before. The cost would not be great to the Government, and would probably save Ministers and their staff much work and would be of much assistance to members and their constituents.

The Hon. R. G. PAYNE: This question has been asked more than once since I have been a member. I will undertake to bring it to the attention of my colleague.

Line passed.

Legal services, \$6 790 000.

Dr. TONKIN: Funds allocated for State Coroner, clerical and other assistance have been increased significantly. I recognise that the Coroner's jurisdiction has been extended and that other coroners have been appointed. Will the Attorney-General explain where the increase has been incurred?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN (Attorney-General): The increase in this line is to take account of increased travelling expenses related to the increases in the number of autopsies now being conducted in South Australia and of the fact that perhaps some removal expenses will be involved this year in the Coroner's move from his premises, where he has had his office for some years, to the new forensic science building.

Dr. TONKIN: I speak generally for the moment about the principle that is shown clearly on pages 30 to 33 of the Estimates, where we have the rather difficult situation that arises from the Attorney-General's Department, the Crown Law Department, and the Department of Legal Services. I make the plea that in future, although it is one thing to have a line of asterisks down the column under the various headings, it would make life easier for us all if those figures could be put in. The asterisks could still be retained, but it is not much help when one has to turn from one page to another on the same subject matter. In this instance, it is not unreasonable, because they are successive pages but, when departments that have been moved to another Minister are mentioned on non-consecutive pages, there seems to be no point in not putting the figures in either in italics or in some distinguishing form. Could the Attorney take that up with the Treasurer to see whether in future some steps can be taken to overcome that difficulty?

I refer now to "Courses of instruction for justices", on pages 30 and 33. I note that \$2 000 was voted for 1975-76 and only \$141 was spent. It is apparent that "courses of instruction for justices" did not get a very good start in life, if it got a start at all. We are voting \$3 000 for this year, an increase of 50 per cent over the sum voted last year. Can the Attorney tell us what will happen? Does he intend to allow a change in the number of justices or the level of understanding or training of justices? I know there

has been a change in policy in relation to justices in the last two or three years and those people who now take that heavy responsibility of sitting on the bench need additional training; they cannot manage without it. Can the Attorney give us the full details of what he proposes for the training of justices; are they justices who would be expected to serve on the bench?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The situation is that during the last financial year the courses normally held for justices were suspended, principally because of the unavailability of the tutor who has conducted these courses for a number of years—His Honour Mr. Justice Marshall, who is now with the Family Court. He has agreed to continue to provide courses for justices, which are of particular interest to him; he has undertaken this work for some years more or less as a hobby, as an extra-curricular activity. He has undertaken to continue this activity but, in the initial stages of setting up the Family Court, he found his time was so occupied that he could not conduct courses satisfactorily. It was related also to the fact that the *Justices Handbook*, which he has for many years so ably edited and compiled, was undergoing a reprint, which has now been completed. He has substantially rewritten the *Justices Handbook*, and it has now been reprinted and is available from my department and from the Government Printer.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I draw your attention to the state of the Committee.

A quorum having been formed:

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I understand those courses are to be undertaken again soon. As a matter of fact, one is about to commence. Another matter related to this line is the fact that I have made arrangements, through the Further Education Department, to conduct more intensive courses for justices proposing to sit in the South Australian courts, and these courses are to be conducted in Adelaide by the Panorama Further Education Centre, and also at the Port Augusta Further Education Department facilities. The course at Port Augusta is to commence soon, and justices resident in the north of the State will be able to attend them. I understand special arrangements will be made to ensure that they are held at times when it will be possible for justices living some distance from Port Augusta to attend them. We hope that, with this initiative, justices in the rural areas of South Australia will be able to avail themselves of fairly intensive training, and through that I hope that the standard of justice in the South Australian courts, as meted out by the justices, will be substantially improved.

Dr. TONKIN: I now refer to line "Secretary, solicitors and clerical staff". Last year, \$267 000 was voted and \$289 000 was spent. This year the amount proposed is \$387 693, which is about a 33 per cent increase. Is it an increase in staff or in salaries? Are we employing people with more expertise and therefore requiring higher salaries? What is the reason for the large increase in that line? It can in no way be due to any high turnover of legislation.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: This increase is caused partly by the added cost of reclassifications and living wage increases and, in addition, under the reorganisation of the department, officers from the Companies Investigation Section have now been transferred to the Legal Services Department.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Is a person by the name of Mr. Crafter employed in the Minister's department and, if he is, what are his duties?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Mr. Gregory Crafter is on my staff. Formerly, he was a public servant in the Hospitals Department, and in about 1970 transferred to the Attorney-General's Department. He worked for the former Attorney in several capacities, and he is now my private secretary and he is a public servant.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I understand that Mr. Crafter has a law degree and is now serving the equivalent of his articles in his present position.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The answer is "No" to both questions. He does not have a law degree, and is not serving the equivalent of articles. In fact, he is serving his articles.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I understand that Mr. Crafter has indicated that he intends to stand for preselection for the Australian Labor Party in the new seat of Coles.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! That matter is completely irrelevant to this debate, and I ask the honourable member to confine his remarks to the lines.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Can the Minister say what salary Mr. Crafter is receiving, and what is the normal salary for a person serving articles in his department?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I am unable to provide that information now, but I will obtain it. I do not know the salary of an articulated clerk in Mr. Crafter's position. Salaries of articulated clerks vary because of certain factors. Mr. Crafter has been and is a public servant, and is being paid according to the classification that he has reached in the Public Service. That has been the situation with other clerks who have studied part time for a law degree and when they have entered articles with the Crown Solicitor. They are continued to be paid at the rate for work they were doing as public servants.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Attorney-General say whether proposed payments for terminal leave are in lieu of long service leave? Also, will this practice continue instead of the officer being asked to take long service leave as it becomes due?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I will obtain that information, as I am not fully conversant with the present practice of the Treasury.

Dr. TONKIN: The amount allocated for the purchase of motor vehicles seems to be high. I realise that some officers are allowed to use Government vehicles but, as there seems to be a large increase in the number of motor vehicles proposed to be purchased, has there been a change in Government policy?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The actual payment for this line for last year was \$20 080, so that the increase is small. There has been a slight change in policy, in that the Government is now appointing resident country magistrates who are to be provided with motor vehicles.

Mr. EVANS: Under "Office of Minister", \$64 000 is allocated in connection with administration expenses, minor equipment and sundries, representing an increase of more than 50 per cent on the sum allocated last year. What is the reason for this substantial increase?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I understand that the increase includes the cost of reprinting the *Justices Handbook* and two other publications, which are to be put out through the office of the Attorney-General and which, as they relate to the Builders Licensing Board, concern foundations and cracking in houses.

Line passed.

Public and Consumer Affairs, \$4 305 000.

Mr. NANKIVELL: In 1975-76, \$5 000 was allocated for investigations by the Companies Branch, whereas \$20 000

is allocated this year. Does the Minister expect more troubles and further investigations in respect of companies, and hence this substantial increase?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Yes. The Government has established a section known as the Government Investigation Service, which has incorporated the activities of the former Companies Investigation Branch, the Commercial Prosecution Section, and police officers on secondment to my department. That has led to this substantial increase.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I should like to go back—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! I hope the honourable member will bear with me for a moment. I know it is a difficult matter because of the way the Estimates are prepared this year. We have already dealt with the Legal Services Department, and I do not believe it is in order for the honourable member to refer to a vote that has already been dealt with, which is what the honourable member is doing.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I could not refer forward. It is a rather confusing situation.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The honourable member will be aware that the Committee has dealt with the Legal Services Department and an allocation of \$20 000 in 1976-77. He could have referred to that item. However, in dealing with the Public and Consumer Affairs Department there is no amount he can refer to, and it would have been appropriate for him to draw attention to this matter when we were considering the vote for the Legal Services Department. Therefore, I will have to rule further debate on that matter out of order.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Are you suggesting that we cannot refer forward, even though the item in question involves a line yet to be dealt with? I could not raise this matter under the appropriate line because I could not refer forward to this matter. I could not make the relevant comparison.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The honourable member can refer to lines not yet dealt with, but he cannot refer to lines already passed.

Dr. TONKIN: Does the allocation under "Consumer Affairs Branch" for operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries include singing lessons for the Attorney-General in preparation for his publicity campaign to be conducted at Christmas? I understand that he will be singing Christmas carols with a less than traditional message.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The Leader has been reading that most unreliable newspaper, the *Australian*.

Dr. Tonkin: You weren't misreported again?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The vote does not include any payment for singing lessons for me, and I will not be singing.

Dr. TONKIN: I cannot adequately express the relief of the Opposition on hearing that wonderful news. Is it intended to produce promotional films for the Public and Consumer Affairs Department in relation to Christmas shopping? If it is, who will be producing such films, who will be the consultant, and what will be the cost of the films? Further, has any estimate been made concerning distribution of the films, the time slot for their showing, and the cost of putting the films to air?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Films are to be produced for a television campaign to advise people in South Australia of their rights under the excellent consumer protection legislation that this Government has passed. Those films will be shown on commercial television channels in South Australia before Christmas. I believe

that they will go to air in late November. The approximate cost of the films will be about \$30 000, although I do not want to be held to that figure specifically, because the final cost has not yet been ascertained. The consultant for the films is an officer of the Public and Consumer Affairs Department, and the advertising agency is Hansen Rubensohn McCann Erickson Proprietary Limited.

Dr. TONKIN: Will the Attorney-General be appearing in the films, or will the Treasurer take the starring role?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I will be appearing in the films.

Dr. TONKIN: The sum of \$30 000 is an inordinate amount to spend to promote films on Christmas shopping. The money could be spent in more satisfactory ways. Only a fraction of the amount would be required for advertisements in newspapers, and the message would get to many more people. The retail traders are, in the main, remarkably honest and of high repute, and I am sure the Attorney will agree with that. I refer now to the allocation of a total amount of \$142 000 to purchase motor cars for one department. The amount is a tremendous increase for this department, as it has been for other departments, over the figure for last year, and I should like to know the reason for this.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I am amazed that the Attorney-General was not prepared to answer those questions. I am surprised that he has not first tried to get free publicity through the news media so the State could be saved an expenditure of \$30 000. I ask whether he has considered using the free news media.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I think the Attorney is willing to answer questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Davenport if I am able to give him the call.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The large increase in the allocation for the purchase of motor vehicles in this department is related to the fact that we are decentralising the Public and Consumer Affairs Department so that people throughout country areas will have equal access, with people in the metropolitan area, to the benefits of our consumer protection legislation. The offices at Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie, and Mount Gambier, as well as offices at other centres established subsequently, require the allocation not only for officers but also for motor vehicles so that the people concerned can service the surrounding areas, as well as the towns where they are located. This department also now includes the Trade Measurements Branch, and about \$72 000, as against \$42 000 last year, relates to the purchase of 15 replacement vehicles and five new vehicles for that branch. The branch purchased most of its new vehicles once every three years, unlike other departments that replaced them on an annual basis, and I understand that that situation has now been rationalised.

Mr. Evans: Still, that is a 33 per cent increase in numbers.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Yes, but officers of the Trade Measurements Branch already have offices in country areas, and some of those officers will start acting as agents for the Public and Consumer Affairs Department generally. For example, there will be two Trade Measurements Branch officers at Port Pirie, instead of the one there now.

Mr. Evans: Do they already have a motor vehicle?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I understand that country officers would have a motor vehicle. Regarding the matter raised by the member for Davenport, I was willing to enter into the flippancy regarding my singing on television.

However, the matter is more serious when one considers the intention of the advertising campaign. Surveys have shown that some sections of the people are more at risk than other sections, and the Government intends to aim the campaign at the former section. Studies showed that the most appropriate method of reaching these people was through television, and that was why television was chosen.

As to my appearances in the advertisements, it was not my idea or that of the Treasurer: the suggestion came from officers in the department. After funds had been sought, method and style were considered, and the officers said that I should appear not only as the Minister and the Attorney-General but also as someone whose appearance on television would be considered by the community as an appearance by an important Government official and a member of Cabinet who had responsibility in this area. This is a further indication of the Government exercising its responsibilities in the interests of the people of South Australia.

Dr. EASTICK: Referring to the Builders Licensing Board, \$171 000 is proposed this year for "Secretary, Inspectors and Clerical Staff", a considerable increase over the amount of \$126 757 actually spent last year. I am concerned at the lack of availability of urgent attention by the department when improper building practices have been employed, and when a person has been told that no inspection can take place for two weeks or until letters have been directed backwards and forwards, by which time any major structural defect could be hidden. It seems quite impossible, without considerable expense, for a person to have his complaint considered. On August 5, 1976 (pages 470-1 of *Hansard*), I stated that it was unfortunate that sometimes a member of Parliament had to let it be known that he was a member of Parliament and was interested in action being taken in order to get such action, whereas the public, the people to be protected and those who should have direct access to the appropriate officers, were denied the service.

This is not a reflection on the officers, but on the system they are required to exercise. Has the Government set down guidelines to obviate some of the difficulties I have mentioned? As a result of recent amendments to the Builders Licensing Act, it is possible for the department to use muscle, whereas previously it has had to resort to bluff or to making a recommendation to a builder who had failed in his responsibility to a client. Can the Minister give some indication of the Government's appreciation of the seriousness of the situation?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I am aware of the matters raised. The Government has been taking action to try to improve the situation and this increase, consisting of two extra inspectors and two clerical officers, will go some way towards relieving the situation. The improvement may not be seen for a few months, because some backlog will have to be caught up. However, I am confident that within a few months we will see a situation in which inspectors will be available at short notice.

Dr. Eastick: State-wide?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Yes. It is intended to make officers of the Public and Consumer Affairs Department (Consumer Affairs Branch) available to the Builders Licensing Board in certain areas. In areas such as Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, and so on, the inspectors will be more readily available than has been the case in the past.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Has the Minister any explanation for the expenditure of nearly \$160 000 more than was voted last year in connection with operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries in the Public Trustee Office?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Increased costs are due, first, to rental of the Public Trustee Building and the payment of rental for about six months occupation by staff of the Public Trustee's Office. They plan to move into their building in 1977. Rental must be paid out of "Contingencies" as an operating expense, and will amount to about \$88 000. That is in the interim. The building has been purchased, but some of the tenants have been moving out progressively. Until four floors are available it is not possible for the staff to move in. The second reason for increased costs relates to interest on sinking funds involving the capital cost of furniture and equipment and moving the office to the Public Trustee Building. Because of the method of operating, furniture and equipment are not financed from Loan funds and paid for by the Public Buildings Department, as is the case with other Government offices. Interest on moneys used to purchase furniture and equipment must, therefore, be paid from operating expenses. This will amount to \$60 000.

Mr. EVANS: What tests or examinations have been approved by the Minister under section 17 (2) of the Builders Licensing Act, and on what date did the board obtain the Minister's approval? Section 17 (2) provides:

The Board may, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the applicant has the appropriate qualifications prescribed for the licence, require any applicant for a licence to undergo any test or examination approved by the Minister and may, on payment by the applicant of such fee for the test or examination as may be prescribed, itself conduct such test or examination or arrange for such test or examination to be conducted.

Has the Minister approved of the tests being used; if so, when were they approved?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I do not have the details, but I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

Mr. MATHWIN: I am perturbed about the massive increase in the allocation for Builders Licensing Board salaries, etc. The allocation for "Secretary, Inspectors and Clerical Staff" shows an increase from \$126 757 actually spent last year to \$171 000 proposed this year, with a further allocation of \$94 500, giving a total \$265 500. This is a large sum for an operation that requires a great deal of oiling because of blockages that occur in the system when people take problems to the board or when they find, on applying for a licence, that their original application has been lost. I have heard of two recent cases where people have had to fill in all the forms again to obtain a second licence. In each case, those people had had licences previously. How wide is this empire to become? The Attorney said offices were to be opened in Mount Gambier and outlying areas. Is the purchase of motor vehicles, involving \$17 500, for these outlying areas? I hope that that is correct. I presume that the extra equipment will be for the country officers. If the arrangement is to benefit country people, it is a good idea.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The honourable member made a number of assumptions and presumptions. The only matter I can directly answer is the question about the purchase of motor vehicles. The allocation is for the provision of three replacement vehicles and two new vehicles for the two extra inspectors.

Mr. EVANS: At present, when a person applies for a restricted builder's licence, he is given a written test or an oral test. Some of our migrants, who are highly skilled tradesmen, are disadvantaged by the terminology of the questions in the examination. It would be simpler to inspect the work that such people have carried out. In the

case of an applicant who is a subcontractor, discussions could be held with a contractor with whom the subcontractor has been associated.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I shall be pleased to consider the matter. I think the honourable member is possibly suggesting that we are almost applying a literacy test, but I assure him that is not the case. Actually, the Secretary of the Builders Licensing Board is himself a migrant, and I am sure he would not be a party to that practice. I will certainly have the matter investigated to see whether some method of testing people whose English is not 100 per cent can be introduced to enable them to obtain licences without suffering any disadvantage.

Mr. VENNING: What is the reason for the large increase in the provision for operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries in connection with the Public Trustee Office?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The honourable member, in his usual lamentable fashion, has been asleep. That question was asked about 10 minutes ago by the member for Mallee.

Mr. EVANS: What proportion of complaints received by the Builders Licensing Board related to commercial and industrial work, as distinct from housing? The board's interpretation of "any kind" in section 15 (1) of the Builders Licensing Act tends to be "every kind". I believe that the disciplinary tribunal has pointed out this aspect, and it is becoming increasingly reluctant to grant a licence unless the applicant has had extremely wide experience in the industry, including supervisory work.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I will obtain the information for the honourable member, although I point out that the statistics may compare complaints about commercial work with complaints about domestic work; confining it to houses is not broad enough.

Line passed.

Supreme Court, \$845 000—passed.

Attorney-General and Minister of Prices and Consumer Affairs, Miscellaneous, \$713 000.

Mr. EVANS: The allocation for a contribution toward the Criminology Research Fund has been reduced from \$6 000 last year to \$1 000 this year. Does this indicate a decrease in interest in criminology research, or has the project been nearly completed?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I am glad that the honourable member has raised this matter. Although the Federal Attorney-General is often wont to complain long and hard about the increasing crime rate, the Federal Government has, in fact, dramatically decreased its contribution to the Criminology Research Fund, which was set up by agreement between the Commonwealth and the States. The Commonwealth Government contributes half of this fund, and the States share the other half on a population basis. The Commonwealth Government has so significantly reduced its contribution that, instead of our contribution of \$6 000 last year, to make up our proportion of the amount we are required to contribute only \$1 000 this year. That decrease has had a disastrous effect on research into the causes of crime in Australia, and it will continue to have such an effect for a considerable time. The Federal Government can only be condemned for cutting its contribution so significantly.

Mr. BOUNDY: I note that, for compensation for injuries resulting from criminal acts, \$20 000 was allocated last year, \$23 666 was actually paid out, and \$26 000 has been allocated this year. This year's allocation does not even seem to reflect the effect of inflation on the economy.

It is about time that the community was compensated more adequately or reimbursed for criminal acts. Will anything more be done in this field?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: This line reflects only the Government's contribution. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act provides basically that citizens who are injured should exercise their rights against the person who injured them before they seek a contribution from the Government fund. Although I would not like to estimate how much is paid out under the provisions of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, I know that a much larger sum is paid by individuals who have injured other people.

Mr. MATHWIN: Can I assume that this sum also relates to part compensation to be paid to residential care workers and similar officers who are attacked by residents or inmates of, say, McNally Training Centre? Sometimes two women residential care workers may be on duty together in charge of young offenders. It would be better if a male and a female were on duty together. The Attorney or someone in authority should consider policy that exists in this area.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member had an opportunity to raise this matter earlier today. The honourable member is referring to McNally Training Centre and is not speaking to the line, which relates to "Miscellaneous, \$713 000".

Mr. MATHWIN: My question was whether the compensation to be paid to people included those who were attacked by inmates in institutions such as McNally and were injured as a result of a criminal act.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The reply is "No". Government officers whilst at work in any department are covered by workmen's compensation. If it is insufficient to compensate them properly, the Government has shown a favourable and sympathetic attitude and has made *ex gratia* payments.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The Attorney's reply is far from clear. At least once the Opposition has moved a motion relating to criminal acts of people who have escaped from institutions. The Opposition believes that people should be compensated when inmates who are under the care of the Crown escape and cause damage. Who is to be compensated for injuries resulting from criminal acts? It is all very well for the Attorney to say that the Government has taken a sympathetic attitude: people have no comeback when considerable damage has been caused. What is the Government's attitude to cases where people in legal custody escape under minimal security conditions where the public is subject to grievous damage to person or property? In the past the Government seems to have been unsympathetic to the Opposition's suggestion that people should be compensated in these cases.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The Deputy Leader has misunderstood completely the question asked by the member for Glenelg, who referred to residential care workers and not to people who suffered injury as a result of juveniles escaping from institutions. This item relates to payments made pursuant to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. Matters such as those raised by the honourable member would be more properly directed to the Minister of Community Welfare when lines relating to his department are being considered.

Mr. ALLISON: A few moments ago the Attorney stated that dire results would flow from the cut-back in Commonwealth expenditure to the Criminology Research Fund. Because the Attorney's department has an expenditure of \$12 600 000 and because the Government is holding \$27 000 000 in reserve, it would seem that, if the Attorney

is willing to spend \$144 000 to buy motor cars, to quibble over the expenditure of a few thousand dollars on criminological research, the omission of which might have dire results on the State, indicates that his priorities must be entirely in the wrong direction.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: It is extraordinary to find a member of the Party to which the Federal Attorney-General belongs taking that sort of attitude, because, after all, it was the Federal Attorney who swung the axe that chopped this allocation to the extent that it has been chopped. This sum is paid pursuant to an agreement between the States and the Commonwealth. South Australia simply contributes its share in proportion to the amount made available by the Commonwealth. The effect of the slashing of the amount contributed by the Commonwealth will be that many research projects in the criminal law field and in the criminology field will suffer. South Australia's contribution is in line with contributions being made by other States on a pro rata basis. It is the Commonwealth that has taken the initiative in cutting this amount. It was the Labor Government in Canberra that first set up this fund, and the honourable member's taking this attitude shows him to be completely two-faced over this matter, because it is an agreement between the States and the Commonwealth, and the Commonwealth amount is the amount that determines how much is spent by the Criminology Research Fund.

Mr. ALLISON: I may be two-faced, but I will be single-minded. Can the Attorney say whether we would compensate by carrying out additional research in the State if we thought the Federal Government was being remiss in this regard?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: In the area of research in the criminal law, South Australia is spending as much as, if not more than, any other State. We are the only State in the Commonwealth that has instituted a far-reaching and wide-ranging research project into our criminal law, that being the committee inquiring into criminal law and penal methods, chaired by Justice Mitchell. We are doing more than any other State at present.

Mr. EVANS: I refer to the line "Payments under fidelity bonds, Lands and Business Agents Act", for which \$4 000 was voted last year and \$4 000 was actually spent; and we are voting \$4 000 again each year. I take it that this is money held by the Minister's department and paid out on claims. Why is the amount exactly \$4 000; what is it used for?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The amount of \$4 000 is paid into the Government by insurance companies and at the end of the year, if it has not been claimed, it is paid out to them again.

Mr. EVANS: Does this show that in the year there were no claims against land and business agents for improper practice—that insurance companies did not have to pay out on claims for improper practice by land and business agents?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I am not sure of that, but I will obtain the information for the honourable member. I think there were no claims and the amount was simply repaid to the insurance companies at the end of the year.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I refer to the line "Reports of Supreme Court cases", for which \$15 000 is proposed. In what circumstances are those reports called for; who uses them and how is the expenditure of \$15 000 justified?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: This is the cost of printing the South Australian Law Reports. Lawyers and members of Parliament use them; there is a complete set in the

Parliamentary Library. We pay a proportion of the costs of them and each individual who purchases a set or the continuation volumes pays a proportion each year. We subsidise the cost.

Line passed.

Treasury, \$2 962 000.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I move:

To reduce the item "Public Actuary's Office, \$113 919" by \$100.

The Public Actuary—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! To protect the interests of members who wish to ask questions on this vote, I will not at present put before the Committee the amendment proposed by the honourable member but will allow questions on the vote to continue.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: When will I get the chance to move my motion?

The CHAIRMAN: I will give the honourable member the chance to put his amendment.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I desire to move now. In fact, I have moved, and that is surely in conformity with Standing Orders.

The CHAIRMAN: I have just indicated to the Committee the intention of the Chair. At the moment the honourable member has an opportunity to speak. To protect the interests of members who wish to ask questions on this vote, I will not at present put before the Committee the amendment proposed by the honourable member but will allow questions on this vote to continue. As soon as questions are completed, I will allow the honourable member to move his amendment.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: With great respect, surely that runs absolutely counter to the ruling you gave this afternoon, which was upheld by the House. That was the very point we all argued about for half an hour. May I ask you, having been sustained by the House, why you have now changed that ruling?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! During the course of today's proceedings, I accepted the honourable member's amendment, but at this stage I am giving members of the Committee the opportunity that I have just spoken of. At the other stage, I assure the honourable member that I did accept his amendment; at this stage I asked him whether he would like to withdraw, but he did not want to withdraw. To clear the air, I put that before the Committee. The honourable member has an opportunity to speak against it.

Dr. TONKIN: I refer to the item "State Superannuation Office". Is consideration being given to bringing all superannuants under the up-to-date or the most recent provision of the Act, which would involve a sum of money from the Government? Has that been considered and is anything to be done about it in this session? Also, will provision be made for the age of members serving on the board of the South Australian Superannuation Fund Investment Trust to be altered from 65 years? It has been represented to me that the members of that board, who are vitally concerned members of the Public Service Superannuants Association, are most concerned that they have some degree of control over the affairs of the fund. They are precluded, under the present regulations, from sitting on the board after reaching the age of 65. Since most of them are retired anyway and not many of them are under the age of 65, it seems only fair and reasonable that they should be allowed to sit on the board and that the age limit should, therefore, be increased to perhaps 70 years.

As regards the Public Actuary's Office, I notice there is a considerable decrease in the amount allocated for operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries for this year compared with the sum voted for last year. It is slightly more than last year's payment. The increase in the Public Actuary's office may be the result of an increase in wages rather than an increase in staff. The valuation of the Superannuation Fund, which is the responsibility of the Public Actuary, has been delayed for a considerable time, and the ill health of the Public Actuary has been given by the Treasurer as a reason. Also, I understand the Police Pensions Fund has not been valued or certified by the Actuary.

[Midnight]

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It has been valued, but not certified.

Dr. TONKIN: I understand that one reason for the retirement, because of ill health, of the Public Actuary has been working conditions in the department: he has not had a full complement of staff, and there have been serious personal relationship problems between staff members. These circumstances have caused concern, and have interfered with parts of the Treasury that are normally independent: that is, the Superannuation Fund and other duties performed by the Public Actuary. The Corbett report recommended that the Actuary should become a statutory office, and I know that the Actuary has not enjoyed the independence he traditionally should have enjoyed. The situation is difficult, because the Actuary has been asked to be invalidated out.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: He was not asked at all.

Dr. TONKIN: That is not the information that I understand applies. He has now retired on that basis, but his position was advertised before his resignation had taken effect. Actuaries are a special class of profession, and it is difficult to find them. The Public Actuary (Mr. Stratford) has rendered good service to the State for some years, and it is most unfortunate that he has found it necessary to retire because of ill health. The lesson to be learned is that the Public Actuary's office is a demanding one and deserves all the clerical and skilled assistance that can be provided. The valuation of the Superannuation Fund is important, because I understand that the amount in the fund will not cover the full demands made on it by contributors in future, and some concern has been expressed that the Government may find it necessary to take over the fund and make superannuation payments from general revenue. That would be a retrograde action. I do not know what the Government intends, but perhaps the Treasurer could clarify the position.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The Public Actuary is in no different position from his previous position in the State, except that his department has been amalgamated with the Treasurer's Department as part of the Government's action to reduce the number of departments. The Actuary has remained an independent officer of government, and has retained his right of private practice. Whether future actuaries should have that right, because of the demands of the office, is a matter that will have to be examined by the Public Service Board. The valuation of the Superannuation Fund has not been completed, but the Government has tried to give every conceivable assistance to the Actuary to complete that work. We have offered to pay for consultant assistance, and tried to recruit an Assistant Actuary. However, because of the Actuary's opinion of any potential candidate, it has been extremely difficult.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Are you saying the Actuary didn't know what he was about?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No, I am saying that it was difficult to find someone who would prove acceptable to the Actuary. When an officer was appointed, there were sufficient personal difficulties between the two officers that made it difficult for work to be done. When the Deputy Actuary valued the Police Pensions Fund, the Actuary refused to certify the valuation.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Because it wasn't any good.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I do not believe that that was so. In order to settle the matter the Government called in an outside consultant Actuary with the agreement of the two Actuaries. That is a difficulty we had to face, and it has not been for any lack of support or wish to get the work done on the part of the Government or of the Under Treasurer. We are trying to rectify this position. We have been notified by the Actuary that he intends to seek retirement on the ground of invalidity and, in accordance with provisions of the Public Service Act where the intention is clear to the board, it has power to anticipate a position by advertising it, in order to ensure that there will be no undue delay. That is what happened. It was not done until there was an intimation from the Actuary that he sought to retire. I have no information to suggest that the Government will have to meet the obligations of the Superannuation Fund out of revenue in the foreseeable future.

Dr. Tonkin: Partially.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have not even been told that. As things stand, the Superannuation Fund is able to meet its obligations. Certainly, the fund in South Australia has to meet the most generous provisions of any Government Superannuation Fund in Australia, and the provisions that have been made regarding superannuation in South Australia are the best in Australia. We do not make any apology for that fact; that is something about which this Government is proud. I do not know to what the Leader is referring about "bringing everyone under the terms of the Act". Everyone is under the terms of the Act. Of course, not all people are in the position to be under the new form of contributions to the Act—

Dr. Tonkin: The new provisions of the Act.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The reason that some people are not under the new provisions is because of the situation they previously took up.

Dr. Tonkin: That will not bring them up to the others.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The provisions we made for people to enter the new provisions of the Act were generous indeed. The Government cannot go further than it has already done in this regard. Concerning the membership of the board, I will look at the question of the members of the Investment Fund Board: it is not a matter that has been taken up with me, but I will look at it.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: There is a reduction in "Terminal leave payments". Is this because fewer officers are leaving the department?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: Last year, terminal leave payments covered payments to the then Under Treasurer and staff members of the State Superannuation and Taxation Office. This year provision is made for the retirement of the Deputy Commissioner of Succession Duties plus other staff members of the Treasury and State Superannuation Office. The fact is that the amounts we have to meet this year are less.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Are fewer officers retiring?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: No.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I move:

To reduce the item "Public Actuary's Office, \$113 919" by \$100.

In one way I am pleased that we have had a preliminary discussion between the Leader of the Opposition and the Treasurer. The Treasurer described the Leader's comments as a rambling dissertation. As a result of information before me, I may say that the Treasurer's reply was no better. This matter goes far deeper and is far more serious than either the Leader implied or the Treasurer implied. As I was about to say when you stopped me before, Mr. Chairman, the Public Actuary is one of the most senior and most powerful of public servants in South Australia. One has only to look at some of the Acts which give him significant power, for example, the Building Societies Act, the Friendly Societies Act and the Superannuation Act, which has been referred to by implication in what has been said, to see the truth of what I have just put.

I think the Leader mentioned that the Corbett report recommended that the Public Actuary should be a statutory authority. That is the term the Leader was groping for but could not find. What position now applies? We have the situation in which Mr. Stratford has been retired on grounds of invalidity. There was no certainty that he would be retired, that that course would be agreed to by the Public Service Board, but it has been agreed to, I am told, in the last week or 10 days. I point out that Mr. Stratford has seen me about this matter and has given me a number of documents, to which I intend now to refer.

Most honourable members know Mr. Stratford personally. He is, and I think all honourable members would agree, a man of strong convictions and complete integrity, and there is no doubt (especially from what I know of him) that over the years—this is not what he has told me himself but it is what I have gleaned from others—he has stood up to this Government and has not been willing to give it the advice it has desired of him. I believe that at the very least the Government is glad to see the last of him and, at the worst, it has done its best to get rid of him. These efforts have centred around the man appointed provisionally as Assistant Public Actuary (Mr. Whelan), and the documents to which I intend to refer in a moment show an unhappy and quite scandalous situation which has developed over the past 12 months. From the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition I gather that he knows something of the circumstances. I refer first to docket 82 of 1975 from the Public Actuary's Office. It deals with the appointment of Mr. Whelan, and I am afraid it will be necessary for me to quote it extensively. I do not intend to read the docket fully, but I intend to quote extensively from it because it shows the situation that has arisen. The minute, dated September 19, 1975, addressed by Mr. Stratford to the Treasurer states:

At the meeting in your office regarding the appointment of an Actuary I was under the impression that a further approach was to be made—

he mentions the name of a man, and I need not mention him—

a man to whom I had offered the position. I was thus extraordinarily surprised to find that the Public Service Board had offered the position to Mr. Whelan of the National Mutual. Mr. Whelan had not made an application for the position and in fact Mrs. Stevens, who had interviewed him for a preliminary discussion, told me that she found him a most peculiar character. I had warned her that such was my information as one of his previous employers had advised me that he was surprised to find that Mr. Whelan could gain employment. I have spoken today with that person and he again advises me that under

no circumstances would he take Mr. Whelan back on his staff. I have also spoken with his present employers and they tell me that they are extremely grateful that the Public Service Board has taken this man off their hands. He was sent over here from Melbourne as a second chance, a chance that he failed to accept, and he was thus a liability to them.

The minute goes on in that vein, and I need not quote it all.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: It goes on in that vein quite a bit.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: That is right. The Treasurer has noted the docket, saying this to the Public Service Board:

After the conversation with the Actuary in my office during which agreement was reached as to appointment, I find this minute impossible.

I say that in all fairness to the Premier.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I did find it impossible, too.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Now the truth is coming out. There was far more in it than the Treasurer was going to—

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: The other minute is just as impossible.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Perhaps the Deputy Premier will wait. I have some more things.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: I realise that you have plenty more.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes, I do, and with some justification. The Chairman of the Public Service Board (Mr. Inns) wrote a minute on October 3, 1975, in which he states, in part:

The board has a great deal of difficulty in reconciling Mr. Stratford's minute to the sequence of events as they occurred in relation to Mr. Whelan's appointment. Mr. Whelan was interviewed by Commissioner Stevens and the Director of Personnel Services, Mr. Mitchell, on July 29, 1975. Mr. Stratford was advised of this by Commissioner Stevens within a few days and was told that Mr. Whelan would be making a formal application for the position and that he intended to contact Mr. Stratford to discuss the matter. Mr. Stratford stated that he had only a slight acquaintance with Mr. Whelan but would inquire among the profession about him. On August 18, 1975, Mr. Stratford discussed with Mrs. Stevens the applications of Mr. Whelan and a Mr.—

I will not mention the other man's name—

Mr. Stratford said that he would not be prepared to accept this other man but he could live with Mr. Whelan. However, he said that he preferred to approach a third man, an actuary who had refused the position, to inquire if he was interested. Mr. Stratford was given to understand that Mr. Whelan was under active consideration and that although he might not be, in terms of experience, the ideal applicant, it was necessary to get an actuary into the position to gain experience on the job. It is difficult to understand how Mr. Stratford could have been "extraordinarily surprised" to find that the board had offered the position to Mr. Whelan in view of the conversation, the details of which are known to you, that you and I had with Mr. Stratford in your office. Indeed, the board is surprised that Mr. Stratford, who in the weeks prior to Mr. Whelan being offered the position did not discover anything adverse of him, had access to sources of information immediately after the offer and acceptance were confirmed. The board has verbally checked with Mr. Whittle, a previous employer of Mr. Whelan, the adverse report that Mr. Stratford says he made and his comments do not support Mr. Stratford.

Then, the minute concludes by saying that he will be on probation. That is what is in that docket.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I ask the honourable member to table that docket. He has read from it.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I suggest, with great respect, that I do not have to table a docket. The Treasurer ought to know his Standing Orders better. If I were a Minister, I would have to table it, but not as a private member.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It is a docket. The honourable member is quoting from a Government docket. He said he got it. He quoted the number of the docket. He said he was quoting from a Government docket.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I suggest that, if I were a Minister, I would have to table it in these circumstances.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: In other words, you do not want to table a stolen document in this Chamber.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: There is a docket, though.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes, that is a docket.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: There is no question about that. You have a stolen document from a Government department. You quoted it in this Chamber.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I am not concealing the fact—

Mr. Goldsworthy: The Government has access to it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I have not. He has got it.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I warn the honourable member for Mitcham for the second time today. On the tabling of private documents, I think it is inappropriate that private documents, excellent though they may be, should be tabled in this House, except in pursuance of the Standing Orders, which allow papers to be presented pursuant to Statute or by command. I therefore rule that it is beyond the competence of the House in the circumstances to have the document tabled, as it would create a precedent that would be in conflict with Parliamentary principle.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: When the Treasurer interrupted me, I had got to the point that the minute had then suggested that Mr. Whelan should be put on probation. Since then, and I do not propose to go right through this, although there are several matters in it; it is not a Government document, although some of the documents are photostats—

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Yes, photostats from the Government document.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes, and the Minister has seen them.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Have you that letter from Whelan's former employer?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes, and I will read it.

Mr. Goldsworthy: It's a beauty.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: It is dated March 9, 1976, and it comes from Palmer Trahair Owen and Whittle. I understand they are chartered accountants in Sydney. This is the letter, addressed to Peter Stratford:

Patrick Oliver Whelan

You have asked me for a reference on Patrick Oliver Whelan, an actuary. Mr. Whelan was employed by me when I was in practice separately from the firm with which I am now associated.

Of course, both the Treasurer and the Deputy have seen this. It continues:

On the amalgamations of my practice with that of Palmer Trahair & Owen, Mr. Whelan became an employee of the amalgamated firm. At the time of his employment here he was a senior student and has since qualified as an actuary. I found his work to be generally unsatisfactory and well below the standard expected of a senior student. He showed a disappointing knowledge of principle and most of his work was also poor in detail. His office work was certainly not up to the standard of accuracy and completeness that would be normally expected. In addition he did not exert himself in his duties and did not provide by his attitude the kind of leadership that would normally be shown to other members of the staff by a senior student. His service was terminated on 29th January, 1971 and his record card is marked with "Dismissed" as cause of exit.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce Whittle

The Treasurer was well aware of that letter when he spoke a few minutes ago in this Chamber and said that there was a clash of personality.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Perhaps he is a late developer.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! Interjections are out of order.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The Treasurer was well aware of that letter a few minutes ago when he said that there had been a clash of personality between Mr. Stratford and Mr. Whelan. Any person with any common sense, any sense of what is proper with any appointment in the Public Service, would put more credence in a letter like that than the Treasurer has been prepared to do this morning or has been prepared to do over some months. That is the position. That is the report from someone outside. I have here (and I will do no more than refer briefly to some things) a minute forming an enclosure to a docket. I have not the number of the docket, because it has not been numbered. It is a minute from the former Public Actuary to the Under Treasurer and it is dated March 22, 1976. This is what Mr. Stratford wrote to the Under Treasurer on page 9 of that minute:

In view of your instructions—

that is, Mr. Barnes's instructions to Mr. Whelan—

I take no responsibility for reports or advice given by him. If Mr. Whelan continues his present practice of giving advice other than through me and with my approval it must be understood that he can do so only in his private capacity as, under legislation and by reason of my appointment, I, and I alone, am Public Actuary. I must point out that in professional matters in which the legislation places upon me a professional duty I can take no instructions as to the way in which I undertake my professional responsibilities. Mr. Whelan has no power to commit me professionally.

There is no doubt that Mr. Stratford was correct. He is talking of his assistant, someone who was subordinate to him. There are about 20 annexures to that minute and they show a most alarming situation. At one stage, Mr. Whelan had estimated he would be able to value the Police Pensions Fund in four weeks, and he put that in a minute very early on. On March 16, 1976, he said he could have it done within four weeks; in fact, five months later he had not been able to do it, and I have only to refer honourable members to page 336 of the Auditor-General's Report, under the Police Pensions Fund, where the Auditor-General states:

An investigation as to the sufficiency of the fund is carried out by the Public Actuary at intervals of three years. The investigation as at July 1, 1974, has been done, but a reassessment will be necessary before a certificate can be given by the Public Actuary.

Mr. Stratford tells me that he would have preferred that note to have been written as follows:

The investigation as at July 1, 1974, has been done, but a reassessment will be necessary before a certificate can be given by the Public Actuary.

That has not happened, and it is a most serious matter for members and ex-members of the Police Force, and for the general public. Many matters of complaint in this file show an unhappy and unsatisfactory situation. Today, I got a reply to a Question on Notice about credit unions. I find that, on April 2, 1976, in a minute to the Under Treasurer, six months ago now, the Public Actuary stated:

I have received instructions from the Attorney-General to complete the Credit Union Act. I have no staff for such a purpose. The matter is urgent. All contact with building societies has been stopped and progress on the valuation of the Superannuation Fund has had to stop because Mr. Corry—

he is another officer of the department—
and myself are engaged on day-to-day matters.

More recently, Mr. Stratford, on July 7, wrote a personal letter to the Treasurer. This was after he had seen the Minister of Works in the Treasurer's absence on holiday overseas. He says in part in that letter:

I view with some distaste the problems that have arisen following the amalgamation of this department with the Treasury. An excellent staff of high morale has been within weeks reduced to a dispirited group.

Then he refers to the question of a statutory authority and continues on page 2, as follows:

The Deputy Public Actuary has been allowed to flaunt my instructions and to do exactly as he pleases. I have been told that no action is to be taken against him. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that, because of my independence of thought and advice, it is desired to replace me by him. The extensive powers I hold have to be exercised with restraint. If these powers are placed upon a man who has been described as—

he then quotes from the reference I have already quoted in full—

then the Public Service has deteriorated to a level in which men of integrity and ability have no place. However, I do not believe this to be true and assume you have either been not informed correctly or have been ill-advised.

Mr. Whelan started on a university course for a master's degree, a higher degree, without any permission from Mr. Stratford, even without his knowledge, and that has been validated retrospectively to the beginning of this academic year; it was done in June. The documents are here to show that, too. Not only is Mr. Whelan on a salary of \$22 000 a year, but he is also getting extensive time off to do a higher degree at the university at public expense. I turn now to a minute of July 14 from the Public Actuary to the Under Treasurer, which states:

I have just received your note regarding the outstanding work of this department and the request that I advise you the order of priority.

That was after Mr. Stratford, because of the very difficult conditions under which he has been obliged to try to do his work, had had almost a mental collapse. The minute continues:

I find it surprising, however, that you did not also ask me for my advice regarding priorities on the use of staff resources and office procedures, but sought instead to obtain advice from the Deputy Public Actuary, a man who, I understand, my staff have already advised you, has made little or no effort to understand the workings of this department. I have read Mr. Whelan's report and whilst I have made many comments upon his abilities to date, I must say that I have certainly underestimated his capacity for imagination.

In the work under his heading (a), he has included the need to value the Judges Pensions Fund. Section 14 of the Judges Pensions Act, 1971, provides that pensions are paid out of the General Revenue of the State, and no fund exists. Under this heading also, Mr. Whelan has failed to include the following matters:

- (1) A review of third party premiums due as at June 30, 1976.
- (2) The need to establish a scheme for superannuation for local government workers, a matter already approved by the appropriate Minister.
- (3) The design of conditions under which certain bodies taken over by the Government or converted into statutory bodies may enter the State superannuation scheme. With the formation of the Health Commission and the accreditation of certain hospitals, this could form a significant volume of work as each scheme has to be treated on its own merits.
- (4) The supervision of funds under the Benefits Association Act.

Under the heading (b) Mr. Whelan's imagination has again come to the fore. He has invented a Crown Valuer, a body which does not exist, or, if it does, has never in 10 years sought my advice. He has suggested that in this office we value reversions. Again in my official capacity, I have never done so and could see no reason why I should do so,

He has appeared to confuse consumer affairs with the Credit Tribunal.

I think that is sufficient to show the sort of person who is the Deputy Public Actuary and whose period of probation of six months was extended again (and the document is here) up to October 5. I do not know what the Government has done about the matter since then. I hope this period of probation has not been further extended and that he has not been confirmed in the office because, from what I can see here in these documents, from that reference itself, it is perfectly obvious that very much more inquiry should be made about Mr. Whelan before he is given the position he has been occupying for 12 months, let alone considered for the now vacant position which was Mr. Stratford's until quite recently.

I have raised this matter. It is distasteful; it is not the sort of thing I enjoy doing, and while members, particularly those on the other side, may think I have enjoyed doing this, I have not. I have done so because I regard the position of Public Actuary as one of great importance, and it would be a disaster to this State if a person who was pliant to the Government of the day were appointed.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I don't know that he is even an applicant.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I trust that he will not be an applicant and I hope that, after what has been said this evening and what is now public knowledge, there will be no chance whatever of his being appointed if he is an applicant or of his staying in his present position as Deputy. He is obviously not a man who should be there. I cannot understand (and this is what I am waiting to hear from the Treasurer) why his period of probation was extended after the first six months for a further six months. In my view, these documents cannot be altogether wrong. The fact that the Treasurer talked vaguely and airily in answer to the Leader of the Opposition earlier showed me (and, of course, I knew what I had, and I knew the information I had in this file) that the Treasurer knew there was far more to this and that he was not going to let on what had been happening. I come back to what I believe is the central point. I believe that Mr. Stratford was a good public servant. I have known him ever since he came here. He had never been a public servant before he came here; he was a good public servant, but he was not willing to bow to the wishes of the Government of the day—not to any Government.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: What wishes?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The Government went to him repeatedly asking for advice that he was not willing to give.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: What about?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The Government has found him to be an obstruction, and I believe that the Government is glad to get rid of him.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Cite one instance where the Government sought advice that he was not willing to give.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: No. I cannot, but I believe, from what Mr. Stratford has told me, that this has occurred. I will not try to say that I can give an example, but I believe that to be the case. I believe also that, if this matter had not come up in this House, the Government would have been happy to see Mr. Whelan appointed in Mr. Stratford's stead, so that the Government would have had a rather easier person to deal with. For these reasons, I have moved my motion. This matter should be ventilated in this place and publicly so that everyone knows what is going on.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member has taken a course that does him no credit. The attacks he has made on a probationary public servant who cannot defend himself in this House have been gross, improper and unfair. I did not intend in this Chamber to say very much about Mr. Stratford, because he has retired on grounds of invalidity. The Government has been for some time aware of his illness and has treated him with great kindness and consideration. For some time Mr. Stratford has evidenced an attitude in work that has given great concern to the people working with him; that has been consistently reported to me by senior public servants. In connection with getting work done in the Public Actuary's Office, unfortunately Mr. Stratford did not get it done. We were continually faced with emotional demands from Mr. Stratford for the appointment of staff, but when we attempted to appoint staff he placed every conceivable obstruction in the way of appointing officers.

The honourable member has read from minutes concerning a meeting I had with Mr. Stratford and the Chairman of the Public Service Board. We went through the applicants for the position of Deputy Public Actuary to try to get someone into the department to do the work that Mr. Stratford had constantly complained he could not do because he was overloaded. We found Mr. Stratford very difficult about the appointment of anyone. However, it was agreed in my office that Mr. Whelan be considered; that was clearly agreed in my office. No sooner had the Public Service Board approached Mr. Whelan than Mr. Stratford found every conceivable difficulty as to Mr. Whelan's character. The honourable member has not read the most scurrilous things that Mr. Stratford wrote about Mr. Whelan. They were scurrilous and unbalanced to a degree.

The things that Mr. Stratford said about other actuaries were quite extraordinary. We had to put up with these over quite some time. Mr. Whelan was employed, and Mr. Stratford then endeavoured to prevent any work being given to Mr. Whelan or any work being carried out by him. The Under Treasurer then had to give instructions to Mr. Whelan while Mr. Stratford was away from the office from time to time (and no work was being done by him) to try to get work done about which superannuants in various funds were complaining. When instructions were given to Mr. Whelan, we got the kind of complaint from Mr. Stratford that the honourable member has talked about. It was clear to me, after discussions with Mr. Stratford and Mr. Barnes (who, after all, is an officer whom Mr. Stratford is also attacking and who is one of the best and most balanced officers in the whole of the Public Service, a fair, decent, and effective administrator), what difficulties Mr. Stratford was facing personally.

I did not make difficulties for Mr. Stratford, and I did not want to state publicly at any time my view of what had been happening. It was possible that, after Mr. Stratford had been invalidated out from the Public Service, he would be able in due course to settle down and find another avocation, possibly with great payment from the State, and I did not want to do anything to inhibit that. The disloyalty he has shown in the attack on the Government and his senior officers which the honourable member has seen fit to detail here means that, unfortunately, I have to say more about Mr. Stratford than I would have wanted to say publicly. The stage had been reached when Mr. Stratford could show no balance at all in dealing with the duties of the Public Actuary's Office. He asked to be retired on grounds of invalidity. He was in great emotional turmoil, and the Government agreed to his retiring on the grounds of invalidity with generous provisions. We did everything we could to assist Mr. Stratford.

Mr. Whelan made an assessment of the Police Pensions Fund, but Mr. Stratford refused to sign it, just as he refused to have anything to do with work that Mr. Whelan had done. As a result of that, we made arrangements for an independent actuary, agreed by both of them, to assess Mr. Whelan's work. Mr. Stratford has in the meantime retired, so there is not a Public Actuary who can certify it. Mr. Whelan was continued on probation, so that his work could be assessed in circumstances where the clash resulting from Mr. Stratford's rejection of him from the outset was not affecting what was taking place in the office, and Mr. Barnes could properly assess the way in which Mr. Whelan was working. That is what has happened in this matter.

I regret that the honourable member has seen fit to quote from the documents produced to him by Mr. Stratford. The Government has nothing to apologise for in this matter. It has endeavoured to see that the Public Actuary's Office should work when we were faced with most difficult circumstances and, unfortunately, with a man who, I fear through his illness, has chosen the disloyal course of which the honourable member has given evidence today. As to the accusation that the honourable member makes and says that Mr. Stratford has made to him (that the Government has sought advice from Mr. Stratford that he has been unwilling to give), there is not a single instance of that happening—not one. It is completely untrue and baseless. I fear that the accusation stems from exactly the situation of paranoia into which Mr. Stratford has unfortunately descended.

Dr. TONKIN: I, too, regret that the matter has been brought into the Chamber in this way. I also have been aware in some detail of one side of the story, as have other members on this side. I do not wish to say anything more than that I believe it is a most regrettable situation that has developed. Mr. Stratford has given good service to South Australia, and it is most unfortunate that his health has become such that he has been obliged to retire. The matters that have been raised by the member for Mitcham relating to the accusations that have been made, will, I hope, be considered by the Government, because the accusations made against the probationary public servant concerned are such that they cannot be ignored. I am sure that that step will be taken; I certainly hope that it will.

Apart from that, it is a most unfortunate situation in every respect: it is a situation with which I have been familiar and on which I based my own judgment some time ago. I do not believe that, deplorable and unfortunate though it may be, it is a matter of no confidence in the Government, which is what this motion amounts to. Members know perfectly well that I will take every reasonable and proper opportunity to support or move any motion of no confidence in the Government if I believe that that motion is justified. I cannot support the motion this time.

Dr. EASTICK: I sincerely regret that a member of this Chamber has taken the course of action that has been taken this evening. The position outlined from the benches opposite is not a recent matter: it was, I believe, apparent as long as 2½ years ago.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Although I did not canvass in any detail the matters that have been raised about Mr. Stratford's health, naturally they are matters on which I, too, formed a judgment and on which I took advice before I accepted what he told me. I do not accept what the Treasurer has said about Mr. Stratford, who has certainly been driven almost to the verge of a nervous collapse. I am quite convinced, having talked to him and to others

about him, that what he has said in the documents to which I have referred is accurate and is not clouded by his illness. If I had not come to that conviction I would not have raised these matters in the Chamber.

It is easy for the Treasurer to defend what has happened by saying that the man is sick, unbalanced and that he cannot work with anyone so he must be disregarded. That is precisely the defence and the only defence put up this evening by the Treasurer. I did (and I hope that members realise that I would) consider these matters, which I did not canvass earlier, before deciding that this situation should be brought forward. If the Leader and the member for Light came to a contrary conclusion, all I can say is that I believe they are wrong. Mr. Stratford is not unbalanced, and my opinion and the opinions I have had are to that effect. How on earth one can get around the reference to which I have referred, which is dated March this year and which came from someone who had employed Whelan some time ago in another State, and still be willing to keep him on, I do not know. It is not Mr. Stratford's reference: it is someone else's reference, and it is the most damning reference that I have ever read.

What Stratford has said cannot be dismissed as though it was unsubstantiated: it appears in what was written by Whelan's former employer in Sydney. That, to me, is something that the Government cannot get over. The Government has known about it; certainly the Treasurer has known about it, because it is attached to a minute. I guess the Minister of Works has known about it, too. Why has that reference been ignored? If the reference has been checked, is the Government saying that it is inaccurate, that it was given with wrong motives or that it is defamatory? We have heard nothing about that from the Treasurer or the Minister of Works. What they have said this evening sounds convincing. To one who does not know the facts, what they have said may seem overwhelming, but they have not answered the salient point in what I have put up.

All that they have advanced in defence of what has happened, I have considered and did consider very carefully before raising a matter such as this in this Chamber. I concluded that these matters should be raised because what they are saying about Mr. Stratford, despite his having to retire on the grounds of invalidity, is grossly unfair to him and his reputation.

Dr. TONKIN: I regret having to rise again, but I should like to make quite clear that I have not said that Mr. Stratford is unbalanced, as the member for Mitcham has suggested.

Mr. Millhouse: That's what the Treasurer said.

Dr. TONKIN: Mr. Stratford has certainly undergone much emotional strain, and that cannot be ignored. I regard him highly as an individual, and I believe we all respect him.

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: We all had to thank him for his work on the superannuation scheme.

Dr. TONKIN: Yes. I make quite clear that I do not regard Mr. Stratford as being unbalanced. I believe he can still practise on a limited private basis, and I am sure that he will find great reward and personal satisfaction in doing so.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Believe it or not, I have found this debate, even at this ungodly hour, interesting, because I, along with the Leader, had access to considerable material that has been referred to this evening. I had certain misgivings about what we had learnt from that material. I have been pleased to hear the Government's

side of the argument. I believe that the reference early in Mr. Whelan's career was quite damning and that it would have cast some doubt on his competence as an actuary. Having said that, having heard the Government's statement that Mr. Stratford was privy to the appointment of Mr. Whelan after considerable discussion, and having made my own assessment of Mr. Stratford's condition and determined that he was unable to carry on, I do not believe in all honesty that the Opposition has grounds to support a no-confidence motion in the Government. In no way do I blame the member for Mitcham for bringing this matter to the fore, because I confess that I myself had grave doubts about it. However, I do not believe that we have the grounds for a motion of no confidence in the Government.

The Committee divided on the motion:

While the division was being held:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! As there is only one member on the side of the Ayes, I declare that the Noes have it. The question is therefore resolved in the negative.

Motion negatived.

Line passed.

Treasurer, Miscellaneous, \$39 211 000.

Dr. TONKIN: I refer to the item "Pursuant to River Murray Waters Agreement—Dartmouth reservoir". A sum of \$526 100 is proposed this year as opposed to a sum half that value last year. What progress is being made with the construction of the dam? What is the present estimated completion date? Does he yet have any idea when the works will be opened?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The dam is proceeding on schedule. Of course, its cost is escalating tremendously, and three States are bearing that escalation on their own because the Federal Government has refused to participate in the scheme.

Mr. Arnold: But construction has never been stopped.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: But the agreement was entered into whether or not it was stopped. The honourable member knows that the Federal Government has reneged on paying what should have been its share of the escalation, which now remains with the States. As regards the completion of the dam, I repeat that the work is proceeding on schedule. I understand the bypass will be blocked off and water will start to flow into this dam within the next two years. I think I gave a reply on this recently to the member for Torrens; I am not sure of the completion date of the dam. It could be 1979 or 1980, but within two years it will start to take water.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I refer to the item "Pursuant to national sewerage and urban and regional development agreements—national sewerage programme" for which \$1 145 000 is proposed. I understand that South Australia was not getting funds for the sewerage programme because it was well advanced compared to the other States, but it was to get a bonanza for water filtration in lieu of sewerage payments, so that provision surprises me. Is that money under the national sewerage programme for sewer construction in South Australia? I thought we were getting our slice of the cake for water filtration.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The honourable member's understanding is not correct. We were expecting about \$5 700 000 under the national sewerage programme this financial year, but in fact we got the amount shown in this document, a reduction of some \$4 000 000 on what we had expected. The Eastern States, Western Australia and Queensland did much better under this scheme than did South Australia, because their backlog of sewerage is

much greater. Past Governments in this State have seen to it that we have kept fairly well abreast of the demand for this facility. Whilst we are obtaining \$9 600 000 this year for water filtration, that still does not put us in a very favourable situation compared to other States: it is favourable but not extremely favourable. I think I made it clear in the Loan Estimates debate that we had suffered a reduction of \$4 000 000 on what we had anticipated from the Federal Government in relation to the backlog of sewerage. This money is for that purpose and will be spent for that purpose, but it is in addition to the \$9 600 000 we are receiving for water treatment.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I note that the South Australian Film Corporation is to get \$70 000; last year it received nothing. What is this money for?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This money provides for the servicing of moneys it is expected that the film corporation will borrow semi-governmentally. That will mean that the film corporation will be able to get in a capital amount this year on which it will have no debt servicing. We are restructuring the capital situation of the film corporation to cope with exactly the position outlined by the member for Fisher when quoting the Director of the film corporation earlier.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Can the Treasurer say how the \$15 000 000 to be transferred to Loan Account to supplement capital programmes is to be spent?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: We have already discussed the Loan Estimates, which included this amount.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Can the Treasurer give details of the \$230 000 allocated to the Housing Trust for the control of rents and housing improvement administration expenses?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: These are expenses incurred by the trust in investigating housing rentals and administrative expenses of the Housing Improvement Act, which deals with rentals and substandard houses. The estimated increase for this year over the actual payments for the previous year has been caused by the employment of two additional personnel and the expected movements of wages and salaries.

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Treasurer say how the \$181 700 allocated to the Coast Protection Board is to be spent?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: This provides for the payment of an amount equivalent to the difference between interest at Government rates and interest at semi-government rates on amounts the board was obliged to raise outside the Loan budget. The Government has agreed to meet the extra cost of the latter type of bond.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: In referring to the \$15 000 000 to be transferred to Loan Account, I suggest that any financing of capital programmes from revenue is an inflationary action by any Government. It is well known that Governments that carry out this practice contribute significantly to inflation, and perhaps that is one reason for the high inflation rate in this State, a rate that has been higher in the past 2½ years than that in any other State. I am sure that history will prove that the practice is inflationary. The amount of \$1 250 000 has been allocated for subsidies in country areas for the Electricity Trust. The introduction of a 35-hour week in the power industry must affect these subsidies. Can the Treasurer say what undertaking he gave to the delegation from the Trades and Labor Council,

and what is the present policy of the Government concerning a 35-hour week in the power industry, especially the Electricity Trust?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The position that has always been taken by the Government (and it obtains in this case) is that it is not able to agree that there should be in one industry or in one sector of a public undertaking a 35-hour week, which would then be used as a general basis by other people to seek a similar award. If a 35-hour week is to be established, it must be on a national basis. For some time the trust has been negotiating with unions employed in it for a general 37½-hour week on the condition of agreed increases in productivity. That is the present situation.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I desire to move a motion concerning the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal. Would you allow me to move it now, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I intend to adopt the same procedure that has been adopted previously.

Mr. COUMBE: I refer to the amount of \$844 000 relating to a transfer to the Government Insurance Fund for the payment of claims in respect of Government buildings, etc. I understood that this fund was administered by the Treasury, but, according to the Auditor-General's Report, it was transferred to the control of the Labour and Industry Department in May, 1976. Why has that been done?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: It goes to the Labour and Industry Department because the only Ministerial decisions that have to be made in this area are in relation to workmen's compensation claims. All other matters can be dealt with administratively by officers. Sometimes it is a case on balance and the Minister has to make a decision about a claim, whereas in meeting the amounts in respect of Government buildings and the like it is simply a matter of calculation. It was transferred from me, as Treasurer, to the Labour and Industry Department because the only Ministerial decisions that actually come up involve workmen's compensation matters.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The Treasurer carefully dodged answering the questions I asked earlier. What undertakings did he give to the delegation from the T.L.C. that came to see him concerning the 35-hour week in the power industry?

The Hon. D. A. Dunstan: I told you exactly what I said.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The Treasurer indicated what the Government's policy was in relation to the Electricity Trust and overall policy. What undertakings and guarantees did he give specifically to that delegation?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I told the delegation what was the Government's position, and I have outlined that to the Committee.

Mr. EVANS: Concerning the "South Australia Housing Trust—Control of Rents and Housing Improvement administration expenses" is the Treasurer conscious that people in the private sector cannot meet the standards required by the trust concerning salt-damp affected bluestone buildings regardless of the actions they undertake and consequently do not buy such houses for renovation or updating? When the trust buys such buildings, in some instances it relays certain areas contrary to directions given to private sector developers. This causes concern, as there should be consistency in this matter.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: If the honourable member gives me details of the matter, I shall certainly take it up for him.

Mr. BECKER: Concerning "Expenses of Conversion and Public Loans", there has been a reduction from the actual payment and the amount voted in 1975-76. How has the Government been able to save this amount and what arrangements, if any new arrangements have been undertaken, have been made regarding the conversion of public loans and the management of the inscription of stock?

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The provision in relation to public loans is to cover the greater part of South Australia's share of costs, principally brokerage and advertising, of floating Commonwealth loans, including premiums payable on special bonds. Last year's expenditure was lower than expected because of the lower costs associated with the issue of special bonds and an unutilised provision of \$50 000 for items for which bills were not received from the Commonwealth. As always, there are many uncertainties in estimating the likely level of expenditure, especially in the field of special bonds, which is now complicated by the cost effect of the new savings bond series. In any event, part of the estimate for the current financial year includes the carry-over cost associated with the floating and conversion of loans in 1975-76. The other items represent South Australia's share of costs of the Commonwealth stock registry, which reports all Australian public debt.

Mr. CHAPMAN: Concerning "Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal—Fees and expenses", first, I seek information and, secondly, I seek to show that I am not willing to back away from the challenge made by the member for Mitcham a moment ago. Can the Treasurer assure the Committee that the \$4 000 allocated to cover the fees and expenses of the tribunal is adequate to allow the tribunal to hear all members who desire to give evidence? I again intend to wait on the tribunal and put to it the circumstances that apply to my district and its expenses. It is the right of each honourable member to do that. It was one of the prime objects of having an independent tribunal to deal with salaries and allowances of members of Parliament so that independently, and without the influence of others, this matter could be determined.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: I expect that amount will cover the fees for the sittings of the tribunal. I do not expect that it will be sitting excessively during this financial year. This was the estimate given to me by the Treasury as being sufficient to cover its fees.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I move:

That the item "Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal—fees and expenses" be reduced by \$50.

I do this because this is the only opportunity that I can think of to get any sort of debate in this Chamber on the question of Parliamentary salaries. Perhaps I am being optimistic that I will get any more support on this motion than I got on the last motion, and I will probably again face a Liberal-Labor coalition because (as the public normally thinks of us), this is a matter upon which all members agree; but I certainly do not agree in this instance. This is the only opportunity I can see in which honourable members can take part in a debate on this matter and cannot avoid (and I say this deliberately) declaring themselves one way or the other, because I intend to put this matter to a vote. Of course, it is in the form of a reduction of the item which is, in effect, a vote of no-confidence in the Government. I will take this as an indication of how members feel on this matter and what they propose to do about it. I

understand that the tribunal itself has taken the initiative in inserting the advertisement in the *Advertiser* last week. Indeed, after I had written to the Secretary of the tribunal (Mr. Packer), I received a letter dated September 30 from the tribunal, stating:

Dear Mr. Millhouse, I have been asked by the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal to draw your attention to the advertisement appearing in the South Australian press this week, notifying that the tribunal is commencing an inquiry into the salaries and allowances of members of the South Australian Parliament.

He goes on to say:

The tribunal would be interested to hear from you and other Parliamentarians who are being circularised with this letter whether you wish to make any submissions to the tribunal in relation to the remuneration and allowances that are currently in force and, if so, whether you wish to present those submissions orally or in writing. I had already written to Mr. Packer, who signed that letter, stating:

I have seen your advertisement in the *Advertiser* of Wednesday, September 29. I desire to be heard by the tribunal in opposition to any increase in salaries or allowances at this time.

I have now had a message from Mr. Packer in answer to my letter, saying "Thanks for your letter". He said it would be towards the end of October or early November before he would be free to arrange talks, as time must be left to get in other submissions. Presumably, they are submissions from the member for Alexandra and those of his ilk. I believe that the only way a salary increase can be prevented is by our going along and saying it should not be granted, and I am firmly of the opinion that it is quite wrong for there to be an increase in Parliamentary salaries at this time. I wrote to that effect to some of our Parliamentary colleagues. I wrote to the Leader of the Opposition as the Leader of his Party in this Chamber, to the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council as the Leader of his Party (which I understand is still quite separate from the one in this House), and to the Premier, as Leader of the Australian Labor Party. The letters were in similar terms.

Members interjecting:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The member for Rocky River always wants more money. He does not want to hear this, but I propose to quote the letter, because it sets the matter out rather more briefly than I would do in a speech. The letter states:

My view is that at a time when wage and salary restraint is being urged, it is quite wrong for members of Parliament who as leaders in the community have a responsibility to set an example, to receive a second increase in less than 12 months. I suggest that, unless there is evidence from members of Parliament in opposition to increases, the strong probability is that increases will be made.

I consider that the next sentence is the most significant in what I said. It states:

Silence by members is certain to be taken as assent to increases. The best way of persuading the tribunal not to alter salaries and allowances is to make representation to it to that effect.

I then invited the three gentlemen, as Leaders of their Parties, to join me in giving evidence to the tribunal.

Mr. Goldsworthy: You're half-time. You're overpaid.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I did not expect that what I have said would be popular with the member for Kavel.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Interjections are completely out of order and I think the honourable member for Mitcham should ignore them.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have received replies from the Leaders of the Opposition in the two Houses. They are not quite in the same terms, but I think the Leaders

probably conferred about the matter. I refer now to what the Leader in this House said. He is wagging his head. I suppose that that means that he was simply told by Mr. DeGaris what to say. The Leader of the Opposition in this place starts by thanking me for my letter and he goes on:

One of the factors contributing to continuing inflation in Australia over the last few years has been excessive wage demands. This has been overcome by the system of wage indexation which has been introduced and generally accepted by the great majority of the community.

Perhaps I could remind the honourable gentleman that, at the most recent Federal election, his Federal colleague stated that his Party would support wage indexation. However, when they got into office and had an opportunity to do so, they did not support it: they supported only part of it. That is in stark contrast to what they said before the election that they would do and to what the Leader here is now putting up to me. His letter goes on:

In my view, members of Parliament can best give a responsible lead to the community by accepting the indexation guidelines which apply to everyone. I intend to convey my personal views to the tribunal, and other members of the Party will no doubt convey theirs. Yours sincerely.

It seems that I am not getting such support from him. His colleague in another place, by letter of the same date, also thanks me for my letter and continues:

The Liberal Party will not be giving evidence to the tribunal supporting increases in salary, but will be giving evidence on the question of allowances. The allowances paid to city members, who are able to maintain lucrative professional practices, compared with those paid to members who have excessively large country electorates to service, leaves a lot to be desired. For example, one country member travels 50 000 miles a year (needing at least a new car each year) plus accommodation costs, telephone costs and other incidental costs, with no opportunity to supplement his income, as can a city based professional. The financial position of the two cases is so glaringly unfair, that I seek your support to have the anomalies in allowances corrected.

He does not say it straight out, but obviously he has in mind that the allowances should be increased substantially and of course they, because of taxation concessions if allowed by the Taxation Commissioner, are of more benefit to members than are salary increases. I did not get much support from Mr. DeGaris, but I am not used to getting much anyway. The Premier has not replied. The silence from that corner has been deafening. As I said in the letter, I do not believe that at this time there should be any increase in the salaries or other remuneration of members of Parliament, and the only way to make that clear is by telling that to the tribunal and telling the tribunal why. I believe we have to give a lead in the community. I take the opportunity to initiate a debate on this subject because it is the only opportunity during this session that we will have to debate it.

The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN: The honourable member has moved to reduce the line which, of course, is a vote of no confidence in the Government. The tribunal has chosen to meet of its own volition. It has not been called together at my behest pursuant to the Act. The tribunal, I have no doubt, takes the attitude that, there having been movements in general wage levels since its last determination, it is unwise to leave the provision of flow-on within the indexation guidelines (and those guidelines, as the honourable member has pointed out, are rather different from what they were some time ago; they are very restrictive now) for a period which would then mean that, when the tribunal eventually met, the increase it would have to adjudge to members of Parliament would be much greater.

I think perhaps the tribunal did not view very kindly the fact that, in some previous years and for some considerable time, I did not take action to make it competent for the tribunal to meet and, in fact, delayed decisions of the tribunal for some time, in effect working something of a wage freeze for Parliamentarians. The tribunal, of its own volition, has chosen to meet and to deal with what has been a change in wage levels within the indexation guidelines. If the honourable member has a wish to make his views known to the tribunal, he is perfectly at liberty to do that. I cannot see any basis for a motion of no confidence in the Government because the tribunal, set up by legislation for which, as far as I can recall, the honourable member voted, has chosen to do something entirely of its own volition and within its competence.

Dr. TONKIN: The situation is getting quite ridiculous. Motions of no confidence I have always believed to be matters of great moment and moved rarely, when the matter was really important. The member for Mitcham is perfectly entitled to his own views, but I do not think he is entitled to try to force them on any member of this House or on any member of the community. He may consider that he is right; that is up to him.

The acceptance of the guidelines for indexation referred quite specifically to the guidelines set down by Mr. Justice Moore and included provision for the Federal Government to intervene in the case and for anyone else to intervene, for that matter, and put a case for a reduced amount lower than the consumer price index. I do not think there is any point in prolonging this. To me, the most responsible attitude is for members of Parliament, who are no different from any other members of the community, to accept the wage indexation guidelines generally accepted by the community. There is no reason for them to demand more or to suppose that the tribunal will not have full regard to the matter. I intend to take action to communicate my views to the tribunal, but I do not intend to grandstand by publishing my letter.

Mr. BLACKER: My name has been used in print in relation to opposition to increases in salaries for members of Parliament. That came about because I was approached by a correspondent of the *Advertiser* for my views when the advertisement appeared in the paper. At that time, I had not seen the advertisement, but I assumed it was similar to those that had appeared on other occasions when the tribunal had met. At this stage, I have not received a letter from the tribunal, but I expect that I probably will receive one.

My attitude is exactly the same as it has been in the past. I oppose an increase in salary, but I believe that electorate allowances should be made in accordance with the actual expenditure incurred. To that extent, I am happy to provide receipts for expenditure incurred so that a correct assessment can be made. On that basis, I believe that the salary should remain as it is. I voted for the formation of the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal when the legislation was before the House. In that context, I believe that I could not support a motion of no confidence in the Government in the granting of funds which that tribunal would be obliged to expend should it be called together.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: We have had the expected orgy of self-congratulation and self-righteousness from both sides of the House, and another generous measure of 'me, too-ing' by the Leader of the Opposition, following the Treasurer's lead. That is not unexpected. It is

unpalatable to me because, as I remind honourable members, the image we present to people outside is of squabbling all the time except when the question of our own interests comes up: when that comes up, we are all together, and salary rises are agreed to amidst great mutual approval, very quickly. That is exactly what I have heard tonight from both sides of the House.

Members interjecting:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: One at a time, please.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: You have made arrangements for the increase to be paid to a charity group, through us, I take it, so that we can check it. I think we should check it. You can do that with the last one, if you like, too.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: The problem is that, by law, if an increase is granted, as I fear it will be, the salary will be a certain figure and members will have to pay tax on it. I intend to try, with professional help, to work out a system. If the Deputy Premier wants to appoint himself the keeper of my financial conscience, he is welcome to the position. I will show him the details. I do not know whether it is possible to pay it through one of his departments.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: You have only to lose another couple of cases a week and you will make it up in no time.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: If it is possible to devise such a scheme, and if an increase is granted, there will be nothing private about it.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: I will devise it for you.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: You are welcome to do so.

Members interjecting:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Here we have interjections from the member for Torrens and others, all at my expense. Everyone agrees on salary rises. We are never paid enough! We are always worth far more than we are getting! Members on both sides agree on that, and that is what they are doing now. Come in, suckers!

Members interjecting:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: There is a very great difference (the Treasurer is now chiding his Deputy on an interjection) between a person who is paid a salary and one who is paid emoluments, such as in the law.

Members interjecting:

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I have never known such prejudice. On this matter at least, I know I will have support from the Treasurer and the member for Playford. People do not have to come to me in my professional capacity if they do not want to. Members of Parliament are paid a salary by law—a very different matter. Obviously, some members must have seen me on television last week, or they have heard about the interview. I do not believe that being a private member of Parliament is a full-time job. I was a full-time member long before some present members became members. I do not believe that a member is as good a member if he has no other occupation, compared to a situation where he has some more normal occupation as well.

I have had a good deal of experience in a number of situations in Parliament. For some years I was a full-time member, and I was dependent on my Parliamentary salary and virtually nothing else. I am convinced that it is not a good thing that members of Parliament should be dependent on their Parliamentary salary and have no other occupation or source of income. I know that it is impossible for some members to do otherwise. I am lucky in that I have a profession that I can practise in conjunction with my Parliamentary duties. If members like to

complain about me, they are welcome to do so. If they want to complain to my electors, as Liberal Party members did before the last election, that I do not spend enough time on the job, it is for the electors to determine whether I suit them as their member. I believe that what I am doing is the best for my district, and I am content to accept my electors' judgment.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Do you remember Moses Gabb?

Mr. MILLHOUSE: Yes. I cannot expect now to get much support; indeed, I do not think I will get any support. I will regard this vote, as will members of the public, as assent or opposition to an increase in Parliamentary salaries. That is the reason why I have moved the motion—to test the sincerity of members. I therefore make no apology for the motion.

Mr. BLACKER: I would like to accept the challenge of the honourable member about politicians being full-time. The Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal asked me to state my mileage, my travelling time, and other aspects. Without going into the question of the number of days I have to live away, in connection with the mileage I travel, on the assumption that I travel at a speed of 100 km/h and taking into account the hours spent in aeroplanes, I spend 680 hours a year in travelling. On the basis of a 40-hour week, that is 16 weeks of the year; that is over and above what the member for Mitcham does. The time to which I have referred is time that I cannot spend as member for my district. Country members, who are obliged to travel great mileages, are considerably disadvantaged in comparison with metropolitan members. A conscientious member servicing his district has a full-time job.

Mr. MILLHOUSE: I would not deny what the honourable member has said. When I was in Port Lincoln last week, I heard nothing but good reports of the conscientiousness of the honourable member. I was also told that, if there was a contest between the member for Flinders and the member for Eyre, there was no doubt that the member for Flinders would win.

The Committee divided on the motion:

While the division was being held:

The CHAIRMAN: As there is only one member on the side of the Ayes, I declare that the Noes have it. The question is therefore resolved in the negative.

Motion thus negatived.

Line passed.

Lands, \$14 695 000.

Mr. RODDA: I notice that the allocation for the Vertebrate Pest Control Authority has been increased from \$2 000 in 1975-76 to \$4 000 this year. Officers have been appointed throughout the country areas by the authority. Will the allocation of \$4 000 be sufficient, and can the Minister say what is planned regarding the authority?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works): My information is that it is simply a payment to the authority for the 1976-77 financial year, but I will get details about that for the honourable member.

Mr. EVANS: Last year \$8 537 was spent on overseas visits by officers of the Lands Department. Can the Minister say who those officers were and what the allocation of \$8 000 will involve this year?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I do not have detailed information available, but I will get a report for the honourable member and let him have it as soon as possible.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The item involving contributions to local government authorities for drainage purposes,

vermin and erosion control shows a dramatic increase from \$34 758 actually spent last year to a proposed allocation for this year of \$133 000. Can the Minister say what is involved in that increase?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I cannot do so off-hand.

Mr. Goldsworthy: Has it anything to do with the new vermin legislation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I think it has. I do not have the necessary detail, so I will let the honourable member know what is involved in the increase as soon as I can.

Mr. ARNOLD: What is the Government's intention in relation to the operations of the Engineering and Water Supply Department and the Lands Department as they apply to the item "Land settlements", etc. for which \$1 166 482 is allocated? I believe the Government intends to realign some Government departments, especially in the irrigation areas, and to change the departments to which administrative officers and staff will belong. Will these personnel remain in the Lands Department, or will they be transferred to the E. and W.S. Department?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The details relating to this matter are being considered. The honourable member would appreciate that, following the Corbett report and the passing of the Water Resources Act, the Government intends to transfer this activity from the Lands Department to the E. and W.S. Department. Problems will occur in the transitional stages. However, I will obtain a report on the progress of this matter. I am not saying that all staff will be transferred, only that the activity will be transferred. I will also ascertain what staff is likely to be transferred from one department to another. It is desirable to retain staff, particularly those who are working in the area and are known to people on the job. I certainly would not wish to take people away from an area simply because an activity was being transferred from one department to another. These people would be transferred to the appropriate department and, because of their knowledge and experience, they would be valuable to the Water Resources Branch.

Mr. ARNOLD: Does the Minister foresee that the Lands Department will still operate in irrigation areas?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No, I do not. The Lands Department will exist to the extent that it will be responsible when water is delivered on to the block. Up to that point the E. and W.S. Department will be responsible. In other words, the E. and W.S. Department will take over the responsibility that now rests with the Lands Department up to the point of delivery of water on to a block.

Mr. ALLISON: Last year's allocation for the maintenance of drains at Eight Mile Creek was \$6 000 and actual expenditure was \$3 269. From inference it would seem that drainage in the area is adequate because only \$4 000 has been allocated this year. Viewed from the road, the Eight Mile Creek paddocks seem to be in excellent condition. On Wednesday, September 29, at the invitation of settlers, I spent more than three hours walking through paddocks at Eight Mile Creek and for that entire time I was in water up to my knees and, in many cases, could have gone much deeper. From walking across those paddocks, it was evident that the majority of lateral drains was blocked. Some of them had been filled in completely by the expansion of peat.

Although the main drains were flowing fairly strongly towards the coast, it was apparent that lateral drains were just not taking away the water from many properties. It seems that peat in many places has subsided about 38 centimetres to 46 centimetres, levels have been affected, and there does not seem to have been sufficient drainage through to the sea-ward side of the road. Millstead (No. 2) drain, Deep Creek drain and Eight Mile Creek drain were flowing strongly. The allocation of \$4 000 seems to be sufficient for manual labour. Heavy equipment is lying idle at Eight Mile Creek. That equipment has fully depreciated but is in excellent condition and could be used.

It is obvious that, in dry weather, drains need to be remade and that some hydrogeological survey work is necessary to re-establish in which direction the drains should be taken. Will the Minister consider this matter? I have written a letter about it separately, to place the matter on record again.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will refer the honourable member's remarks and observations to my colleague, the Minister of Lands, and ask him to supply a report that I can give the honourable member in this Chamber, or my colleague can write to him outlining the current situation.

Line passed.

Minister of Lands, Minister of Repatriation and Minister of Irrigation, Miscellaneous, \$11 688 000.

Mr. ARNOLD: I refer to the item "Natural disasters relief", for which the sum of \$11 500 000 is proposed this year. Can the Minister say what this will cover: is it for general storm damage and the type of thing we saw last year in the New Residence area? Would that be catered for under this provision?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This money would be almost entirely for drought relief; this is the money that has been set aside by the Government primarily as carry-on finance where application is made. There may be other areas, of course, but it may not be only drought: it could be flood or some natural calamity that causes money to be spent. I have not the details of the \$255 175 spent last year but I take it that that expenditure would be mainly due to drought. However, I will get a report for the honourable member and let him know.

Mr. EVANS: I refer to the item "Grant to Royal Zoological Society of South Australia", for which \$133 000 is proposed this year. Is this money to be used in changing the general atmosphere and structure of the Zoological Gardens? Until recently, it has had a prison-type atmosphere and some minor changes have been made. Is there an overall plan to change this prison-type atmosphere at present associated with the zoo and change it more to world standards, with moats and other forms of protection to keep the animals away from the viewers so that we can get a better appreciation of the animals and wild life? After all, our zoo is one of the best situated zoos in the world, because it is close to the centre of the city and to transport and is convenient for overseas visitors and visitors from other States.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: My information is that this money is merely a grant to be made to the society; but I will direct the honourable member's points to my colleague and ask that he give me a report so that I can let the honourable member know whether it is intended to redevelop the zoo as he suggests.

Mr. VENNING: I, too, refer to the item "Natural disasters relief". The Minister spoke of drought relief. I draw the Minister's attention to the situation existing last weekend in the northern part of the State. Later today,

I will lead a deputation to the Minister of Transport with a view to discussing the problems of the flood damage done last weekend. The *Advertiser* of October 5 shows a photograph of a chap named Cleggett at Laura who says he lost about \$17 000 last year and this weekend another \$7 000 worth of damages to fencing materials. Does the Minister believe that this \$11 500 000 allocation is enough to assist these people who have suffered losses over the past two or three years?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Anyone who can show great hardship and prove that it was caused by a natural calamity is eligible to apply to the Government for assistance under the Primary Producers Emergency Assistance Act.

Mr. Venning: But they have to pay that money back eventually.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I do not know of any circumstances in which provision is made for straight-out grants except where we have in some cases in the past made grants in relation to fodder or freight rates to help people in distress. We can go quickly from drought to flood, as has been demonstrated over the last weekend. I will have the honourable member's query examined and, if there is any other information, I will get it for the honourable member.

Mr. GUNN: Still on the same item, there has been some confusion over what forms of drought relief are available. I have received from the stockowners association in my area a suggestion that there should be a drought relief measure. I have been requested by the stockowners on western Eyre Peninsula to ascertain whether the Government is prepared to abolish or give some relief in road tax in relation to drought-affected areas. The Minister knows road tax is probably costing about \$1.50 a tonne at present from Adelaide to the drought-affected areas, and *vice versa*. Would the Minister refer this matter to his colleague?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Yes.

Line passed.

Engineering and Water Supply, \$42 600 000.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I note on the item "Wages for construction, reimbursement and other works" that the sum voted last year was about \$37 500 000, actual expenditure was about \$51 780 000, and this year \$68 000 000 is proposed; these are dramatic increases. I was criticised by the Minister for an article that appeared in the *Saturday Review* section of the *Advertiser* one week querying the amount of work done by Government day labour in the construction section of the Engineering and Water Supply Department. This line indicates that a great amount of construction work is obviously undertaken, in view of \$68 000 000 being voted for this work. Could the Minister give us some information on this line? Is it the policy of the Government to do the maximum amount of construction work by a permanent day labour force, as it appears to be, and simply to use the private sector to take off the "peaks"? I have been told that, if the large Government construction force cannot handle the work, it gives private enterprise the "peaks".

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I have no detailed information except that most of that increase would be taken up in expected escalation of wage increases, and the work force will not change materially. During this financial year the day labour force has been reduced by wastage in the sewerage and construction branches. I will obtain for the honourable member details of the number of day labour employees and the percentage of work for which they are responsible in the three branches of the department.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Figures on page 96 of the Auditor-General's Report show the number of employees in the department for the previous five years, and seem to indicate there has been no significant reduction in the staff.

Mr. MATHWIN: Can the Minister say what system is used by the department when competing against private enterprise? Does it have to tender? I refer to work on the Christies Beach railway line, and on constructing rip-rap areas on beaches. I know that departmental equipment has been used for beach protection work, which seems to have taken a long time but which is proceeding well now.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Where departmental labour is used, no tender is called. The design is completed, and work allocated to a branch. Tenders are called when private contractors and engineering firms are asked to do work. At present the department is undertaking a detailed study to ascertain whether the production of the department can compare to that of private enterprise for sewerage reticulation. Work on the Christies Beach line was done for the South Australian Railways, and the department was asked for a quote, but I do not think it had to compete with other tenderers.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: The amount allocated for the cost of electricity used to pump water for this year has increased to \$2 700 000 but, without pumping, our reservoirs would be almost empty. What effect will this cost of pumping have on the deficit of the department? Does the Minister intend to increase water charges, or will the Government bear the increased deficit caused by the cost of pumping water?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: An annual review is undertaken by the department and a report made to the Government on whether or not water charges should be increased. It has been decided that the deficit is to be maintained at its present level. If it increases next year, action will have to be taken to reduce it to the present level of about \$13 000 000. That is Government policy. No-one can avoid that situation: either the deficit becomes larger or charges have to be increased. In looking at pumping charges, it would be an average rather than being based on only one year. It would be foolish for the department to suggest to the Government that, because of one dry year and a dramatic increase in pumping charges, this was a basis for an increase in water rates.

Mr. Goldsworthy: But that would increase the deficit.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: But it would be a temporary increase which would be offset if weather conditions over the average period (and they can be average) were taken into account on that basis. It would not necessarily follow that, if we spent another \$2 000 000 this year, we could have to recoup it in the next year. That may not be the case.

Mr. Goldsworthy: So you would stand the increased deficit?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The policy is to try to maintain the deficit at that level.

Mr. WARDLE: Can the Minister say how the amalgamation of the Kent Town and Hindmarsh works depots is proceeding and what progress is being made with removals and vacations? Will the concentration of activity at Ottoway reduce administrative costs in any way?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This provision is for expenditure on office expenses, travelling expenses, photographic expenses, fares, books for library, accident costs

of motor vehicles, analysis of water, A.D.P. programming and testing expenses, operation of workshops, purchase of minor items of office equipment, costs of metric conversion, and other general administrative expenses. A rationalisation of workshops is currently going on. The Kent Town workshop is being relocated at Ottoway, and that is progressing according to schedule. I am not certain when the move will be completed, and I will get a report for the honourable member on that as well as in relation to the Hindmarsh workshop. I have not a report at my fingertips, but I will let the honourable member know.

Dr. TONKIN: I move:

That progress be reported.

The hour being late, as many Government members are obviously not participating actively in the debate, and as the Opposition has done its best to accommodate the sudden change in the Government's tempo, I move this motion.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes (21)—Messrs. Allen, Allison, Arnold, Becker, Blacker, Boundy, Dean Brown, Chapman, Coumbe, Eastick, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Mathwin, Nankivell, Rodda, Russack, Tonkin (teller), Vandepeer, Venning, Wardle, and Wotten.

Noes (22)—Messrs. Abbott and Max Brown, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Connelly, Corcoran (teller), Duncan, Dunstan, Groth, Harrison, Hopgood, Hudson, Jennings, Keneally, McRae, Olson, Payne, Simmons, Slater, Virgo, Wells, Whitten, and Wright.

Pair—Aye—Mr. Evans. No—Mr. Broomhill.

Majority of 1 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: As there has been almost a twofold increase in the allocation for the purchase of office machines and equipment since last year, can the Minister say where this equipment is to be used?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I will find out for the honourable member and let him know.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: There is also about a 20 per cent increase in the allocation for materials, services, machinery hire, general expenses incurred in normal operation and maintenance under "Country Sewerage", and I seek details of that item.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The provision is for expenditure other than salaries and wages for the operation and maintenance of the country sewerage system. Increased expenditure in 1975-76 resulted from increased dragging of sewers in Whyalla, increased maintenance of pumping stations, and increased overhead costs. Expenditure in 1976-77 allows for increased cost of materials and services and normal growth of the system.

Mr. MATHWIN: I asked a question about the work being done for the Coast Protection Board and the railways, and the Minister replied that they did not, as far as he knew, compete with private enterprise in tendering. Obviously, the Government's policy is to use day labour instead of private enterprise, in unfair competition. This costs the taxpayers a large sum of money. On beach protection, any council using private enterprise or doing the work itself would get the work done at far less cost to the taxpayers. About two years ago, when I asked a question in relation to Civil and Civic, the Minister said that the department would compete against private enterprise. He said that the department would have to tender against private enterprise for the work. That may be fair, but in

the profit and loss account, the cost reverts to the taxpayer. However, regarding work for the railways and on coast protection, the system is unfair.

Line passed.

Public Buildings, \$40 627 000.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: I refer to the item dealing with preliminary investigations on projects not proceeded with. Last year, \$50 000 was voted and actual payments were \$208 827. This year an amount of \$150 000 is proposed, and this is puzzling. I should like any information that the Minister could give me on that matter.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The term "not proceeded with" does not mean that they will not be proceeded with in future. They are put on the shelf, so to speak.

Dr. Tonkin: Like Monarto.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Not really. Monarto is a much larger project than we are dealing with here. If we can have on the shelf buildings that we can proceed with when funds are available, that leads to extremely efficient management. For example, in 1970 the building now being constructed at Port Adelaide for the Marine and Harbors Department was approved by the Public Works Committee. Design work for that building would have been completed by 1972. The same position applies here.

Mr. BECKER: Can the Minister give information on the capital value of all buildings owned by the department?

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: Do you mean the schools, the hospitals, the whole works?

Mr. BECKER: Yes.

The Hon. J. D. Corcoran: What do you want that for?

Mr. BECKER: We do not get a consolidated balance sheet. Although we have the Auditor-General's Report and the report of the department, we do not get a consolidated balance sheet setting out the assets. The figures must be available. We are to spend \$9 300 000 on service costs for Government buildings. Will the Minister endeavour to obtain this information?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I shall refer that question to the Treasury to see whether any information is available.

Mr. EVANS: Last year \$4 235 411 was voted and \$5 064 144 was paid in connection with major project offices. This year the allocation is to be the unusual amount of \$6 348 114, a 50 per cent increase on last year's vote at a time when we are attempting to cut costs and to slow down inflationary trends. Why is such an increase necessary?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is to cover increased professional, subprofessional and clerical division salaries, filling of vacancies, normal increments, and new positions. I will find out more details of why that increase has occurred if it is not in fact taken up by the matters I have mentioned.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Are the salaries of electorate secretaries included in the sum of \$19 615 824 to be allocated for wages?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: That item provides for the wages of the daily-paid work force, including foremen, tradesmen, gardeners, labourers, cemetery hands, caretakers, cleaners, and so on, as well as provision for statutory increases, and additional employees for Construction and Property Services Divisions and Resources Branch. In the

salaries of the Property Services Division, provision is made for the payment of secretaries employed in electorate offices.

Dr. TONKIN: The item "Professional services" seems a bland and stark statement to be worth \$102 000. Can the Minister give a breakdown of this figure?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The figure covers the cost of general professional research projects, departmental participation in and the provision of services to external committees, such as the National Public Works Conference, and the discipline responsibility of Principal Engineers for engineering services provided by the department.

Mr. MATHWIN: I congratulate the department on the excellent work done at the Warradale school in converting a temporary wooden building to a school library and amenities room. The Public Buildings Department also planned and made the furniture for the new rooms, which have been carpeted. I am a member of the school council and I know that the work has been of great advantage to the school. Recently, I raised the question of members of school councils being able to make some decisions and to contract for minor works in schools. In most schools, parents of students are able to do some small jobs. I am also a member of the council of Glenelg Primary School. For some time, we have been trying without success to arrange the removal of two or three trees. The infants school has a temporary classroom adjacent to Diagonal Road, which is a busy and noisy road because of the density of heavy traffic, especially oil tankers from Port Stanvac. The traffic noise is annoying to the teachers and affects the concentration of the children, and there is also the problem of pollution from diesel vehicles. The school council applied about nine months or 12 months ago for the trees to be removed. The department sent an officer to look at the situation at the Glenelg school. People connected with the school have been told that they will be lucky to get the work done before Christmas. It is about time the work was done. If the Public Buildings Department cannot do the job, it should allow the school council or private tenderers to tender for the job.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY: Is the reduction in the allocation for the West Terrace cemetery a result of the Government's substantially completing the improvements there?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Provision is made for maintenance of West Terrace cemetery, including minor works and office expenses but excluding salaries and wages. Allowance is made for Government responsibility for Catholic, Hebrew and Quakers sections of the cemetery. Negotiations have taken place over 2½ years in relation to the control of the cemetery, which is now a Government responsibility. The Government has spent a large sum on reticulation of water throughout the cemetery and on tree planting. The reduction in the allocation has resulted from the fact that the largest part of the expenditure was incurred last year. This year, only the normal maintenance and minor works will be necessary.

Mr. BECKER: Is the Engineering and Water Supply Department's building in Victoria Square included in the list for steam cleaning and maintenance this year, or will it be included in a list in a future year?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: As far as I am aware, the building is not on the list for steam cleaning.

Line passed.

Minister of Works, Miscellaneous, \$2 089 000.

Mr. GOLDSWORTHY moved:

That progress be reported.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes (21)—Messrs. Allen, Allison, Arnold, Becker, Blacker, Boundy, Dean Brown, Chapman, Coumbe, Eastick, Goldsworthy (teller), Gunn, Mathwin, Nankivell, Rodda, Russack, Tonkin, Vandepeer, Venning, Wardle, and Wotton.

Noes (22)—Messrs. Abbott and Max Brown, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Connelly, Corcoran (teller), Duncan, Dunstan, Groth, Harrison, Hopgood, Hudson, Jennings, Keneally, McRae, Olson, Payne, Simmons, Slater, Virgo, Wells, Whitten, and Wright.

Pair—Aye—Mr. Evans. No—Mr. Broomhill.

Majority of 1 for the Noes.

Motion thus negated.

Mr. BOUNDY: Does the allocation of \$105 000 satisfy all compensation claims relating to the flooding of the Virginia market garden area, or are some growers still awaiting compensation?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This relates to flooding during August, 1971. The case involving these people proceeded for many years. It is only recently that a decision was made about the matter and that the amount of compensation was settled. I can recall writing to the people involved not long ago.

Mr. ARNOLD: What contributions have Victoria, New South Wales and the Commonwealth Governments made towards the cost of controlling water hyacinth?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: Each State and the Commonwealth contributed \$50 000, so that \$200 000 is available for the initial scheme.

Mr. Arnold: For research?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No, for the initial control of water hyacinth at Moree.

Mr. EVANS: The sum of \$140 001 was spent last year on the establishment and operating costs of a liquid waste facility, whereas this year \$50 000 has been allocated. What is the full purpose of this facility and will waste oil be disposed of at the facility? A company in South Australia used to refine waste oil but, because of a decision by the Fire Brigades Board, the company was put out of business. The company made several approaches to the Government for help because of the expenditure incurred by the company.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: It is an industrial waste disposal facility and contractors have predetermined charges under an agreement to use the facility. I am not certain whether it will handle waste oil. I know it will handle acids, but I do not know in what quantities. I will therefore obtain a report for the honourable member.

Mr. COUMBE: I am delighted to see the increased allocation this year for the protection and improvement of the Torrens River. I presume that part of the allocation relates to the improvement scheme that has been continuing for some years. Can the Minister therefore say whether any of this work relates to recommendations contained in the Tonkin report?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I do not have details about the work to be done, so I will get a report about the type of work to be done, where it is to be carried out, and whether it is based on the recommendations of the report to which the honourable member referred.

Mr. VENNING: Last year \$2 000 was allocated for repairs and maintenance of the Laura embankment. This

year the allocation is \$6 000. Because of what happened last weekend I question whether this year's allocation will be sufficient for repair work. I presume that additional sums will be required, so can I presume that they will be forthcoming? Although this item refers specifically to the Laura embankment, other repairs are necessary in the Laura area, particularly flooding in the Rocky River at Laura.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The allocation will be used to reinstate the Laura embankment to its original profile. If extra money is needed it can be obtained.

Mr. ARNOLD: Can the Minister say what method will be adopted to eradicate water hyacinth?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: The infested area will be by-passed, drained and sprayed. I do not know what material will be sprayed in the area. The original work will involve draining the infested part of the river. Additional money may have to be spent to eradicate completely water hyacinth in the area. The honourable member is probably aware that a shire council in New South Wales is responsible for this work, which is why it has taken so long to arrive at a method to eradicate water hyacinth. The shire involved did not have the resources to tackle the problem.

Mr. CHAPMAN: An allocation of \$1 457 000 has been made for preliminary surveys of water supplies and irrigation schemes. Do any of the proposed preliminary surveys involve schemes that do not necessarily require the 10 per cent formula return, which I understand is departmental policy?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: This allocation will be used only for investigation and preliminary surveys of water supplies that will not be developed. That is why it has been charged to revenue. We are undertaking preliminary investigations and surveys that may not be developed for four or five years.

Mr. VANDEPEER: Under "Miscellaneous", I seek information on two lines. First, I refer to the line "Maintenance of sea outlet from Lake Bonney", for which \$10 000 was voted last year, \$10 366 being spent, and a further \$10 000 being proposed this year. That seems a considerable sum of money each year just to maintain that outlet. Can the Minister break down that amount for me?

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: No, I cannot, but I will get a report for the honourable member. He has seen the outlet, which is fairly lengthy; it is in a very sandy area and it is essential that that outlet be maintained. The main cost would be because of the nature of the land around it.

Mr. VANDEPEER: I now turn to the line "Improvements to private drain—Canunda Flat area", on which \$2 950 was spent last year.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Order! There is no expenditure on that line.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: In 1975-76 the expenditure was on improvements to a private drain as a solution to flooding problems at Canunda Flat, adjacent to Lake Bonney. The Government undertook to spend money to provide more satisfactory drainage there so that the land could be used and would not be subject to flooding.

Mr. CHAPMAN: I fail to understand the Minister's answer to the last question, but will he provide me with a list of the preliminary surveys proposed to be made by his department under the line "Water supplies and irrigation schemes—preliminary surveys" for which \$1 457 000 is proposed?

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

Line passed.

Education, \$243 539 000.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister of Education give me some information on the line dealing with research and planning? I am particularly interested in this line, as under "Miscellaneous" we see a figure of \$410 000 proposed for the South Australian Council for Educational Planning and Research. It seems we are spending nearly \$1 000 000 in this area. Could the Minister explain what this group does? Is it independent of the other group?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD (Minister of Education): Yes. The difference between this group and the South Australian Council for Educational Planning and Research is that this is a directorate within the Education Department, under Dr. Tillett, and its research is directed specifically to the needs for capital facilities—teaching staff, and so on—in the schools. The South Australian Council for Educational Planning and Research's role could be regarded as being broader and perhaps even more speculative further down the road in the way it operates. It is a statutory body and is not part of the Public Service, as narrowly conceived. The vote is put in this way because of the reorganisation of the Education Department.

Mr. BOUNDY: I refer to the line "Wages—cleaners, playground supervisors, labour as required". The Minister will accept that I have contained my vessels a fair while and have had almost infinite patience about ground staff for area schools, as a general principle. I see that \$7 813 000 is provided for labour as required. The Minister does not need me to remind him that labour is required at Yorketown for a full-time groundsman, and the whole matter of ground staff for area schools needs to be clarified to bring it into line with the position in high schools, particularly with regard to new schools. Can the Minister tell me now whether he can provide this service for area schools generally and, if not generally, hopefully for Yorketown Area School in particular?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The honourable member will note the modest escalation between what was spent last year and what we are now voting. What was spent last year was considerably greater than what was voted, indicating the extent to which we were able to increase the establishment last year. Sadly, I have to say that this escalation between what was spent last year and what we are voting here is merely an escalation that will take account of the fact that these people will be a little more expensive than they were last year. There will, unfortunately, be no increase in the labour force employed in this area, and that applies not only to area schools but also to high and primary schools.

Mr. EVANS: I refer to the line "Purchase of motor vehicles", on page 57, where \$267 000 was voted last year and \$226 568 was spent. This year we are budgeting for an expenditure of \$365 400. Can the Minister say whether school buses are included in this and, if so, how many? Can the Minister also tell me the amount paid to persons who use their own private motor vehicles, when they have that allowance from the department? In some areas the vehicles are supplied by the teachers themselves and the department pays a sum of money for use, by kilometres, of the vehicles. This \$365 400 for motor vehicles seems a large amount.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get the specific information for the honourable member, but the increase

in part is a reflection of the Government's policy of using more Government vehicles, where possible, instead of paying kilometre rates to private owners.

Mr. MATHWIN: I refer to the line "Private schools—transport of students, boarding and book allowances". The proposed allocation this year is less than the actual payments last year. Why is that? Does the Minister expect fewer students attending public schools? Does the transport of students refer to the loan of departmental buses to independent schools? I remind the Minister of the case of the Catholic school at Newton asking to use a bus from a State school but, although permission was granted, it was too expensive.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Transport conveyance allowances are available to students at private schools on the same basis as for public schools, but I will obtain the specific breakdown of these items for the honourable member. No reduction in services is intended, but reduction in enrolments is expected in private schools next year because there will be a similar reduction in Government secondary and primary schools.

Mr. NANKIVELL: As there is a reduction in the allocation for education services, can the Minister say how these economies are to be effected?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Special education expenditure has been transferred out of the directorate altogether, accounting for \$200 000. There has been a reduction of \$90 000 in Schools Commission funded programmes concerning in-service conferences; there has been some restriction on equipment, library books, and materials; and there has been an increase of \$50 000 in expenditure on transport of handicapped children.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I refer to two decisions by the Minister. The first was not to allow pupils from the top end of Burnside to attend Norwood High School, because he said the quota was 1 600 students and that no more could be allowed to attend. On the other hand, he refused to purchase additional land adjacent to the school, because he said that enrolments were dropping. I am disappointed at both decisions, which seem to me to be contradictory. The high school council suggested purchasing the property and then have the department buy it back in the future. I am sure that the department could have guaranteed that, in the next four or five years, money would be available to repurchase the land from the school council.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The issue concerning zoning is the relative enrolments at Glenunga and Norwood. Enrolments at Norwood will decline in the mid-term future in common with other high schools except those in rapidly developing areas. The injection of additional students at Norwood would have created problems. I point out that the long-term situation is irrelevant, as zoning boundaries are altered year by year. It has been resolved to take no action concerning boundaries between Glenunga and Norwood and leave them as they are at present. It is still possible that the department may be able to offer reimbursement to the council for the land purchased, but I cannot give any cast-iron guarantee.

Mr. ALLISON: What specialist teachers is South Australia still unable to provide to warrant the payment of \$50 000 to bring teachers from overseas and interstate? Is this training bridge likely to be filled within the next year or two?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The retention of verbiage from last year's Budget is unfortunate. The \$50 000 is to pay the return expenses of overseas teachers who have completed their contracts. No recruitment is intended.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Can the Minister explain the item "Contribution towards cost of foot bridge"? This amenity has been refused in the past because of the cost. Can the Minister say where this bridge will be constructed, and whether the contribution made by the Education Department is setting a pattern or whether it is a once-only contribution?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: There is a long history to this matter. The project in question is the foot bridge across the Torrens River to Underdale High School. Agreement was reached between my predecessor and the West Torrens Council, which also contributed to the cost, a couple of years ago, and this allocation is merely a completion payment. I am not aware of the origin of the matter.

Mr. EVANS: Concerning the allocation for "Free text books for primary schools", last year \$1 200 000 was allocated but only \$843 752 was spent, whereas \$1 521 000 is now allocated. Will all this amount be spent or, as applied last year, will only about 80 per cent of the sum be spent thereby giving a false impression that more money is being spent on education than is really the case?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I understand that there are some carry-over payments from last year. The \$843 752 was not all that should have been spent, and the skyrocketing figure this year reflects that under-expenditure by the departments. Once last year's carry-over is taken into account, a more modest escalation is revealed.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: First, can the Minister indicate how many speech therapists work in South Australia? Secondly, how many are allocated to work in the eastern suburbs? Thirdly, what is current Government policy on supplying remedial teachers to schools? I have requested through the Minister that the department provide a remedial teacher permanently to Burnside Primary School, as the nearest class with such a specialist teacher is located at Marryatville Primary School and there is a demand for such a teacher at Burnside.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get those specific details for the honourable member. I refer him to the item "Special schools—teachers and staff". Although last year's vote is not listed because of the change in arrangements, there has been an increase in expenditure in this area of about 20 per cent. There has been a considerable increase in the allocation for special schools.

Line passed.

Mr. NANKIVELL: I move:

That progress be reported.

It is now 3.45 a.m. and, in all fairness, I believe the Committee has sat long enough.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes (21)—Messrs. Allen, Allison, Arnold, Becker, Blacker, Boundy, Dean Brown, Chapman, Coumbe, Eastick, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Mathwin, Nankivell (teller), Rodda, Russack, Tonkin, Vandepeer, Venning, Wardle, and Wotton.

Noes (22)—Messrs. Abbott and Max Brown, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Connelly, Corcoran, Duncan, Dunstan, Groth, Harrison, Hopgood, Hudson, Jennings, Keneally, McRae, Olson, Payne, Simmons, Slater, Virgo (teller), Wells, Whitten, and Wright.

Pair—Aye—Mr. Evans. No—Mr. Broomhill.

Majority of 1 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

Further Education, \$29 505 000.

Mr. NANKIVELL: Two amounts are provided for Wardang Island, the total amount provided being about \$128 000. Can the Minister say what is intended in this project?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The answer was largely contained in a prepared reply to the member for Goyder. An outdoor education project, in concert with the local Aboriginal community, is being prepared. Certain costs are involved in transport to and from the island, particularly the supply of fresh water to the island.

Mr. BOUNDY: The two amounts provided for Wardang Island leave me mystified when I compare them to the figures in the reply that the Minister gave me. In his reply, the Minister stated:

The total provision for the Wardang Island project for 1976-77 is \$99 000, made up of \$50 000 for salaries and \$49 000 for contingencies. This, together with the \$30 000 spent in 1975-76, gives a total commitment of \$129 000 up to June 30, 1977.

There was no reference in previous years to the \$30 000 referred to in the Minister's reply, and I ask what is the explanation for the discrepancy.

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

Mr. VANDEPEER: Has the amount been set aside for Wardang Island to clean up the mess left by the previous fiasco on the island?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I would not want to associate myself with the value judgment that the honourable member has made. I will get information on what work needs to be done.

Line passed.

Libraries, \$4 464 000.

Mr. RUSSACK: Will councils now be responsible for institute libraries, and will this apply throughout the State?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: No. These are the initial payments under the Library Subsidies Act and refer to areas where municipal subsidised free public libraries exist. The honourable member will find reference to the Institutes Association on the next line.

Mr. WOTTON: Can the Minister explain the allocation of \$50 000 for library services for the disadvantaged?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: This is largely in relation to books in foreign languages for people from ethnic groups and some services in Adelaide that will be supplied on a mobile basis. Generally speaking, it is for the housebound, for physically handicapped people whose mother tongue is other than English.

Line passed.

Minister of Education, Miscellaneous, \$22 778 000.

Mr. MATHWIN: I refer to the allocation of \$200 for "Educational sporting bodies—minor grants". Is this to be \$2 for each?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: These are minor grants to secondary school sporting associations to assist with operating costs. I will get information on what the particular sports are.

Mr. NANKIVELL: What is the reason for the provision relating to the East End Area Redevelopment Committee? I thought that that matter now came under the Premier's jurisdiction.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: This funding will permit the completion of the survey commenced last year. It was a Cabinet decision that it should be a charge against

me rather than against the Premier's line. It is still hoped that it will be possible for there to be some educational development as part of the whole east end scheme. The most recent scheme placed before the Government, which would have done the whole of the amalgamation as between the Adelaide college and the South Australian Institute of Technology, has been rejected on the basis of cost.

Mr. WOTTON: Can the Minister give any information on the \$32 000 to be voted for community centre projects, and also in relation to non-Government special schools?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: This is to provide some initial co-ordinating staff for the Angle Park and Thebarton community centre projects. The non-Government special schools provision covers grants to the Autistic Children's Association, South Australian Oral School, St. Ann's and St. Patrick's Special Schools, and Suneden Retarded Children's Welfare Association. It includes \$85 000 on Schools Commission grants. All of these have been referred to elsewhere in the lines, and they have been amalgamated under this one heading.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: The South Australian Debating Association won the national championships in Canberra recently, and the compliments of this place should be passed to the society. From such a small sum of money we get great value for the State, and it was a tribute to the people involved. Two of the four members of the team had debated in the Young Liberals debating team in the State championships. In relation to the item of \$13 250 000 for the Childhood Services programme, to what extent are operating expense grants involved? I understand that a new centre has been built at Campbelltown. Is any of the money to be allocated to that centre? A recent centre at St. Peters is run by the council but receives a subsidy from the State Government. Will the State Government be subsidising these centres on a different basis after December 31? I understand that the Federal Government is to pull out of some of the centres and pass them over to the State Government.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I think the answer is that we just do not know until we learn the Commonwealth's intention. At the last Australian Education Council conference, there were pleas from all State Ministers to Senator Carrick to make clear as soon as possible what the future of funding would be in this area. The vote would include the Treasury commitment to the loan raising activities of the Kindergarten Union. The union is borrowing outside the Loan Council agreement up to the maximum of \$800 000, and the State Government is committed to cover those loan raisings, which enable some much needed capital to get into the area. I will confer with the Minister of Community Welfare on the matter of child-care centres and bring back a reply.

Mr. EVANS: An amount of \$5 000 is to be allocated to the Specific Learning Difficulties Association of South Australia. A similar amount has been available in other

years. Last year I was told that the group had not asked for more money. Has the association asked for more money this year; if so, was the request rejected, and why? Public Examination Board fees and expenses have increased from \$264 000 to \$452 000, an increase of more than 50 per cent. Why has this increase occurred?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: The board will have to meet rising costs, including \$20 000 for increasing rates of payment to examiners. The extension of school-based assessment procedures does not necessarily save money, because it is necessary for additional activities to be undertaken by the Public Examinations Board in a supervisory way across the whole of the school system. The vote for Speld is the same as last year. I shall endeavour to get more information on that matter.

Mr. BECKER: Last year, \$902 was spent on the item covering South Australian Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association. This year, we are to vote \$4 000 for this item. Can the Minister explain what the additional money is to cover and whether this item covers primary school football teams? Is amateur sport as badly off as are football teams? If anyone is fortunate enough to be selected, parents sometimes have difficulty in paying for fares and equipment. Will the \$4 000 assist them?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: It will not completely solve the problem, but \$2 000 of this total is included because of expected additional costs of subsidising interstate sporting teams. This is a big expenditure, and we hope that this will help parents.

Mr. WOTTON: Can the Minister give some information on the United World Colleges?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: It is in Singapore, and one student from South Australia a year normally would be able to attend under the scheme. I shall get a report for the honourable member.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: I understand that 11 family day-care co-ordinators are operating within the State.

The Hon. D. J. Hopgood: I think the matter relates to the community welfare portfolio.

Mr. DEAN BROWN: Where are the funds coming from, what responsibilities do these people have, on what basis are they appointed, and which parts of the metropolitan area are they concerned with?

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: I will get the honourable member a detailed report on this whole matter. The prime responsibility is with my colleague.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.12 a.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday, October 6, at 2 p.m.