

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, October 19, 1977

The **SPEAKER (Hon. G. R. Langley)** took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

## PETITION: CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

**Mr. BLACKER** presented a petition signed by 217 residents of South Australia, praying that the House would urge the Government to introduce, without delay, stringent laws with appropriate penalties which would protect children from abuse by pornographers, and take action to prohibit the sale of all pornographic films, books and other material which include children.

Petition received.

## PETITION: SUCCESSION DUTIES

**Mr. HARRISON** presented a petition signed by 23 residents of South Australia, praying that the House would urge the Government to amend the Succession Duties Act so that the present discriminatory position of blood relations was removed and that blood relationships sharing a family property enjoyed at least the same benefits as those available to *de facto* relationships.

Petition received.

## QUESTIONS

The **SPEAKER**: I direct that the following written answer to a question be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

## SCHOOL TRANSPORT

In reply to **Mr. ARNOLD** (October 12).

The **Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD**: The honourable member has raised the problem of excursion bus fares for school students. A letter explaining the reasons for the changes was sent to the honourable member and was probably in the post at the time the question was asked. It reads as follows:

I refer to your letter concerning the increased hire charges for Education Department buses. A number of similar letters have been received from various schools and parent organisations, most of which suggested that country school excursions would have to be seriously curtailed because of the increase, and that country schools are already disadvantaged over metropolitan schools for availability of cultural and sporting facilities.

The Education Department's policy permits the use of its buses for approved excursions at a rate set by me from time to time. Before the recent review the last review of rates was in January, 1972. The hire charge at that time was designed to recover running costs. Since 1972 the running costs have increased substantially and the department has in fact been contributing to the cost of country school excursions using departmental buses by not reviewing the rates previously. The following table illustrates this:

	1971 Running costs	1972 Charges c per km	1977 Running costs	1977 Charges c per km
Large . . . . .	15.4	15.6	23.06	23
Medium . . . . .	15.3	15.6	21.70	22
Small . . . . .	15.2	15.0	20.63	21
21-pas- senger . . . . .	—	—	—	21
Mini . . . . .	9.9	10.0	14.50	15

The increase is, of course, accentuated by the fact that these charges have not been reviewed since 1972. As outlined, when this increase was proposed the additional cost will add on average, approximately \$6.00 per excursion based on the knowledge that during the past year approximately 4 000 excursions covered 313 000 km. Assuming that the average number of children taken on excursion is 30, then the increased charge per child is only 20 cents per child per trip.

This is not considered to be a financial disadvantage to country schools, especially when it is considered that city schools do not have access to departmental buses and must therefore hire State Transport Authority buses at a minimum charge of \$25.00 per day for approximately a 20 km trip, or private buses at a cost of approximately 65c per kilometre. The country schools are therefore far better off on a cost per kilometre basis.

I have given further consideration to the matter but, having regard to all the circumstances, I do not propose to alter the rates approved.

## VICTORIAN POWER DISPUTE

**Mr. TONKIN**: How many South Australian workers does the Minister of Labour and Industry expect will be laid off by the end of this week and in a further week's time as a result of the Victorian power dispute, and what plans does the Government have to relieve the hardship that is already arising for workers and their families that are affected by this dispute?

The **Hon. J. D. WRIGHT**: Although I am fairly good at my job, I am not a calculator. It would be impossible to estimate exactly how many people could be laid off. I could not possibly know what the effects of the dispute will be. So far, the motor car industry has been affected, and consultations have already been undertaken to try to ascertain the position. Quite serious talks between the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the officials involved are now proceeding in Melbourne. I am not able to assess how fruitful those talks will be, but I can say that the dispute has now reached a serious stage not only for South Australia but also for the whole nation.

We are concerned about the position as a Government, and we are concerned for those people who may be affected, either directly or indirectly. The Government will keep a close watch on the situation and, as usual, do whatever it can to alleviate any hardships that may occur in the course of the strike. It will use its good offices wherever it can, if possible, to assist in any way to settle the dispute. However, I make clear that it is a Victorian dispute over which this Government has no control whatever and no right of interference. For those reasons, it is one of those disputes in which the Government finds it almost impossible to have any influence at all. The Government is most concerned about it, and is keeping a close watch on the situation.

## IODINE IN MILK

**Mr. SLATER**: Will the Minister of Community Welfare ask the Minister of Health to comment on an

announcement made only a few days ago that Australian milk had dangerous levels of iodine content?

**Mr. Gunn:** You should have listened to the news, and you'd know something about it.

**Mr. SLATER:** I know that the member for Eyre is not interested in milk. He drinks something a bit harder.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member is not to answer interjections.

**Mr. SLATER:** I am sure the public of South Australia is interested in this question. The New South Wales Dairy Authority has launched a number of prosecutions against traders from Victoria and Queensland because of the high iodine content in milk. A professor of biology at Macquarie University, in Sydney, has headed a committee which has been carrying out the original tests on the level of iodine in milk, and which was commissioned by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The professor said that the worst offenders were Victoria and South Australia. In view of this statement, will the Minister say what precautions are taken to make certain that the iodine content in milk in South Australia is sufficiently low to ensure that there is no detriment to public health?

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I saw a brief announcement by the Minister of Health assuring the people in South Australia that the levels of iodine were safe. It is perfectly proper for the honourable member to raise this matter, and I shall take it up with my colleague and get more information for him.

#### TRANSFER OF OFFICER

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Will the Premier say why Mr. Epps, an officer in the Auditor-General's Department, has been transferred from the Hospitals audit section to the Treasury audit section? I understand that Mr. J. Epps was transferred at short notice last week. This is the Mr. Epps who prepared a report concerning the Northfield Wards that indicated serious deficiencies at Northfield. It is also understood that Mr. Epps did not seek this transfer.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I am completely unaware of it. I have no idea, but I shall inquire.

#### BUS WINDOWS

**Mr. OLSON:** Has the attention of the Minister of Transport been drawn to the difficulties experienced on some State Transport Authority buses in opening windows? Constituents have complained that it is not possible to obtain ventilation because of sliding windows on buses being inoperable. Will the Minister ensure that action is taken to improve this facility and to prevent injury to knuckles when passengers attempt this process?

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** Occasionally complaints have been made on this score, although I do not know of any of late. I shall certainly refer the honourable member's question to the S.T.A. and ask that windows be checked to ensure that they are all operating.

#### NOISE CONTROL

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** Is the Minister for the Environment aware that the administration of the Noise Control Act is totally ineffective since the domestic noise section was proclaimed on August 18, and what action will the Government take to remove this dilemma as quickly as possible?

A resident of Davenport recently had a major noise disturbance, but when she complained to the Noise Control Branch, Environment Department, she was told to lodge her complaint in writing. When I made further investigations, I found out the following facts: first, a large number of people have been told to put their noise complaints in writing. It is useless for a person with a noisy party or loud music next door to complain in writing and expect action a week later. Secondly, although the Act was proclaimed four weeks before the election, no regulations (and I was absolutely amazed to ascertain this) have been gazetted as yet, and this means that the Act is useless as a legal document. Thirdly, despite assurances given to the Select Committee by the former Minister, the police have not been given any equipment to deal with noise complaints at night. Fourthly, although a request was made nine months ago for a special 24-hour telephone number for the Noise Control Branch to be included in the new telephone book, no such telephone number was inserted. That request was made as part of the evidence to the Select Committee. I have some sympathy for Mr. Stafford and his staff who must run this unit. It makes the task much more difficult when the Act is proclaimed prematurely for purely political purposes.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I am not personally aware of the difficulties outlined by the honourable member, but I will inquire immediately about the position.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** You'll find—

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Does the honourable member want to listen, or will he keep on chirping? He has no real interest in what I am saying, because he wants only to say what he says and does not wish to listen to anyone else. I understand that regulations will not be completed until December this year, although I believe we can operate (and hence the reason for establishing the unit) before that. I do not intend to say anything further other than that I will do as the honourable member has suggested and check the position, and I will let him know the outcome of my investigation as soon as possible.

#### QUARRIES

**The Hon. G. R. BROOMHILL:** Has the Minister of Mines and Energy any information on the success or otherwise of the programme undertaken to spray some quarry scars in the hills face zone? I believe that most members are aware that, with new provisions required for quarry owners to ensure that they work to a proper management plan, we will see a considerable reduction in the problems of visual pollution of quarry scars in future. However, I am aware that the department undertook to spray some emulsion on an area of quarry in order to ascertain whether this would have an immediate impact on reducing visual problems of hills face zone quarries. It seems to me that this has been successful from the point of view of the near city area, but I ask the Minister whether the material used has proved to be able to stand up to weather and other factors.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** It is probably too soon to assess completely the effective life span of the coating used or whether or not an alternative spray would have been more useful. The experimental spraying that has taken place so far has, I think in the opinion of most people, reduced the visual impact of the exposed faces and, to that extent, must be regarded as having been successful. However, success in terms of cost effectiveness has not yet been fully assessed, since annual costs will depend on the amount of additional outlay, cost of maintenance, and the durability of the sprays (how frequently they have to be repeated).

I think it will be generally agreed that the initial colour of the bituminous coating was too dark. However, it has faded since the initial application and, in addition, experimental work is being undertaken to assess a wider range of materials and methods of application to produce a more subtle range of colours.

The experiment that was undertaken also provided an opportunity to test spraying equipment as well as allowing the study of colour stability in relation to the climate, site and characteristics of the rock. The experience gained during this work is expected to benefit any future applications of coating to exposed rock surface. We are confident that the methods we adopt as a result of experience can produce significantly improved results in the future.

The further development of the Greenhill and Stonyfell quarries will be able to take place to a very large extent without any further exposure of scars, and further development can take place behind existing rock faces. In addition, it will not be long before the initial rehabilitation work, certainly on the top steps of the Greenhill quarry, commences. Experimental work that has been carried out by Quarry Industries demonstrates quite clearly that vegetation will grow in the rock surfaces, and, so long as the benches that are rehabilitated are not too high, the new vegetation that grows will ultimately completely shroud the initial scars, so when the quarry has been worked out to its ultimate extent, initially from the top of the quarry the rehabilitation can commence.

The Tea Tree Gully quarry, which is now under the control of the State Planning Authority, is being progressively worked out, and it will not be long before that quarry is subject to complete rehabilitation as a recreation area. I am sure that when that is done the confidence of people generally in our ability to ensure proper rehabilitation will be somewhat greater than it is at present.

#### RAILWAYS INSTITUTE

**Mr. EVANS:** As the Premier last year gave a renewed assurance that the South Australian Railways Institute would be housed in the Adelaide railway station building as soon as the Motor Registration Division vacated those premises, will he say when that assurance will be met? The Motor Registration Division vacated those premises during July of this year, and to date no positive move has been made to transfer the institute. It is presently housed in Metters building and the old Legislative Council building. Metters building has been sold, and the institute is using it at the whim of the new owners. The Legislative Council building has been promoted by the Government in the recent election campaign as a museum for historic Parliamentary items, and other items of interest to the State.

Mr. Virgo intimated in a discussion last year that the Australian National Railways would be required to rent space from the State to house the institute, and that the A.N.R. would also be required to supply the funds for alterations to suit the institute's requirements. When queried about the State's attitude should A.N.R. not supply such funds, Mr. Virgo intimated that he and the Premier would be obliged to recommend that the State fund the transfer. That information was contained in a letter I received from a concerned person.

It is the fiftieth year, the jubilee year, of the institute, which has many members. It has been patient about this matter, and I ask the Premier whether a decision has been

made. Later in the letter to which I referred the writer stated:

The demand on A.N.R. to pay for rehousing the institute appears to be a confidence trick of the first order, the State having sold up the railways virtually with an undisclosed liability of the order of \$1 000 000 which has been deferred because of the length of time involved in rehousing the Motor Registration Division.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** There has not been any confidence trick. The area in the Adelaide railway station has been under offer to the Commonwealth for some time, but it has delayed a reply on this matter. However, I believe that it decided to resolve the matter about a week ago. I am as interested as is the honourable member in the institute, and only last week sent minutes to inquire what stage the negotiations had reached. I understand that the negotiations are now proceeding.

#### PETROL

**Mr. WHITTEN:** Will the Minister of Prices and Consumer Affairs inquire into methods that appear to have been adopted by certain oil companies in an endeavour to eliminate competition from independent petrol resellers? I have been informed that some petrol companies have been offering the equivalent of 9c, 10c or 11c a gallon off wholesale prices to some independent resellers, connected with Southern Cross Petroleum, to leave that company. It has come to my notice that up to 13c a gallon has been offered to some of the independent resellers to leave Southern Cross Petroleum, a co-operative, so that the petrol companies can acquire those sites and use them exclusively for their sales. Will the Minister inquire into this matter?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** This matter has been brought to the Government's attention previously, and it is one about which I have had continuing concern. The Government has on a number of occasions sought clarification of the position. I have met with the oil companies and with representatives of the Petrol Resellers Division of the Automobile Chamber of Commerce, and I have spoken to Federal authorities and authorities in other States that are concerned with petrol pricing and practices in the industry, as well as to other Ministers, particularly the Minister of Labour and Industry, who has a responsibility in this area.

I shall be pleased to provide a report to the honourable member and to take up the substance of the matters he has brought before the House today. However, I point out that the oil industry is a tremendously complex one: I do not suppose that any other industry has a more complex pricing structure than it has. We have found, on hearing complaints that appeared to be justified and on investigating them, that there were factors which had not come to notice at first glance. In the instance of the problems confronting independent retail petrol sellers, this has not infrequently been the case. Many people have come to me and have said that service station proprietors were finding that service stations in their vicinity were able to sell petrol at a retail price lower than the wholesale price at which the complaining vendor had been able to purchase petrol. However, on investigating, we have found that the reason was the complex marketing structure in the oil industry, and that factors such as rebates and the prices charged for leasing sites by the oil companies have influenced the marketing and pricing structure in the area concerned. All these factors have to be taken into account. The honourable member's points, however, have brought up the matter again, and I will bring down a report for him.

### SCHOOL TRANSPORT

**Mr. ARNOLD:** In view of the Government's decision to subsidise public transport in the metropolitan area to the extent of about \$18 000 000, will the Minister of Education reconsider the decision set out in the letter I received in reply to a question I asked recently regarding the considerable increase in the excursion fares charged to students in country areas? Some time ago I raised with the Minister and the Government the realities of increasing dramatically the excursion fares that students and their parents must meet in country areas. The Minister has provided me with a reply that indicates that the present charge imposed on those parents and students barely covers the costs incurred. It is a substantial increase and, in the light of the Government's decision to subsidise substantially the public transport system in the metropolitan area, I claim that students in country areas are at a distinct disadvantage. I therefore ask the Minister whether he will reconsider the situation.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** What the honourable member asks is certainly not something that is within my control. The Education Department does not subsidise the cost of school trips for children attending metropolitan schools. In many ways I—

**Mr. Arnold:** The facilities are down here.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I am well aware that a typical metropolitan school is obviously closer to the target area of interest than is a country school. I should certainly like to be in a position to provide more assistance to schools generally in this area. Teachers are seeing increasingly the educational value of children being able from time to time to get away from the school and visit a factory, farm or site of historical or geological interest, or whatever. It is certainly not possible, within the confines of present State finances, to do more than we are doing now. One would certainly want to place on record the value of these excursions, a value that is being appreciated increasingly by schools. I could put figures before the House that would perhaps astound members when they considered the number of trips that a school would undertake in a year. The figures are high indeed, and I know that the results accruing from the trips are beneficial. It is not possible now to move in the direction required by the honourable member.

### KINDERGARTENS

**Mr. MAX BROWN:** Can the Minister of Education say whether his department has made an examination of the possibility of merging kindergartens into primary school complexes and, if it has, how far that examination has gone? I have been involved considerably in the question of kindergartens at Whyalla. It seems to me that the function of kindergartens would, in many instances, be improved considerably if they were to become part and parcel of the operations of primary schools. I also understand that it is Government policy to weld kindergartens gradually into primary school complexes, mainly because of the more ready acceptance of parents now of kindergarten-type education and the real need of curtailing unnecessary duplication of costs. For those reasons I would appreciate any information from the Minister regarding progress in this area.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The State's priorities in this matter are determined finally by Cabinet, but the authority that tenders advice to Cabinet on this matter is the Childhood Services Council. In relation to pre-schools as opposed to the other sort of childhood services that are

offered from time to time—child care, and so on—the Childhood Services Council has two primary clients: the Education Department, which is a fairly recent entrant into the field, and the Kindergarten Union. At this stage, the vast majority of childhood services facilities in this area are controlled by the Kindergarten Union. However, under the present Minister of Mines and Energy, the Education Department did enter the field some years ago, typically in those areas where it was difficult to generate Kindergarten Union facilities given what was required in those days to be able to generate those facilities.

This programme has continued so that, at any one time, the Childhood Services Council has to rationalise the bids which are coming forward from the Education Department and the Kindergarten Union. I have always maintained a "horses for courses" policy on this matter—that in some areas it may be more appropriate that the facility is managed and run by the Kindergarten Union, but that does not necessarily have to be apart from the schools. It is quite appropriate that the Kindergarten Union might use its finances to establish a kindergarten on school premises, and that is possible. Typically, this tends not to happen.

Secondly, in certain areas it is perhaps more appropriate that it be an Education Department facility, a child-care centre, so-called, which is run along with the school. The present position is that, without having some call on the Government's general capital loan raisings (I need not remind the House that they are in rather short supply at present), the major funding area for capital provision of these facilities is the open market borrowings undertaken by the Kindergarten Union. The Education Department itself does not have its own independent bin of capital funds which would enable it to do these things.

Where there is capacity in an existing school, where all that is needed is a salary, this can and does happen from time to time. It would not be necessary to provide these facilities in all schools. I have to remind the House, of course, that in theory anyway the 4 to 5 years age group is 92 per cent covered by existing facilities. Unfortunately, those facilities are not always where they should be, so we have vacancies in some child facilities and a shortage in the more rapidly growing parts of the metropolitan area and also in one or two country areas. The honourable member's suggestion is noted. It is policy, but I would not want to give the House the impression that it is policy to do this in every area. It would not be necessary, and in some areas it would be and will continue to be more appropriate to proceed in the established Kindergarten Union manner.

### MESSAGE PARLOURS

**Mr. WILSON:** I am not sure whether my question should be directed to the Minister of Community Welfare in his own capacity or as Minister in this Chamber representing the Minister of Health. Does the Minister have any evidence that young children of employees in message parlours are present on such premises while they are open for business; if not, will the Minister make inquiries to see whether this practice is widespread and, if it is, will he see that it is stopped in future? A resident in my district has complained to me that young children have been seen playing in the backyard of a nearby message parlour. This is the only instance of which I am aware, but it is nevertheless disturbing. I am sure that the Minister, too, would be concerned if he found that this circumstance applied in even a few such places.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I appreciate the concern of the honourable member for the welfare of young children. Most probably, it would be fair to answer, as he pointed out, that he was not quite sure where the question should land, that I have an interest as Minister of Community Welfare, but I think that the priority of interest in this case would lie with the Chief Secretary. He has been listening to the question, so I can assure the honourable member that he will take account of what has been raised and make inquiries on the matter.

#### CHRYSLER PAYMENT

**Mr. WELLS:** Will the Minister of Labour and Industry use his good offices with Chrysler Australia to obtain for one of my constituents payment which at this stage is being held by Chrysler? The person to whom I am referring was an employee of Chrysler and, like so many others, was stood down as a result of the recent strike. He has been able to obtain a position, which he tells me will be permanent, in another industry, but it is essential that he attend a school of some description that commences next Monday. He expects that he will be called to work at Chrysler on Friday. He has approached the management of Chrysler (or some person there) and has been told that under the award he was not entitled to payment of annual leave, etc., as he had not given the required notice of seven days. If this man is forced to give that notice, he will not be able to take up the job that has been offered to him. On the other hand, if he takes the job, he will be relinquishing the money he needs urgently to keep himself and his family, as he has already been out of work for two weeks. I believe that an approach to Chrysler by the Minister may have the effect of having this man paid the money due to him. He does not claim that he has any legal right to the money, as he is aware of the period of notice that he should give, but he cannot give such notice if he is to take up a new and lucrative position.

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** This raises a serious question, because I have always been opposed to any restriction being placed on employees regarding annual leave. If an employer wants to dismiss a person, he does; and if he wants to stand him down, he does. The circumstances of a stand-down must be legal, and it must be provided for in the award. Obviously, there is a provision that compels the employee to give the required notice if he wants to leave. I have never been happy about the fact that there is a compulsory period in which notice must be given or it affects annual leave. It is proper that a week's notice of termination of employment should be given (that applies to either side), but I am opposed to this provision in relation to annual leave. Awards should be varied so that there is no double penalty. In these circumstances, this employee would have two penalties imposed on him: an amount for the week's notice would be deducted from his pay, and he would also lose whatever annual leave credit was due to him. I have never subscribed to the belief that two penalties should be applied to an employee when he wishes to leave. I can understand the situation in which the company is placed, because 3 000 or 4 000 people have been stood down and, if they all found other jobs and wanted to leave, the employer would face much difficulty in replacing them. Certainly, to assist the honourable member and his constituent I will personally speak to the management of Chrysler to ascertain whether I am able to arrange anything for this person, but I cannot give any assurance, as legality is on the side of the employer. However, I will do what I can for the honourable member.

#### TRAIL BIKES

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** In the temporary absence of the Minister for the Environment, can the Premier say when the Government will act and what action it will take to prevent noise nuisance, high fire risk, and damage to the environment caused by trail bike riders on the hills face zone? For more than two years, residents living close to the hills face zone have been complaining bitterly about year-round noise nuisance and damage to the environment caused by trail bike riders. The annual concern of residents at this time of year is the danger of fire. Given certain wind conditions, one spark from the exhaust of a trail bike could set the hills ablaze from Athelstone to Stonyfell. Lives, property, national parks and the hills face itself are at risk while riders rip up and down gullies, damage the surface of fire tracks and erode the hills, yet no effective action is being taken to stop an activity which is potentially a dangerous threat to the whole area.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The law in relation to the use of vehicles off roads is, of course, something that we as yet have to deal with.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I hope the Opposition supports it.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I hope that the Opposition supports the measure which will be introduced during this session.

**Mr. Gunn:** Let's look at it first.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The details of the legislation have been published for some time and have been discussed with the operative organisations. Legislation will be introduced during the present session which will be necessary to cover some of the property concerned. At the moment the Government's only area of control is in relation to national parks and the declared conservation areas.

**Mrs. Adamson:** Why aren't they being policed, then?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** On my information, there has been some policing of it. I will get a report on that aspect of the matter for the honourable member. I hope that, when the legislation in relation to off-road vehicles comes before the House, the honourable member will give it her enthusiastic support.

#### LOWER NORTH-EAST ROAD

**Mrs. BYRNE:** Will the Minister of Transport obtain a report on the latest position regarding the proposed reconstruction and widening of the Lower North-East Road between the Torrens River and Anstey Hill? The Minister is aware that I have raised this matter over a period of years by way of letters, questions and speeches in this House. On all previous occasions I have explained why this work should have a high priority, and those reasons still apply.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** I shall be pleased to get that information for the honourable member.

#### NORTHFIELD WARDS

**Mr. RODDA:** Will the Premier, in view of his decision not to table the document that caused him to initiate inquiries into the wholesale thefts at the Northfield Hospital, at least disclose to the police details of names and parties cited in that document? Last week, in reply to a question by the Leader, the Premier said (*Hansard*, p. 195):

The document in fact would give evidence as to who he was, because of the information it contains. The Premier admitted that the informant was an employee of the department, presumably directly connected with the Northfield Wards, who disclosed the names of those involved in receiving large quantities of foodstuffs stolen from the Northfield Wards. Why were the police not supplied with the names of the parties, especially in view of the police investigation, which inadvertently resulted in the apprehension of a cook from Northfield, as was referred to in the Epps report over the name of Mr. L. Draper, Deputy Commissioner of Police?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I certainly said that the document would give evidence as to who he was, but I did not say the other things the honourable member has said were contained in that document; that is not the case at all. The document was forwarded to the Chief Secretary for the availability of the Auditor-General's Department and for any information that could be passed on to the police. No information that could have been of use to the Police Department in any investigation in this matter has been withheld from the police.

#### DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

**Mr. BLACKER:** Will the Minister of Mines and Energy ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the Government will take steps to correct the misleading advice being given to farmers concerned with inquiries regarding low-interest loans and the use or abuse of local creditors under the drought assistance programme? In recent weeks, the Agriculture Department and the Rural Industries Assistance Authority, under the Primary Producers Emergency Assistance Act, have been conducting a series of meetings throughout the State at which members of the public have received different advice. For instance, some people have been given to believe that all primary producers are eligible for the 4 per cent low-interest finance whereas at other meetings the opinion was gained that these moneys were only a last resort. Apart from this confusion, concern has been expressed that farmers were advised to push their local creditors still further. With many small businesses in the country already being pushed to the limit, this advice would appear to be quite inappropriate.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I will pass on the matter to the Minister of Agriculture and obtain a report for the honourable member. The only comment I make now is that I should be surprised if incorrect advice had been given, but I would not be surprised if advice that had been given had been misinterpreted or misunderstood. It may be that the Agriculture Department will need to take some corrective action to ensure that that kind of situation does not arise.

#### McNALLY TRAINING CENTRE

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Does the Minister of Community Welfare intend to close the high-security unit at McNally Training Centre and, if he does, where does he intend to place high-security risk inmates whose crimes include assault, violence, and in some cases rape on more than one count? In the evidence given to Judge Mohr, page 1450 of the transcript states that a case, referred to as case No. 5, on April 29, 1976, was that of a person convicted of rape and assault with intent. As he was already under a care-and-control order, the only additional penalty was a

detention order of 21 days. On September 8, he was again convicted of rape and assault with intent to commit rape and assault. These last convictions related to crimes committed whilst he was on weekend leave in June, 1976. I understand that he is again on a charge of attempted rape of one of the residential care workers at McNally and that he is now in the high-security block.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** The matter that the honourable member raises is one of those on which the Royal Commissioner reported and is referred to in the Nies report, a matter the honourable member canvassed a few days ago. The subject he raised in the question is under consideration, together with many other proposals concerning the treatment of young offenders. When the deliberations have been completed I should be in a position to give a more direct reply.

#### FIRE ESCAPES

**Dr. EASTICK:** Can the Minister of Education say what priority his department gives to the provision of fire escapes in two-storey school buildings? In several two-storey schools, particularly high schools, laboratory facilities are provided on the ground floor, and immediately above those facilities are school libraries or general resource centres. Representations have been made several times that the provision of fire escapes be considered so that any explosion or other problem in the laboratory downstairs would not trap large numbers of students in resource centres or libraries upstairs. I wrote to the Minister about this matter on June 1 this year, and to date I have not received a reply about that school. As the position in other schools is similar, I therefore ask what priorities exist.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I accept the implied thanks from the honourable member that my department is giving his letter close consideration and has not just rushed back with a half-baked reply. The department gives a high priority to the whole matter, but there is no blanket solution to the problem, because the design of schools varies so greatly and the problem tends to lie more with older schools where, perhaps in former days, there was not the proper provision that tends naturally to occur in the design of more recently built schools.

Discussions about this matter with the Public Buildings Department have been occurring for a couple of years, and that department has carried out one or two tests in schools relating to the evacuation of pupils. In one or two cases the results of those tests, in relation to one-storey buildings, have not always been satisfactory where, for example, the safety procedure has involved a teacher pushing out a pane of glass from a window: that is all right for a 76 kilogram male but is rather unsatisfactory if the teacher is a 50 kilogram female. These matters are also being considered. Regarding the specific matter raised by the honourable member in his letter, I will certainly obtain a reply for him as quickly as I can. In relation to the more general matter, I must say that there is no one treatment that will solve the problem.

**Dr. Eastick:** You recognise it as being serious?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** It is potentially a serious problem in some schools. Along with our advisers in the Public Buildings Department, we are trying to solve that problem.

#### COMMUNITY WELFARE FUNDING

**Mr. WOTTON:** How effective does the Minister of Community Welfare consider his department's funding to

be by the present method through community councils? Has he considered this function's being administered by local government rather than community councils? Local government authorities and the community itself are confused about funding. I therefore ask the Minister for his comments on the matter.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I am surprised to hear the honourable member say that there is general confusion in the community about funding, because the number of applications the Community Welfare Grants Committee has received would indicate that it is fairly well known that a facility exists through which applications can be made. We have applications totalling \$1 800 000 for a nominal funding totalling less than half that sum.

**Mr. Wotton:** You can't deny that there is general confusion in finding out where—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Minister of Community Welfare has the floor.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** If there is any confusion, apparently it exists in the mind of the questioner. Some months ago a release was made from the Government about setting up a committee under Professor Corbett to investigate this area. One of the terms of reference of that committee which has been public for some time is to investigate the area of community councils, funding, and so on. Had the honourable member looked back at some of the earlier releases, there would have been no need for him to ask the question.

#### ROCKY RIVER DISTRICT

**Mr. VENNING:** Will the Premier make available a detailed report of the outcome of his visits to my district on March 1 and 2 and on August 11, 12 and 13 of this year? When the Premier came to the area, he was reported in the press as having said that he was moving into the area to become more informed of the needs of the people of Rocky River. I know the Premier met the councils of Crystal Brook, Gladstone, Jamestown, Georgetown, Redhill and Port Broughton. I believe he met football clubs, hall committees, and grower organisations, and I am told that all were left in a mood of expectation.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I am not entirely certain exactly what were the expectations to which the honourable member refers. In each case, submissions were made to me. In some cases I had to pass them on to other Ministries, and in other cases I have replied directly to them myself. I shall inquire whether there is a means of providing the honourable member with all the replies I have made on these topics. Some were not single replies but replies over periods. For instance, there has been a continuing correspondence with the Gladstone District Council concerning the Gladstone Gaol. Several visits were made to a park outside Crystal Brook as a result of representations made by Mr. Rol Nicholls, the Chairman of the district council. In the case of Port Broughton, for instance, the honourable member raised publicly the matter of the planning of the area school. That planning is well under way. Within, I think, four days of my being at Port Broughton, the architect from the Public Buildings Department was there conducting meetings with the local people, and those meetings have been continuing. I believe that the community arrangements are well on.

**Mr. Venning:** What about the Jamestown football club?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The Jamestown football club made application for some assistance from the Tourism, Recreation and Sport Department, and that was duly handed on to that department. I cannot tell the honourable member at this stage the final results of that

application. I know that there are, in respect of extra grants for this year which would amount to \$250 000 above last year, about \$8 000 000 worth of applications. I am not certain of the results in that case, but I shall see whether I can get a comprehensive report for the honourable member.

#### DEEP CREEK CONSERVATION PARK

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** In the temporary absence of the Minister for the Environment, I should be pleased if the Premier would take this question. Will he reconsider the Government's decision to purchase portion of section 57, lot A, hundred of Waitpinga, as an addition to the already extensive and expensive Deep Creek Conservation Park at Delamere, South Australia?

Before 1973, the property was owned by the Eitzen family and, when deciding to sell the land, that family, through its agent Bennett and Fisher Limited, offered the land to the Government. It did not attract interest by the Government at that time. The parcel of land to which I refer in particular is the portion of the overall Eitzen family property which contains 30 hectares and which is the entire holding of Messrs. Q. T. and J. R. Woolaston. This young couple, who have three children, purchased the property as a result of its being publicly advertised about four years ago, and established a home on it, as well as a nursery on the banks of a running stream. They have preserved the natural scrub and shrubbery in its original state, protected the land from fires, and have accepted other responsibilities that go with the ownership of such properties. It has been inspected, and all parties have agreed that the family has done the job of management responsibly and well.

Several months after the Woolaston family bought the land the then Minister for the Environment wrote to Mr. Woolaston and advised him that he should not purchase the land (despite the fact that he had purchased it and paid \$250 an acre for it some months before) and that the Government intended to acquire it. There has been considerable correspondence and representation made to the respective Ministers for the Environment, and recently the Woolastons have been told that the land is subject to acquisition and that the only relief from direct purchase (and the old step aside or get out message) is that they may consider leasing back the property from the Government for the period in which they may re-establish themselves elsewhere. I raise this matter seriously, because Mr. Quentin Woolaston, to whom I have referred, is the third generation of that family that has been disturbed in property ownership by respective Governments. This was one reason why he went to the South Coast, well away from the near metropolitan area, to set himself up with his family on a piece of land over which they could hold freehold tenure and enjoy some degree of permanency and satisfaction. Therefore, I plead with the Government to reconsider this situation.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I know that the Minister for the Environment is considering this matter. I will refer the question to him and I am sure that he will take into account all matters raised by the honourable member.

#### NOISE CONTROL

**Mr. TONKIN:** Can the Premier say whether, in view of the possible effect on industry of the Government's noise control legislation, the Government will now review the legislation to avoid the closing of industries and the consequent major loss of jobs?



At a recent noise seminar the Chairman and Managing Director of Hills Industries, Mr. R. D. H. Ling, warned that industry could not afford to meet the requirements of the South Australian Government's noise control legislation, which he estimated would cost Hills Industries tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars. At the same time, Mr. Ling pointed out that manufacturing industry has to use machines for many of which technology does not exist to make them quiet.

Despite this, the Deputy Premier made clear that the Government's commitment to noise abatement was "In no way conditional or negotiable". The Deputy Premier went on to say that the Government had established practical standards for industry and was now going to ensure that standards were achieved and maintained, by persuasion where possible, but, if necessary, by compulsion. As this may have a serious effect on industry in this State in the absence of necessary technology, I therefore ask that the Government reconsider its attitude.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** Noise control legislation was extensively debated in this House for a considerable time. It was an election promise of the Government. This legislation will be fairly and effectively administered. It is not the Government's aim to make difficulties for industry, but at the same time we must require industry to meet reasonable and proper standards. I do not believe that what the Leader is saying at present is reasonable. The administration of this matter to date has been reasonable, sympathetic, and understanding.

*At 3.5 p.m., the bells having been rung:*

**The SPEAKER:** Call on the business of the day.

**LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)**

The Legislative Council intimated that it had insisted on its amendments Nos. 1 and 2, that it did not insist on its amendment No. 3, but that it had made in lieu thereof the following alternative amendment:

Page 4 (clause 7)—After line 6 insert the following subsections:

- (4) An appellant who is aggrieved by a decision of the Treasurer on appeal under paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section may, within thirty days after notice of the decision of the Treasurer and his reasons for making that decision is served personally or by post upon him, appeal against that decision to a judge of the Supreme Court.
- (5) In any appeal under subsection (4) of this section, a judge of the Supreme Court may—
  - (a) dismiss the appeal;
  - (b) reverse or vary the decision appealed against;
  - (c) make any order as to costs or any other matter that the justice of the case requires.

And the following alternative suggested amendment:

- (6) The right of the Commissioner to recover tax under this Act shall not be suspended or delayed by an appeal under this section and the Commissioner may recover tax on the assumption that no appeal was made against the decision in question but if in consequence of that appeal the amount of tax payable is reduced or increased the Commissioner shall refund to the taxpayer any excess tax recovered or may recover any additional tax payable.

Consideration in Committee.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer):** I move:

That disagreement to amendments Nos. 1 and 2 of the Legislative Council be insisted on, and that the alternative amendment and the alternative suggested amendment in lieu of amendment No. 3 of the Legislative Council be disagreed to.

What the Council has done in these further amendments has not altered the situation I put to this Chamber yesterday. In fact, the Council has sought to provide rights of appeal in areas of previous long-standing administration of the Act in which no further right of appeal has been shown to be necessary, or no cause has been raised of that kind. In relation to appeals in respect of section 42, the appeal to the Supreme Court is not confined to the matters of law, and therefore raises all the objections that I raised to the Council's original amendment. In these circumstances, I see no better situation for the Council than that previously before this Chamber, and I ask the Committee to accept the motion.

**Mr. TONKIN (Leader of the Opposition):** The Opposition's attitude has not changed and the points made yesterday, when we considered this matter, will stand. We cannot see any reason why there should not be a right of appeal to the Supreme Court in any circumstances, and our opposition is just as great.

Motion carried.

A message was sent to the Legislative Council requesting a conference at which the House of Assembly would be represented by Messrs. Chapman, Dunstan, Hemmings, McRae, and Wilson.

*Later:*

A message was received from the Legislative Council agreeing to a conference to be held in the Legislative Council conference room at 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, October 20.

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

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable the conference on the Bill to be held during the adjournment of the House and that the managers report the result thereof forthwith at the next sitting of the House.

Motion carried.

**APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)**

(Continued from October 18. Page 257.)

In Committee.

Public Service Board, \$3 103 000.

**Dr. EASTICK:** Last evening I raised the point about the requirements of future financial planning. I was then advised by the Premier that I was being somewhat simplistic. Let me assure the Premier that there was no endeavour on my part to suggest that the type of changes I envisage are going to be effected simply. I indicated as much when I said that it will be a long drawn-out process. I believe that, until Government, and indeed local government, financing parallels the balance sheet arrangement associated with the business world, there will not be the opportunity to face up to the true, realistic financial affairs of State.

I believe that the changes would take some years to implement (if indeed they are ever implemented). The Premier gave as his example the Education Department, saying it would be very difficult to implement changes in that case. In the banking system and other areas of industry in this State there is proper accounting, and those organisations have many more branches than does the Education Department. It is required by law that they



provide these balance sheets and take into account stock on hand, debts outstanding, etc. Whilst not suggesting that, in a short time, the Government could institute a proper financial basis similar to that in business. I reiterate that the only way government at all levels will be able to come to grips effectively with many of the wastages, and many of the questions relative to value for the dollar, will be to institute the type of financial policy that I have raised.

Line passed.

Art Gallery, \$878 000.

**Mr. TONKIN (Leader of the Opposition):** Has any specific goal been set in relation to the purchase of historical items or are these just general on-going acquisitions? "Purchase of works of art for public places" is a new item that closely follows what is set down in the Liberal Party's arts policy presented at the last election, and before that. I am pleased indeed to see that that is happening.

A point made frequently by members of the community is that when major works of art are being selected for use in or outside public buildings it would be appropriate for informed and interested members of the public to be given some opportunity to choose, or at least to express their point of view, before a work of art is finally decided on. I refer, as an example, to the Hajek sculpture at the Festival Plaza. Frankly, I do not particularly like that sculpture, although I am willing to accept that it is a work of art and does appeal to some people.

The point is that I have not been able to find, over a long period, many people who like that sculpture much. It seems to me that familiarity, in this instance, is breeding acceptance and nothing else. That major work of art cost an inordinate sum, and it seems the choice was made by a relatively small group of people. The community of South Australia as a whole had little say in its proposal. The Premier will undoubtedly say that a model was available and on display in the Festival Theatre foyer. Many people in the community who do not attend the Festival Theatre are nevertheless vitally concerned with the appearance of the Festival Plaza.

Recently, the matter of a fountain to be in one of the squares of Adelaide has been raised, and it has been suggested that the people of South Australia should be given a greater opportunity than is available now to express their likes and dislikes and to make suggestions. I would like an assurance from the Premier that the people of South Australia will be involved far more greatly in future than they have been in the past in the choice of works of art, particularly major works that are for display in public places.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer):** "Purchase of historical items" is simply an on-going item, and the increase is to allow for inflation. As to the purchase of works of art for public places, I point out to the Leader that I do not think that there is much point in getting into arguments about who thought of a particular policy first, but long antedating any publication of an arts policy of the Liberal Party I had lectured in South Australia on the theory of having a gallery without walls in South Australia; this is an on-going policy of the State Government. If the Liberal Party approves, I am pleased about that.

As to consultation with the public about the purchase of major works of art, the difficulty lies in establishing a process by which consultation can be effective. So far, the critics of the Hajek sculpture (the choice of the Festival Centre Board) have not come up with any alternative process. When those critics, who are people in the art world, were asked what they thought ought to have

happened they could not come up with a process that they could suggest would meet the requirements; it is difficult to devise such a process.

Is the Art Gallery Board, for instance, which makes major acquisitions, to refuse to make a major acquisition until it has been through a process of putting the proposed work on some form of public exhibition and asking those people who choose to make some comment to comment? If that is the proposal, are we to rely on those people who have some sort of experience or education in the art area, or simply on people who say that they do not know why they like a particular thing, but that they know what they like and what they do not like? When that proposition was put to people who were experts in the art world they made clear that they did not want decisions about major works of art to come down to the lowest common denominator of people who had no education or experience in this area.

So far, I have not had put to me a proposal by which we can do more than we are now doing, and that is that, when there is a proposal, it is put on public view for comment. That, in fact, was done in relation to the Hajek sculpture. Before the contract was let to Mr. Hajek there were interviews and statements on radio, television and in the press informing people of what was being proposed, illustrating the sculpture, and saying that there was a model on view.

It was significant that even those people in the art world who at the moment of unveiling protested about it did not take the trouble to do anything about it in the intervening two years. I do not accept that we are not consulting people in this area. If criticism is made, I would like the critics to come up with something constructive as to an alternative procedure.

Line passed.

Premier, Miscellaneous, \$10 551 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** First, I refer to the matter that has been referred to in the Auditor-General's Report, namely, North Malaysia Week in Adelaide, for which \$50 000 was voted, whereas \$198 215 was expended, and for which \$4 400 is proposed (I presume that is a final payment). This is a disturbing item, because the sum expended was far in excess of that voted. The Auditor-General has made that point by stating that gross expenditure was \$198 215, compared with the original provision on the Estimates of \$50 000, and the table shows the net cost to Consolidated Revenue for this project. The report shows clearly that the site design, preparation and construction, amounting to about \$160 000, was far in excess of the sum originally considered. The other sums, such as Miscellaneous, \$5 000 (which is a large sum to be lumped under Miscellaneous), wages \$11 000, advertising publicity \$12 000, pre-planning and performing arts \$5 000, seem to be reasonable. It seems that the enormous increase was in site preparation and construction, and this expenditure should have been anticipated. The Auditor-General shows finally less receipts paid into "Miscellaneous, Premier: sundries, gatetakings \$33 000", leaving the net cost of \$165 000, with only \$33 000 recouped, and this really says all that needs to be said. The fact that the Auditor-General has included this in his special list makes it something that needs explaining, and I am sure that the Premier will be prepared to explain it.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The difficulty in this case was in obtaining sufficiently accurate information from our Malaysian partners in this venture as to costs on which to base the actual budget. Several changes were made in the proposals for construction, after the time of the original budget, in order to meet the proposals from the Malaysian partners. We had to alter construction activity here and call on the Public Buildings Department for construction

that we had originally anticipated would have been much lower in cost. However, actually out of the net cost to us of about \$160 000, \$61 000 was for capital equipment that was retained for further use, so it is not simply money down the drain. I was naturally enough concerned about the escalation of costs in this matter and, consequently, have made dispositions about any further activity in relation to North Malaysia Week that will ensure that future events are not as costly.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Do I take it that the whole point was that money was allocated in the Budget without knowing exactly what was proposed by the North Malaysian partners? Was it the desire to have kampong huts erected in Elder Park that escalated the construction costs? I understand that the huts now belong to the South Australian Government, but is there any prospect of their being used in the future for more North Malaysian activities? What other use is being made of them, if they are not being used more often than once in two years? If they are not to be used more often, that is an expensive way of holding that capital investment.

The whole question of North Malaysia Week is a fine one, and I think that we expect a little more than just cultural interchange, which is one of the reasons for the week. As a State, we should expect to obtain some commercial or trading advantage from the intercourse we have between North Malaysia and South Australia. I should like to hear the Premier's estimate of the financial and economic benefits (without denying any cultural benefit) to South Australia as a result of these activities and the expenditure of this money.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I can detail to the Leader a certain number of the activities, but not all of them, which are taking place in Malaysia now and which benefit South Australia. We are involved in the development of the Panelex enterprise and industrial housing enterprise in that area, for which plumbing requirements are provided from South Australia. Secondly, we have been involved in establishing a rubber factory in Malaysia in which South Australian rubber components are being used. We have established a joint fruit juice operation in Malaysia that has been extremely valuable to Berri Fruit Juices; this joint operation has meant that we have no surplus but, indeed, an insufficiency of citrus juice concentrate. Members will know that that is something that is crucial to the citrus industry in South Australia. Two fishing enterprises are now being undertaken, one by Bight fishermen and one by Safcol, in Malaysia, both of which will be of considerable use to those enterprises and which will assist their financial and marketing positions in South-East Asia.

In addition, there is a consultancy in Malaysia of Pak-Poy and Associates in which the South Australian Government is directly involved, and that has brought to the consultancy work of South Australians a significant provision in employment and returns. Currently, we are waiting on the proposals which have been put to the South-East Asia Development Bank for the final feasibility study into the use of paddy straw in the Kedah and Perak areas. We funded the initial investigation of this project, which shows that there is a very considerable resource for stock feed which can be used in South Australia and which can be provided as an additional resource; it is presently burnt in that area. It can also be used by an Australian company, which has branches in South Australia, for building materials and for additional building material sales. In addition, we have had considerable direct sales from South Australia to Malaysia as a result of our joint undertakings. Immediately after the exhibition we held in Penang, orders were placed with

South Australian businesses for over \$250 000 worth of goods, and they were the initial orders. Real benefits to South Australia arise from this particular association.

The kampong houses were a significant part of the cost. They have been held in the Public Buildings Department for use on future occasions, but I do not expect they will be confined only to future North Malaysia Weeks in this particular area. The next visit between the two places is a visit by South Australians to North Malaysia, expected to take place in November or December, 1978. It will not take the form of the previous visit to Penang, for which we incurred a considerable cost of transporting the considerable amount of machinery, equipment and goods that were exhibited there. This time the exhibition will be mobile, illustrative and smaller. I expect that it will cost much less but that it will be effective for us in getting additional sales for South Australia.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Regarding decentralisation incentive payments, the sum of \$160 000 was voted in the past financial year but only \$22 494 was spent. I presume that a large proportion of the sum spent would have been in connection with Fletcher Jones. The proposed expenditure for the coming year is \$451 000. I expect that the Government's decentralisation incentive payments plan is the programme outlined in the various pamphlets issued by the Premier's Department. That programme has been a spectacular unsuccess.

For a long time only one company benefited in any way from the pay-roll tax rebates that were given by the department. I do not know whether the third company about which we were told recently by the Premier is yet receiving any benefit. I take it that the Premier expects that these benefits will now be expanded widely. The sum of \$451 000 compared with an actual expenditure of \$22 494 is an enormous increase. I would be pleased if the conditions under the decentralisation incentive payments plan could be more possible to achieve so that more companies could take advantage of the decentralisation offer.

That the large sum is provided indicates that the Government expects that more companies will take advantage of it. Will that happen, and what action is the Premier taking to modify the conditions that have kept so many companies from applying and qualifying for these incentives?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I do not expect that many more companies will qualify for the pay-roll tax incentives. The reason is simple: it is the reason that led me to criticise the Leader's pay-roll tax incentive proposals during the recent election: they would not work. If one takes what is less than 5 per cent of the extra cost of an employee and says, "That is an incentive to you to put on an extra employee", that amount is too marginal to encourage a company that does not have substantial extra orders to employ an extra employee. In these circumstances, firms are not encouraged to do it.

Where new companies come into growth centres, it is possible for them to get a full pay-roll tax rebate. For instance, it has applied to companies in Mount Gambier. The Yoannidis company qualified for a pay-roll tax rebate by setting up an entirely new enterprise. The same will apply to any other company that sets up in a new way. I am involved in discussions about whether the McPherson's meat works will qualify for these payments. Although an old meat works is involved, the company's contention is that it has started an entirely new business, and that, although it took over the Borthwick plant, it is doing a completely different type of business. That application is being examined now.

The sum of \$22 494 is less than the amount voted last

year because there was a delay in finalising several relocation grants. Several people qualified for relocation grants, and several will do so this year. A substantial sum must be paid and agreed to be paid in respect of relocation grants. I expect that that will be the major payment out of this line rather than any marked sum for pay-roll tax incentives. That will occur for the very reasons I have outlined to the Leader.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I get rather sick of the Premier's trying to make political capital out of his attitude to pay-roll tax incentives. Two of his Labor Premier colleagues, Mr. Neilson and Mr. Wran, have introduced significant pay-roll tax incentive schemes to help create employment and decentralisation. That is what the Premier said that such a scheme would not do. The Premier has gone to some trouble this afternoon to say exactly the same thing. He cannot be the only one out of step, but he seems to be.

The monthly bulletin of the Department of Labour Studies at Flinders University has stated that the propositions that were put forward by the Opposition in the recent election campaign in relation to pay-roll tax were entirely proper and useful measures to help stimulate employment, which is needed particularly in country areas. That is the whole purpose of the decentralisation incentive payments scheme. Pay-roll tax concessions will help create employment and will help decentralisation schemes. It does the Premier no good to say that such schemes will not work, because he is in direct conflict with his colleagues on that matter.

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** How is it that since we have got the scheme you are saying that it is not working but that it will work?

**Mr. TONKIN:** It is not working, because the present decentralisation incentive payments impose conditions that are almost impossible for any company to fulfil. It would be necessary in Port Pirie to establish that a completely new business was being conducted. The scheme does not apply (or it has not done so) to the expansion to an existing business.

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** It does.

**Mr. TONKIN:** It does now, but it did not when it was introduced.

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** It has always applied to the expansion of existing business.

**The Hon. G. R. Broomhill:** Apologise!

**Mr. TONKIN:** Not the way I read the conditions. It applies to designated growth centres, but there are only three such centres.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** One is Monarto, and we know what has taken place there.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. TONKIN:** Monarto is that sort of ridiculous situation. Port Pirie is certainly a growth centre. Decentralisation is just as important in other areas, for instance, Peterborough, which will need much assistance and help. There are areas in the Mid North and many other parts of the State that really need assistance.

Pay-roll tax concessions are available in country areas to companies starting in new manufacturing businesses in the iron triangle, the green triangle, and Monarto. The other eligible towns are Berri, Barmera, Renmark, Loxton, Waikerie, Clare, Kadina, Wallaroo, and so on. They can receive a total exemption from pay-roll tax, and relocation grants of up to \$25 000 for a business and \$500 for each key employee. The assistance has been available since July, 1976. Eligible businesses can receive total exemption from pay-roll tax for the first three years of operation, with an option for a renewal of a further two years.

To be eligible, a firm must, if it already exists, expand its work force by at least five people; it must be a

manufacturing enterprise; it must not be already located in one of the growth areas or, if it is located in one of those towns, it must be diversifying to produce a different product or be involved with significant expansion; and it must demonstrate that it will not be an unfair threat to the viability of other enterprises in the industry and that the proposed development will be primarily dependent on markets outside the region where the development is located. The criteria for eligibility have been most stringent and found to be most stringent. The measure of that is the number of firms that have taken advantage of the offer. Until a little while ago, these were Fletcher Jones and Staff Pty. Ltd. and G. N. Yoannidis & Sons at Mount Gambier, and Reyrolle Parsons of Australia Limited, at Whyalla. It is ridiculous to say that the scheme has worked so well that we are expected to have \$451 000 in the coming year as opposed to \$22 500 last year, and yet to say that such pay-roll tax schemes do not work.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** Why won't he give the same concessions as New South Wales and Victoria?

**Mr. TONKIN:** The Victorian concessions are the envy of every other State in the Commonwealth. It is time we joined in. Now Premier Wran is taking on exactly the same sort of proposals, yet our Premier, by his own admission this afternoon again, thinks we are out of step. He seems to think that is all right, but it is not. I quote from the *Australian Bulletin of Labour* produced by the Flinders University Institute of Labour Studies in September, 1977, as follows:

There are other ways in which Governments could make the elimination of the real wage overhang more certain and less painful. One would be to cut pay-roll taxes as Premier's Nielsen and Hamer are doing in Tasmania and Victoria, and as Opposition Leader Tonkin proposed in South Australia.

Now Premier Wran in New South Wales has adopted the same stance. The Premier cannot have it both ways. His attitude on pay-roll tax concessions is ridiculous.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** Is it true that the member for Ross Smith is on the committee?

**Mr. TONKIN:** I believe so. He would endorse editorial policy, I am sure.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** That's rubbish. Come on!

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** His name is on the back.

**Mr. Tonkin:** He heads the list of the faculty.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** You used to be a teacher in a South Australian school—

**Mr. Dean Brown:** You—

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The honourable Minister is out of order, and so is the member for Davenport. We have had enough interjections across the Chamber.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I do not think it is worth going further into it. The Premier has lost all credibility with that, as with other things. For the establishment of the Government clothing factory, \$6 500 was spent last year and \$27 000 is proposed for this year. I take it that that is associated with the establishment of a Government clothing factory at Whyalla. What does the Premier imagine will be the effect on existing clothing factories at Whyalla or elsewhere in South Australia of the establishment of this factory? Does he know from the investigations which his department must have made that the employment created by such a factory will take away employment from similar factories throughout South Australia, especially in Whyalla?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** That is not the finding of the committee which investigated this matter. Some difficulty would have been created in employment had the recommendation been that the Government clothing factory should go in for tailored clothing, because a

substantial amount of tailored clothing in the Government area is made by Menswear Pty. Ltd., a company which the Government has assisted through the Industries Assistance Corporation. The tailored clothing area was the area where the industry in South Australia could have been significantly affected by the introduction of the Government factory. The finding of the committee was that in the other areas (the making of flat wear and the provision of non-tailored uniforms, coats and the like, and linen) there would not be a significant effect upon industry in South Australia; there would be some marginal effect, but it would be possible for all the companies to adjust. A good deal of the employment would be taken from other States, and not from South Australia.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** Earlier this afternoon, in speaking of North Malaysia Week, I understood the Premier to say, if I heard him correctly, that the major reason for the citrus industry's being back on its feet—

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** I didn't say that.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** I said "if I heard the Premier correctly".

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** I'm afraid you didn't.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** In the main, it was due to the volume being sold in Malaysia by Berri Fruit Juices. I am aware that this is an important outlet.

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** It is very important for juice concentrate.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** Yes, and it is in that area that the problem has been largely resolved. The major reason for resolving the juice concentrate problem was the 65 per cent tariff imposed, which altered the situation dramatically overnight. I trust that we can keep developing the Malaysian market, but it was the 65 per cent tariff that put the citrus industry back on its feet, as it enabled the Australian market to be cleared of the surplus juice concentrate.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Referring to the Jam Factory Workshops, will the Premier supply some information on the expenditure disclosed in the Auditor-General's Report in relation to an overseas trip undertaken by the former Chairman of the authority and his assistant? The Auditor-General's Report, at page 376, refers to an amount of \$34 800 spent on an overseas trip by the former Chairman of the authority and his deputy, and also an amount of payment of a consultancy fee to the deputy of \$14 300. It states that the \$20 500 is mainly for the cost of fares, accommodation, and travelling expenses for about nine weeks. I understand that the Chairman of the authority resigned shortly after returning from these overseas investigations. What benefit accrued to South Australia as a result of the overseas trip of the Chairman and his deputy at this considerable cost?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** It was of considerable benefit to South Australia. In charting the course of craft work, it is vital for us not to make the mistakes that have led to considerable expenditures elsewhere in other countries concerning craft developments. It is easy to have the idea that by setting up craftsmen you will have a satisfactory market for craft development. However, you have to consider the total marketing operation. Some overseas experience which obtained much publicity turned out to be not particularly successful, and we had learned a lesson from that. From the trip done by Dr. Hackett and Mrs. LeMercier, Mrs. LeMercier was able to demonstrate to Dr. Hackett as Chairman of the authority a series of craft areas which, without her expertise, South Australia would not have been able to get at all. A voluminous report has been produced that will be of great significance in charting the future course of craft activity in South

Australia. I shall be tabling the report of the Craft Authority plus this other report shortly and, when the honourable member has the chance to read the 80-page report, he will be able to see that we have got valuable information from that expenditure.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** As \$40 000 is proposed to be allocated for the International Conference on Industrial Democracy, can the Premier say whence delegates will come, whether all expenses will be paid by the Government and to what extent the Government will fete them while they are here?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** We expect speakers to come to the conference from Great Britain, West Germany, Austria, Sweden, and Yugoslavia. We will be paying the expenses of those speakers, but we are not providing expenses for any other delegates coming to the conference. People are coming from these areas with significant experience in experiment.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** The Harvard studies have a world reputation. You have no-one coming from Harvard: what an insult.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** We could have asked people from the Tavistock Institute in Great Britain, who have greater experience than have those from Harvard.

**Mr. Tonkin:** You can understand why we think you have a biased outlook.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I do not have a biased outlook, because the discussion on whom to invite took place in the tripartite committee, and recommendations were made to me. I have taken the advice of the committee and of my officers. I believe that we will get a very good coverage of actual experience and not merely the activities of theorists concerning industrial democracy. That is all important.

**Mr. BLACKER:** As there has been no previous expenditure for the Redcliff petro-chemical project working committee, and \$12 000 is allocated for this year, can the Minister say what work this committee has to do and what is its purpose?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** The committee is under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bakewell, is responsible to me, and comprises officers of the Mines and Energy, Premier's and Environment Departments. It has been involved in much work with respect to negotiations involving the Commonwealth Government and Dow Chemical and, in undertaking these activities, some expenses are involved. Provision has been made for extra travelling and additional publications.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** I have a series of questions in relation to the Redcliff petro-chemical plant. First, how much money is currently being requested from the Commonwealth Government for infrastructure and on what basis is the Government being asked to contribute this money? Further, what infrastructure would that money cover? Does it cover the construction of housing, roads, pipelines, and so on? Secondly, when does the Minister expect a definite answer about whether or not the petro-chemical plant will proceed?

I understand from the Select Committee that a definite answer had to be given by late 1977. I think that in certain circumstances that can be extended to very early 1978. I understand that the deadline is upon us and that the State Government would need to get a definite answer from Dow Chemical as soon as possible if it is to be a viable proposition. Thirdly, can the Minister indicate what is planned (and there must be some sort of planning because definite proposals have been made to the Commonwealth; I understand that the matter will be brought up at the Loan Council meeting, I think in a week's time), or give a

definite answer about the size of any plant and say what will be the function of that plant?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** Regarding negotiations that are proceeding at present either with the Commonwealth Government or Dow, I do not intend to reveal the details of those negotiations for the very simple reason that press speculation in these circumstances does not necessarily assist in the negotiations that have to be carried out. The only thing I can say is that there has been very significant co-operation, both with Dow, the Commonwealth Government, and the officers who are involved at Government level, both State and Federal, who have been working hard in relation to this matter.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** Surely we have a right to know what you are trying to commit this State to.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** Members have a right to know to what the State is being committed or might be committed when we are in a position to make any sort of announcement. We are not in a position to make an announcement at this time. If the honourable member wishes to have his rights exercised, he may cause the negotiations to be prejudiced. It is not a situation where the State on its own can determine whether this project goes ahead and I am not prepared, acting on behalf of the South Australian Government, to make things public which may prejudice the situation so far as either Dow or the Commonwealth Government are concerned.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** Can't you tell us a few basic details about what is the deadline and, secondly, what is the—

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** If the honourable member cares to wait for a moment I will say to him what I am prepared to tell him.

**Mr. Venning:** It's not a matter of waiting—

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** It would not matter if the honourable member for Rocky River waited until Kingdom come, he still would not understand. The position about the current production scheduling of gas to Cooper Basin is that the producers will start to tap the wet wells in order to supply dry gas to Sydney and Adelaide in the period 1982-83. For a petro-chemical project, the construction time is about three years, and the total time, with some preliminary work, is about four years. Then one would need to make a decision with regard to the petro-chemical project certainly no later than the end of 1978, in order to avoid the possibility that wet wells are used in order to supply dry gas to Sydney and Adelaide. Some degree of flexibility could possibly occur in this situation if additional exploration discovered dry gas wells which could be exploited before 1982-83 and which were relatively convenient to the existing plant.

If that were possible, it may be the case that that critical date of 1982-83 could be pushed off a little. It certainly is true that the amount of time available for the making of a decision on the petro-chemical complex, if we are to avoid the possible flaring off of liquids in the Cooper Basin, is not very great. I have little doubt, from discussions I have had with Commonwealth officers, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), that they are aware of the urgency of this matter.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** What infrastructure will you develop, without going into details of the cost?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** The infrastructure involved in the project is related to a power station, a liquids line, certainly to a gas lateral, and possibly to looping of the main gas line, with the provision of additional housing, a water supply to the Redcliff site, and road, rail and wharf facilities. It covers a large area and involves very full investigation.

We have said (and I will not go into detail about this) what we think we are capable of doing. Dow has made clear the kind of position it is in and it is important now that the Commonwealth understands these points of view and accepts or rejects their validity, and then makes its own decisions on the matter.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** Do you think that the plant will go ahead?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I am not prepared to make a statement about that one way or the other.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** You hope it does?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** One can be hopeful, but I am not prepared to make any statement about my expectations. I much prefer a situation where, if it does go ahead, well and good—that is a plus for us. I think it would be unwise to say anything at this stage because Dow still has decisions to make.

**Mr. Gunn:** Announcements have been made.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I have not made any announcement.

**Mr. Gunn:** The Government has.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** The Government's previous announcements related to letters of intent issued by Dow and I.C.I. We are not at the stage where Dow on this occasion would be able to give a letter of intent.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** That was just a political gimmick.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** It was nothing of the kind. The member for Davenport is not really interested in this project; he merely wants to gain political capital and to make these wild political statements. I reject the kind of conclusions he is arriving at completely and absolutely. I do not think that anything the member for Davenport has done in this matter can be said to have been done in the interests of this State.

**Mr. EVANS:** I refer to the Jam Factory, about which there are some matters I wish to raise with the Premier. First, it has so far cost the State more than \$1 000 000. The year before last our operating deficit was \$222 000; last year it ran to \$391 000, which is more than a 75 per cent increase in one year. If that trend continues it is probable that it will be in excess of \$500 000 at the end of this year. Last year we voted \$470 000 for the factory; the actual payments were \$570 000, \$100 000 more than we voted. We are proposing \$585 000 this year, and we can expect that, if we are as far out in our estimates as last year, that the figure will be more than \$600 000. That worries me if we are not going to reap the benefit in the long term.

Secondly, I turn to oversea trips, to which the Deputy Leader referred. For two people to go overseas for nine weeks at a cost of more than \$10 000 each is ridiculous. One of the persons concerned was paid \$14 300 on top of the \$10 000 as a consultant's fee. I take it that that was for some consulting work being done while on the oversea trip. I take it that both were being paid some fee, as Chairman and deputy. How much a year were they being paid in those positions, because while overseas they would have been receiving some increment, however small? With my privilege of having had an oversea trip last year, and taking my deputy with me, I found that I was much under the \$10 000 sum for a 13-week trip. I think that the whole trip for two people was about \$6 000, for 13 weeks, whereas this was a nine-week trip. That \$6 000 was not all State money; I have included the lot—what the State paid for my air fares and my own expenses and those of my deputy. I think we need to start looking at how we are spending this money on oversea trips. I do not object to them, because they can be beneficial, but what accommodation are people using, and what expense accounts are being run up whilst people are overseas?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** Although I do not remember the actual board fees of the Chairman and deputy, they were not enormous. The consultancy fee was paid to Mrs. LeMercier because that was a compensation to her for her loss in her considerable business during that period.

**Mr. Evans:** In nine weeks?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** Yes, she was paid on an assessment of what the cost would be to her for having to put someone else into her business and for the loss she would occasion for her being there. That was carefully examined beforehand. Apparently the honourable member is unaware of how valuable that business is. The matter was examined, and was authorised. I personally expressed some disquiet at the total cost of the trip, because I believed that it was high, and I asked that this be fully investigated and accounted for. It was accounted for, but I think at a level which was more than would be the normal basis on which we would afford for this to be done. I accordingly issued instructions to prevent such a bill recurring.

Regarding the Jam Factory, it was apparent that, under the previous management, the financial control was not satisfactory; that does not mean to say that the Government had not tried to establish a satisfactory control there, because it had tried. We put accountants in there, and an accountant on the board, to look carefully at the on-going practice in the factory. Two things were at fault, the first being that the basis of funding had not been satisfactorily worked out. The factory has a mixed function. Its three functions, basically, are to provide workshops for master craftsmen who will establish a standard to which crafts can attain in South Australia, and the work in this area has already been significant. The real improvement in the standard of craft product generally in South Australia from the existence of those master craftsmen has been marked, and we have to pay for that.

When Mr. Noel Baker examined our first proposals for the establishment of craft work in South Australia, he said that it was vital for us to subsidise the existence in South Australia of craftsmen of world standard who would establish a standard, which he pointed out did not exist here at that time. Therefore, until we had established such a standard, it was useless trying to train people when we did not have people here to set the standards that could be attained. We had to pay in that area, and for their training function. Then we have to fund what is the commercial operation of selling the product of the trainees and, in some cases, of the master craftsmen. Those three different functions have not been satisfactorily sorted out by the board. I was dissatisfied with the reports that were given to me by the board as to the excesses it sought from the Government above the budgeted expense. As a result, I had a personal investigation at the Jam Factory, after reports to me by my officers, and a change in management of the factory occurred.

It was a significant change, and I insisted on putting in not only efficient accounting systems to sort out the three separate functions but, in addition, we established a management expertise at the factory that has produced a complete change. Anyone working in the factory will say that it is working markedly better than it has ever done. Control is very much better, and we do not have any of the difficulties about accounts that we were having previously. It was clear that the previous manager was incapable of the total managerial function in the place, and the board, in consequence, dismissed him.

As a result, I believe that the budget is now realistic. I also believe that the present functioning of the Jam Factory Workshops Incorporated is efficient, and that the

accounts are properly being set out and worked. The continuance of the factory, I think, will be important to craft in South Australia and to the whole of Australia, and I think that that is acknowledged throughout the craft industry in Australia. There is no other example of master craftsmen working in this workshop situation elsewhere in Australia, and I believe that this is an essential feature of the total development of craft activity in this State.

There are two other proposals for development in the craft area which will be separate from the Jam Factory and which occur from the report made by Dr. Hackett and Mrs. LeMercier. While I have been somewhat critical of the costs of that particular exercise, nevertheless it was very valuable. I think that we are getting value for money, and I am sure that the honourable member will see that when I table the report.

**Mr. EVANS:** Can the Premier say whether the cost of the report is included in the \$34 000, or whether its production will cost extra? Is the printing cost included?

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** The printing is not included; that's a separate cost.

**Mr. EVANS:** I am sure the Premier would agree that the improvement in craft skills and their quality in this State is not solely related to the factory. There has been a greater participation by the community, and that is why we have had considerable improvement in the quality of craft within this State.

**Mr. RODDA:** The sum of \$15 000 has been voted for regional economic studies of the South-East. Has the Premier any information on these studies? I point out that in places such as Penola several businesses and a timber factory have been closed, thus causing concern about the economy of the district. Likewise, the Millicent District Council has furnished the Premier's Department with a document about its concern for regionalisation. Arising from the investigation, what does the Government intend to do in the green triangle?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** It is a study of the potential and resources of the area that is being undertaken by Mr. Van Der Lee and officers from the Monarto Development Commission. I was able to introduce these officers to members and officers of councils in the South-East. The officers answered council questions about the way in which the study would proceed and the co-operation that would be sought from councils. I believe that councils in the area are fully apprised of what information will be sought and the studies that will be on-going in this way.

At the time I made the announcement in South Australia, the Victorian Minister also made an announcement that studies were to occur on the Victorian side of the border and that there would be co-operation between the study groups. It is necessary to integrate the study in the whole region rather than have it simply on our side of the border. It will be an extremely useful study and follows the preliminary resource study that was made and published some time ago.

**Mr. BLACKER:** What is involved in the provision for "Small Business Advisory Unit—Reimbursement to Consultants"? Tomorrow, officers of the Small Business Advisory Unit will consult and address a meeting at Port Lincoln.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** It relates not only to the reimbursement to consultants for past services. It covers this year as well. Many consultancies that occurred regarding small business in South Australia have proved useful. I had a report at Parliament House today of the sort of thing that has been done in this area, but I do not have it with me now. I will see that the honourable member gets it.



**Mr. BECKER:** Regarding the sums of \$1 641 000 for the South Australian Film Corporation and of \$670 000 for the production of films by that corporation, I ask whether those sums will assist the corporation to become solvent. Technically, if one considers the corporation's balance sheet contained in the Auditor-General's Report it shows a net deficit of \$288 000 over assets, and interest from Consolidated Revenue on loans last financial year of \$2 500 000 amounted to \$157 656. If that was charged to the corporation, the corporation would have a deficit of \$446 000. I am not criticising the operations of the corporation; its staff has done a wonderful job and many credits have been obtained for some of the corporation's productions. Perhaps it would be wise to make the corporation's books solvent.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I am as concerned about that as is the honourable member. I have already forecast that it will be 10 years before that happens. Within that period I expect some changes in the basis of funding the corporation. It would not be possible for us simply to expect the corporation to carry some of the services that it provides for the Government. In the sum of \$1 641 000 to which the honourable member referred are services of the corporation's film library. It is a free library and would not be a paying operation. It is a service to the public.

Regarding the financial operation of the corporation in its commercial area, I would expect that within 10 years it would be self-funding and that we would then be paying for Government films and for services that the corporation provides to the Government. I have had on-going discussions with the corporation about the ways in which we fund it during the interim until the returns from its investments become long-term continuing returns from royalties from its major successes.

Regarding films for the Government, we established a line at what we considered to be a realistic figure for the annual film requirements of the Government from the corporation. The annual increase in that line is about the same as the general increase for Government departments each year. The corporation knows that it has a budget on which to operate and that it can make staff dispositions and contracts accordingly, with Government departments then bidding their share of the sum provided for Government films. If we do not do that, something is put on the line for each Government department and when the Treasury squeeze is put on the first thing that is lost is the film, and that plays havoc with the corporation's forward employment arrangements.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** Since the Federal Government handed over powers to the States to collect pay-roll tax, the State Government has steadfastly refused to consider decentralised industry pay-roll tax rebates legislation similar to that operating in Victoria. Such a decision has placed many decentralised industries in this State at a distinct disadvantage compared with similar industries in other States. The pay-roll tax rebates that are provided to the Riverland are provided on a selective basis to certain industries. The rebates do not provide for associated industries such as the containers or united packages groups which, in Victoria, qualify for pay-roll tax rebates. Ultimately, this is a direct cost against the grower. It is a tax that has been collected by the Government that would otherwise be paid to the grower in fruit payments. Wineries in South Australia do not qualify under the regulations that have been approved for various industries in this State.

How can the Government justify not extending the rebate to all decentralised industries in the light of the advantage received by similar industries in other States? I am not only talking about major centres where we have

the problem but also about small communities in South Australia where there may be a comparatively small industry on which the town depends totally. If pay-roll tax rebate legislation was on the Statute Book in this State it would enable such an industry, if it were to get into difficulty, to apply to the Government for concessions. It would still be up to the Government whether the concession would be granted, but the legislation would enable the application to be made.

That could be a critical factor in determining whether or not the only real source of employment in a community survived. Since South Australia is one of the most urbanised States in Australia and there is a continual drift of country people to the metropolitan area, I ask the Premier how the Government continues to justify not introducing pay-roll tax rebate legislation.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** There are two different things here. The honourable member has said that, in the case of an industry which was perhaps the sole industry in a country town, it might close down for lack of a pay-roll tax rebate. If any such situation occurred, the Government would examine the matter. The Government did find quite real disabilities in the fruit canning and packing industries in the honourable member's district, and made special provision for that. That is not confined to that area. We would examine any area quite pragmatically if there were real difficulties. The honourable member suggests that, because Victoria has seen fit to give a pay-roll tax rebate across the board in various decentralised areas, it is appropriate for South Australia to do so. Quite frankly, we do not believe that that pay-roll tax rebate in all the circumstances in Victoria was justified. Numbers of companies in those areas were making a perfectly good return, and there was no justification for taking the money out of Treasury and giving them a hand-out when there was pressure upon the Treasury to maintain money for services.

This year we are running down the reserves of this State to nil. That is a run-down of State finances of \$18 400 000 this year. We are doing that to maintain the services of the State. The honourable member asks what justification we have for maintaining present taxes. The general level of taxes in South Australia, taking the overall situation, is not worse than that in other States; in fact, it is better. We have no justification for giving hand-outs to industries which do not need them to remain viable.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** That's what you said about Mannum last year.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The honourable member suggests that industries in his district are closing because of competition from Victoria. I wish he would tell me what they are, because, although I have had a submission in relation to packaging, I have yet to be shown that that industry cannot maintain itself.

**Mr. Arnold:** I didn't say that at all.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** That, then, is the justification for the present situation. The industries are able to make a return without the concession given in Victoria which, in many cases in Victoria, I believe was completely unjustified. I do not believe that in many cases the reduction in pay-roll tax was necessary for those industries to remain not only viable but properly profitable.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** Then why did they do it?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** An industry can remain viable, but with difficulty.

**Mr. Tonkin:** And not make a profit at all.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I did not say that. I suggest



the Leader should pay a little attention to what is said.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** At no time have I said that industries that do not require pay-roll tax rebates should receive them. I have said in the past that, if pay-roll tax rebate legislation were introduced under which industries could apply, the Government could decide whether or not the industry needed assistance to remain viable. I am not saying that any industry that is viable and can afford to pay the tax should not pay it. That is not the situation.

Industries in the Riverland might be surviving, but the grower gets only what is left. In the canning fruit industry, growers were getting well below the cost of production or the F.I.S.C.C. price, and the Government acted in relation to the Riverland Development Fund. Companies associated with the Riverland, such as Containers and United Packagers, pass their costs to the cannery, and ultimately they are a cost against the grower. Three companies have a direct effect on the return received by the grower. The companies are remaining operative, but the grower gets only what is left, which is well below the recognised cost of production. At no time have I suggested that companies that are fully viable should not be paying pay-roll tax. By the same token, if the grower is not getting the recognised return, obviously the company is not returning what it should to those whom it is there to service. That is why I included the wineries.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Last year \$6 500 was spent for the establishment of a Government clothing factory, and the proposed allocation this year is \$27 000. What type of factory is it proposed to build? Is it intended to take over the premises of a defunct factory? Is it the factory that the Government intimated would be established in Whyalla? For the sum of \$33 500, it would seem that we are not getting very much. How far does the Government intend to take the clothing factory? What type of factory is it? Is it an existing factory that the Government is taking over?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I do not anticipate that we are taking over an existing clothing establishment. The figure involved is not the cost of the factory. The factory will be set up under a corporation authorised by legislation to be introduced into this House. It will have power to borrow semi-governmentally and it will be able to take some of its establishment costs, quite properly, from borrowings. The \$27 000 is in relation to direct costs to the Government of some consultancies involved in the initial establishment of the factory and some initial payments which will be made to the manager.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** The Premier has put forward a philosophy this afternoon that, if eventually a company can prove that its viability is dependent upon having a pay-roll tax rebate, the Government will look at it. We have had some classic examples that, once a company gets to that stage, it is too late. Last year, a resident in Mannum wrote to the Premier's Department asking for a rebate for industries at Mannum. The request was turned down. It was claimed by the Economic Development Department that Mannum was not classified as a growth centre and was not eligible for the pay-roll tax rebate. I am not saying that the virtual closing down of the Horwood Bagshaw organisation last week was a direct result of that. One can only suppose what the effect might have been if the cost of the machinery had been lower. Obviously, it had to be fixed at that price to cover costs. The Premier completely ignores that.

What other industries may have come to the area or what other tourist attractions might have been achieved in the area if the pay-roll tax rebate had been offered at Mannum? I have criticised this policy of the Government previously. It is a policy of no assistance to industry until the company is on its knees. If we look at the history of

this State, that is the wrong time to start applying some sort of economic incentive.

Let us consider what happened in respect to Golden Breed, Wilkins Servis, Ceramic Tile Manufacturers, and Petbow. The reason for the present stagnation of industrial development in this State is that the whole Government philosophy is wrong. It states that no company should make a profit and, if it does, the Government is not taxing it enough. I plead with the Premier to give to decentralised industry the same financial incentives that are given in New South Wales and Victoria. One result of the Government's policy is that South Australia is the most centralised State in Australia: from 1971 to 1976 the percentage of people living in Adelaide increased by 2.5 per cent. It is time that the Government changed its policy. Can the Premier say whether the \$250 000 allocated to the Small Business Advisory Unit is related to work done for small businesses, or is it the cost of setting up the unit? Secondly, no indication is given of what work is to be done for the \$120 000 allocated as payment to consultants for services.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The honourable member goes into a diatribe when the mood takes him, regardless of facts. He said that, in every instance he gave, the Government had given no assistance to the industry concerned until it was on its knees and it was too late. In every one of the cases he cited, signal assistance was given to the industry long before it was in the difficulties that led to either receivership or closing. In relation to Mannum, Government assistance to David Shearers and then to Horwood Bagshaw exceeded \$2 000 000. To suggest that we did not do anything until the lack of a pay-roll tax incentive brought that firm to its knees is to talk the most arrant nonsense, and it would be completely laughable to the operatives of that company.

Golden Breed took over from O'Neill Wet Suits when that company went into receivership, and the Government gave signal assistance to that company from the early days of John Arnold's operations. The same applies to Petbow and Wilkins Servis, for which we built a factory. Government assistance brought Ceramic Tile Manufacturers to South Australia. The reply to his question is that the \$250 000 is for reimbursement to consultancies and is not the cost of the unit. In relation to the other consultancies, they were fees and incidental expenses for the final year of a two-year period of the Monarto Development Commission's study into the preservation of the Adelaide Hills.

**Mr. WOTTON:** An amount of \$350 000 has been allocated for pay-roll tax rebates for the Riverland and \$451 000 for decentralisation incentive payments. I understand that pay-roll tax rebates have been given to co-operatives in the Riverland area, and ask the Premier whether the same consideration could be extended to the Mypolonga Co-operative, which works on a similar basis to those in the upper regions of the Murray River?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I will consider this matter.

**Mr. GUNN:** What criteria were used to ascertain how the Queen's Silver Jubilee medals, for which \$4 000 has been allocated, were distributed? Secondly, did the Government have to purchase the kangaroos that were sent to Malaysia, for which \$605 was actually spent in 1976-77? As these animals are in plague proportions in my district, many of my constituents would be willing to catch them and give them to the Premier.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** A certain number of medals was allotted to groups in the community, and I believe the basis of distribution to members of the House was on service in the House, and certain positions were

recommended. The list was prepared by officers in my department and, as I do not have the details of the criteria, I will obtain them for the honourable member. As the kangaroos were in the possession of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, we did not have to pay for them.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I want it clearly understood by the Government and the community that the Opposition totally supports any proposals to establish a petro-chemical plant at Redcliff. We badly need that development: we need anything, considering the stagnation to which we have descended in our industrial development. We have criticised, and will continue to do so, statements made by the Government that agreement is about to be reached and that the plant will start any minute, next year, or at some time in the future, when in fact there has been no basis for such statements.

Those statements have been made very close to election time, and they could be interpreted as electioneering. The Minister for Mines and Energy knows perfectly well that it is the parent company of Dow that will make the ultimate decision. It will have to have a very persuasive argument put to it, as there is a downturn in the world requirement for petro-chemical products. There are three or four possible sites for such a petro-chemical plant. Obviously, the Premier's deliberations later this week at the Premier's conference will make a difference, and it is a question whether we can borrow money for the infrastructure necessary (and I hope that we can).

The Premier is well aware, as is the Minister, that I wrote to the Federal Treasurer and to the Prime Minister some time ago asking that favourable consideration be given to the provision of funds for the supply of infrastructure for that project. I want to get away from this idea that the Opposition is opposed to it. What the Opposition realises is that it is an extremely difficult project to obtain, and we will have to put up a good proposition for Dow Australia to put up through its regional office to the parent company in America. I hope that it is successful, but I certainly do not think we should have premature statements and releases intimating that it is about to happen any minute.

I turn to the subject of pay-roll tax and profit. The Premier today has shown a degree of ambivalence about this matter. I think he said that a company could be viable, but denied that it could be viable without making a profit. That is exactly what the situation should be.

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** I did not say that.

**Mr. TONKIN:** The Premier did. "Profit" is not a dirty word. Profit is something that must be made by any viable industry, whether it is a co-operative, private company or corporation. To say that pay-roll tax incentives should not be given, particularly in respect of decentralised industries, because some of them might be making too much profit and therefore might be too viable, is ridiculous.

The Opposition stands solidly behind the concept of free enterprise. I suspect that the Premier, basically, supports free enterprise, but he is caught up in the dogma of his Party, the dogma that says no-one should make a profit. His arguments this afternoon have been totally and absolutely a negation of all that he has otherwise said. Pay-roll tax incentives are essential if we are to have industrial development in this State and if this State is to develop again. As it is, we have come to a standstill.

The Premier, during his election campaign, quoted a number of companies (I think 92 was the figure) which had been helped to become established during the previous 18 months. He did not say what the number of companies and businesses was that have closed their doors in that time; it was far greater. The sooner the Premier and the

Government realise that the private sector of this community of ours has to be stimulated the sooner we will have jobs created and the sooner we can relieve the burden of unemployment in this State.

Line passed.

Auditor-General's, \$1 402 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I do not think there is much left to be said about the Auditor-General's Department. The value of the Auditor-General's Report has been dealt with by various members in this House over the past few days. I developed most of that theme in the debate on the motion that the House should go into Committee. The Auditor-General must be one of the most frustrated men in South Australia, if not in Australia. He continually makes comments which he is by law required to make about inadequate accounting and budgetary control and the wasteful expenditure of this Government through its various departments and time after time he finds that he has to repeat his comments year after year.

I have suggested that the Auditor-General's Report in summary form, with the more significant items set out, should be made freely available to the public. It is one way of keeping the Government honest. More particularly, there should be a progress report each year setting out exactly what has happened in respect of each year's comments. It is a very valuable document as it stands. All members, if they are doing their work properly (and I do not see many copies of the Auditor-General's Report on the other side of the House), have a copy of the Auditor-General's Report open in front of them now, because the Auditor-General has access to the public accounts, which we do not have.

If that summary was put forward outlining the various deficiencies, and more particularly, explaining what has or has not happened during the preceding 12 months (or a longer period, as is frequently the case), I think the Government might be persuaded to take the action which it is constantly saying it is going to take but which never comes to fruition—that is, the installation of proper audit procedures and budgetary control and the adoption of a cost benefit accounting system.

The Public Accounts Committee's findings, whenever they come out, could well be circularised in simplified form for the enlightenment of members of the public. I have also made the suggestion that perhaps the Auditor-General should be able to require (and have power to do this) that Government departments install adequate forms of accounting. Whether that can be achieved or not I do not know. I would be interested to hear what the Chief Secretary has to say about this matter. I am certain he cannot be happy about it, and I am sure the Premier (and I suppose that may be one reason he has abruptly left the Chamber) cannot be terribly happy about it. In fact, the whole situation regarding the Auditor-General and his powers is a disgrace.

No Government can go on for as long as this Government has done with those sorts of critical remark being made by a senior member of our community and taking no action at all. It seems to me that this Government is treating the Auditor-General with arrogance and cynicism in exactly the same way as it is treating the public with arrogance and cynicism. What members of the Government have to recognise is that the Auditor-General is responsible to Parliament, and Parliament is responsible to the people. It is the Government that must be kept responsible to the people through Parliament. Somewhere there has to be an answer to this. One answer would be to have a responsive and sensible Government, fully alive to its heavy responsibility to the people, but we have not got that, so now, perhaps,

we should be finding out some way in which the Auditor-General's powers can be strengthened so that he can keep the Government honest.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I am still trying to find out what has happened to Mr. Epps. I asked the Premier a question today and he did not know anything about it.

**Mr. Tonkin:** The Chief Secretary might.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Being persistent by nature I wonder whether the new Chief Secretary, who is in charge of the Auditor-General's Department, might be able to find out for me. Mr. Epps is the man who wrote the report into the large-scale thefts of foodstuffs from Northfield Hospital, a report about which the Premier has shown a certain amount of confusion. In fact, he said in one radio interview that he had not seen the report, and by the end of the same interview he said he had seen it.

He said later that there were two Epps reports, but it later eventuated that there was one report and a precis of it that the Premier had seen. Last week, Mr. Epps was transferred from the Hospitals section of the Auditor-General's Department to the Treasury section, but it is not a promotion, as I understand it.

**Mr. Evans:** It could be, sideways.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** One could be excused for concluding that he has been conveniently moved sideways because his initial report to the Government has been a source of embarrassment to it. I want to ensure that the new Chief Secretary can tell me what has happened to Mr. Epps.

**Mr. BECKER:** Can the Chief Secretary say how many copies of the Auditor-General's Report are printed each year, particularly how many copies of the current report have been printed, and what is the cost of producing the report? Since being a member, I consider that one of the most interesting documents I receive is the report, which I always use considerably in my work in this place. Although not agreeing completely that the Auditor-General is frustrated in his efforts, I think that he could be in some respects. I am disappointed he does not go far enough in some of his reports. It seems to me that he makes a cursory statement about a certain matter, without seeming to go completely through the whole issue. He has referred to a sum that disappeared from a safe of the West Beach trust, and said that the insurance company would not cover the sum. However, he did not go any further, thus leaving the matter up in the air. I am disappointed that he did not explain exactly what happened in that case, so as to clear the trust's employees. Exactly what happens to his reports, when he makes bold statements relating to accounting systems, and then perhaps reports something is being done about the matter? How widely are his reports circulated, and what is done regarding his comments?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS (Chief Secretary):** Not knowing how many copies of the report are produced, I shall be pleased to ascertain that for the honourable member, together with its distribution. The report is tabled here, thus leaving it open to members to follow up any matters contained in the report, and the member for Hanson has been active in that regard during his seven years in Parliament. On some issues, the Public Accounts Committee takes note of the Auditor-General's comments, and in almost every case it has initiated its inquiries as a result of those comments. As a member of that committee the honourable member has an avenue for following up a matter, if he so wishes. Departmental heads would be responsible for dealing with the Auditor-General's comments and taking appropriate steps.

Line passed.

Police, \$54 266 000.

**Mr. EVANS:** Regarding the sum of \$125 000 voted for

the purchase of an aircraft, does that item relate to a helicopter to be shared by the Police Department and the St. John Ambulance Service, or another aircraft the department is contemplating buying? If it relates to a helicopter, has an order already been placed with the Bell Company in Queensland, or is the department still calling tenders for the supply of the aircraft?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I do not believe that it is for a helicopter, but I will check. The information I have is that the provision is for an additional aircraft to extend the services which can now be given in the North of the State and which include the South-East on a regular basis. The use of an aircraft has shown substantial operational advantages in efficiency and manpower saving. I believe that two aircraft are currently in use in the Police Department, one of which is stationed at Woomera and which regularly makes inspections in the North of the State.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Regarding the net cost of fleet replacements, purchase of office machines and equipment, and purchase of technical and other equipment, how many additional motor cycles are to be purchased this year and will they be radio equipped? I was more than surprised when attending a conference of the Motor Cycle Union some time ago to hear some police officers say that only six of their motor cycles were so equipped. This is a mobile force. When called to attend trouble areas promptly, officers usually act alone, and I believe that it is imperative that the officers should be able to communicate by radio with their colleagues or with their headquarters. All new bikes purchased should have radios, and those now operating should also be radio equipped.

Again, I express my disappointment at the colour of the new silver police uniform with the yellow stripe down the sleeve. It is difficult to see the uniform in the early morning, in the evening, or on dull days. One would have thought that a brighter colour, such as orange or yellow, would be used. I suggest that the uniform be reviewed. The clothing for the motor cyclists is satisfactory for their protection, but it does not protect them from the safety point of view.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I cannot say the extent to which police motor cycles are fitted with radios.

**Mr. Evans:** There are only six of them.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I do not know what plans there are to increase the number of bikes in that category. Provision has been made to replace 40 solo motor cycles, and 20 small capacity motor cycles. The total sum to be spent on radio communications is about \$367 000. I should imagine that the Police Department is fully aware of the need to maintain its motor cycle force and to provide the force as a whole with adequate radio communication.

Regarding the uniform, I suppose that the member for Glenelg would naturally wish to see motor cycle police at a distance. Whether the uniform prevents his doing so, I do not know.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** What staff turnover is there in the Police Force? The sums provided for the Police Force indicate that staff turnover is fairly static and that the increased allocation could be accounted for by inflation. It does not seem that the force is undertaking a recruiting drive in South Australia. I was talking to a young fellow this morning who was a former member of the force and who, after eight or 10 years, resigned. He said that, in his view, several people were resigning from the force for a variety of reasons.

**The Hon. Peter Duncan:** Are you sure that that is not a breach of confidence?

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** The Attorney has missed his calling; he should be a detective. He is jumping to

unwarranted conclusions and is speaking from ignorance, as he has been known to do previously. Is the department engaged in any sort of recruiting campaign to increase the size of the force? We know that the force is working under increased difficulties that have been compounded by legislation passed by this Government.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I am informed that the figure relating to "Sergeants, Constables and Probationary Constables", which is the line most pertinent to the points raised by the Deputy Leader, provides, apart from increased costs relating to salary determinations that will flow on into the current year, for the appointment on graduation of 109 cadets who are now on course, and for the appointment of 57 probationary constables to replace known retirements during the year. Provision is also made for the appointment of 41 additional sergeants to augment the non-commissioned officer strength throughout the force. Further provision is made to meet the carry-over effect of the above salary determinations and the payment of automatic increments during 1977-78.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** What about resignations?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I do not know about that, but I can ascertain that information. It seems that the intention is to maintain the force with the 57 probationary constables and the 109 cadets, which would indicate a low turnover.

**Mr. EVANS:** How many cadets are expected this year to join the force, and what are the long-term plans for the strength of the force in 1985? Is it intended to increase the ratio of female to male officers in the force? I am sure that the female officers in the force are satisfied that they can do the same work as male officers in that field.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I will try to get that information for the honourable member.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Regarding motor cycle police, the Chief Secretary did not really reply to my question. I hope that he can get me figures relating to how many police motor cyclists there are in the section and how many cycles are fitted with radio. My information suggests that only six bikes are fitted with radio. If that is so, the situation must be changed. It is imperative that motor cycle officers are in radio communication, because they attend trouble areas.

I must take the Minister up on the point regarding being able to see police officers who wear the new silver uniform. One could see them more easily if they wore a more brightly coloured uniform. I raised the matter of the colour of the uniform because it creates danger if it is a dull, or rainy day, or if they are on the road just before dawn or just after dusk, when it is virtually impossible to see the officers. It is impossible for any other road user to see them and, as a result, the officers are vulnerable. Any motor cyclist is vulnerable, and especially so if he must weave in and out of the traffic in the course of his duty. The Minister should consider the colour of the uniform because of the safety aspect, and for no other reason.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I did not intend to refuse to give the honourable member the information for which he has asked. I shall get information about the number of motor cycles fitted with radios, and I shall refer his comments about the uniform to the Police Force.

**Mr. BECKER:** The actual payments covering additions to the motor vehicle fleet last year totalled \$155 833, and \$247 050 is proposed for this year. The net cost of fleet replacements was \$664 428 last year, and \$591 750 is to be allocated this year. I do not query the amount, because I recognise that the fleet must be kept up to date. The Auditor-General's Report states that in 1976 the Police Department had 391 motor vehicles and in 1977 it had 503; in 1976, it had 199 motor cycles, and in 1977 it had 171. The Auditor-General commented at page 236 of his report

that motor vehicle running costs were down by \$31 000 for the financial year and mentioned that more work was being done on foot by motorised patrols.

What is the proposed increase in the number of motor vehicles during the financial year? Is the department still pursuing a policy of purchasing unmarked vehicles? Until a few years ago, the department had few unmarked vehicles, but I believe it has acquired such vehicles for use as road patrols. Every effort on the part of the department to curb the road toll should be supported by this Parliament. The Police Department should be given more financial assistance and more encouragement to step up a road safety campaign. I do not believe this Government has given the department the support it needs. If unmarked vehicles are used successfully in other States, the same practice should be followed here.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I am informed that 16 additional patrol vehicles will be taken for the various regions; 12 additional patrol vehicles are required for country areas to replace privately owned vehicles at present in use; 13 additional plain sedans are required for issue to task force and a certain number of other areas; three station sedans are required by the dog squad at Whyalla; two range rovers are required to permit the extension of the coverage of the Eyre Highway, which is important from the safety angle, and for cross-country use from Ceduna; one command van is to be used as a command unit for supervisory staff at times of natural disaster, and so on; and six additional secondhand vehicles are required to augment existing vehicles for special crime squad use for surveillance purposes. That is the programme of additions to the fleet.

**Dr. EASTICK:** I was approached by a constituent on Saturday who indicated that her 17-year-old son, who will matriculate shortly, had been told that he had missed an opportunity to become a police cadet because he was 17 years of age and that the only further opportunity that he would have of entering the Police Force would be when he reached the age of 20 years. With the large number of matriculation students who may be interested in a career in the Police Department, some question should be asked whether the arbitrary age of 16 years (if that is what it is) is the right age and whether provision should not be made within the cadet system for people of matriculation standard.

With the sophistication of equipment and the area of technical skill now necessary in the Police Force, a student with the right matriculation qualifications surely would be a better proposition than someone who, although robust, was limited in the opportunities he could provide to the force over an extended period. If he is not able to do so at present, will the Chief Secretary, at the earliest opportunity, supply a run-down of the requirements relating to candidates for entry into the Police Force, paying particular regard to my comments and querying whether 16 years of age is a totally satisfactory age? If a person misses out at that age, why should he then have to wait until he is 20 years of age to receive consideration?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I have said that 109 cadets will graduate this year, and provision is made for the appointment of an additional 109 to replace them, maintaining a static number in the cadet course. I shall get further information about qualifications. On the only occasion on which I have been able to speak to the Deputy Commissioner since I took over, I raised the question of the maturity of cadets, and I was informed that a greater proportion of mature people is being taken into the Police Force than was the case previously. I shall get the information the honourable member has asked for.

**Mr. BECKER:** I refer to the amount of \$1 710 000 to be allocated as the Government contribution to the Police Pensions Act. At page 412 of his report, the Auditor-General states that investigations as to the sufficiency of the fund are carried out by the Public Actuary at intervals of three years. The investigation as at July 1, 1974, had almost been finalised and should be completed early in 1977-78. Why has it taken so long to investigate the fund? Is the fund now in a satisfactory position? A few years ago its condition was not healthy and concern was expressed as to whether it was self-supporting. According to this year's balance sheet, contributions by members totalled \$1 386 000, while the contribution from Consolidated Revenue was \$1 333 000. Is the Government contribution on a \$1 for \$1 basis? From the amount of refunds of contributions, it seems that many senior members are retiring early. Is that a significant feature of the fund?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** The estimates are calculated on the expected pensions and lump sum payments to be made under the provisions of the Police Pensions Act. As to the relationship between contributions by members and those of the Government, that would be properly set out in the appropriate Act, and the honourable member could ascertain the respective shares from that. However, I will consider the points he has raised and obtain details for him.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I understand that an amount to purchase a helicopter is not included in the \$125 000 allocated for the purchase of aircraft. Does the Government intend to buy one, as there seems to be no provision for it?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I will obtain that information for the honourable member.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Is any of the \$696 550 allocated for the purchase of technical and other equipment to be made available to purchase motor vehicles and advanced equipment for the Drug Squad? Also, I should like to know the situation in relation to the staffing of the squad and whether additional experienced staff will be made available, and whether more sophisticated equipment needed in this type of operation will be purchased? We all know that the drug problem is increasing and that people must be protected.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I appreciate the honourable member's concern, which would be shared by the Police Force and me. I have an impressive list of technical equipment included in this item but, as I cannot see anything specifically referring to the Drug Squad, I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

**Mr. WILSON:** For the 1976-77 financial year, \$35 000 was allocated for North-West policing, but only \$21 353 was actually spent. This year \$66 000 is being made available. I realise that this is a vast area and that aeroplane travel would be needed to service it, but can the Minister say why this large increase is necessary when last year's allocation was not spent?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** The difference between the amount allocated last year and that actually spent was caused because the operation did not commence when expected, and the expenditure was therefore less.

**Mr. GUNN:** The Minister would be aware that there has been a considerable increase in crime in the Coober Pedy area. The Police Force stationed in this town does an excellent job, but an increase in the number of officers seems to be necessary. It is difficult to patrol adequately this area and to prevent the criminal element from continuing illegal mining activities, to the detriment of genuine miners. Is there a possibility of increasing the number of police officers in order to increase patrols and help to apprehend these criminals?

The problem is to catch people in the act. Once caught, there is adequate legislation to deal with them so that they will not be in the area again. Ever since I have been the member for Eyre I have been approached regularly about this problem. Mines Department officers are not there to apprehend people. The police do a good job, but are limited by manpower. Is there a chance of having other officers stationed there?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** Representations were made to me in the past week that the detective stationed at Woomera be transferred to Coober Pedy. This would have the effect of freeing uniformed police for other duties and would perhaps enable some work to be done in the area the honourable member is talking about. It was also suggested that the provision of an office assistant to man the station and keep in touch with the various uniformed officers would make those officers more effective. I have referred those matters to the Deputy Commissioner. If we can do anything we will.

From memory, there are eight or 10 uniformed officers there, and every additional officer stationed there has a house supplied at a cost of about \$50 000. Houses are available at Woomera, and that is one reason why the detective is stationed there. The plane is stationed at Woomera so that the detective can get to Coober Pedy quickly if necessary. The presence of the officer in the town would have a salutary effect, and we are looking at the possibilities.

**Mr. GUNN:** It was brought to my attention that there ought to be an office assistant to release staff. The Minister would be aware that there is adequate accommodation for single people in the force at Coober Pedy. I agree it would be a good idea to station a detective there, and perhaps one or two more uniformed staff ought to be provided. There is a considerable amount of traffic on the Stuart Highway, but not as much as there will be when the road is sealed, certainly, an increase in the number of officers there then will be necessary.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** I draw the Minister's attention to the excellent success of the Dog Squad, which seems to have gone from strength to strength and which is doing a terrific job. I wonder whether this section could be enlarged. Also, would the Dog Squad be of assistance, in certain circumstances, to the Drug Squad. I believe that there are some problems, however, because the dogs can have problems with drugs. Because of the general effect of the Dog Squad and its success, what allowance, if any, has been made for its extension?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** Included in the additions to the motor vehicles fleet are another two station sedans for use by the Dog Squad, which would indicate that it is being expanded.

Line passed.

Correctional Services, \$8 858 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** From these lines it appears that it is cheaper to maintain prisoners in country gaols than in Yatala or the Adelaide Gaol. Is there any reason for that? Also, I would like any information the Minister can give me in relation to the education programme undertaken for prisoners in gaol.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** Of the funds that were allotted in 1966-67, \$9 000 was not fully utilised, mainly because of an absence of senior staff to oversee this function. Provision has been made to revise programmes formulated in recent months by the department; hence, there has been an increase in the allocation for the current year.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I notice that there is a slight increase in the salaries for the Women's Rehabilitation Centre. The Auditor-General's Report at page 77 states:

The exceptionally high average annual net cost for the Women's Rehabilitation Centre for 1976-77 was due mainly to the low daily average number of 13 inmates in an institution which provides facilities for accommodating up to 50 prisoners.

If the average number of inmates is only 13, why is the cost increasing, and why are there 23 staff members?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I obtained a report about this several days ago, but I do not have it with me. The unit has a capacity of 50 inmates. The daily average during the year was 13. I asked for some idea of the variation in the number of inmates, as the centre must be prepared to cater not only for the average number but the number that comes in at any time. The maximum number at one time during the year was considerably more than 13, so there had to be a substantial staff and organisation waiting for customers who, fortunately, did not turn up.

I understand that there is a growing tendency overseas, and I think in Australia, of an increasing number of women taking to crime. Whether that is a sign that they want to be equal with men in the bad respects as well as the good I do not know. It is necessary to have this unit, and it has been constructed to cater for a number that seemed likely at one stage. Fortunately, the number is lower than expected, hence the high cost per unit per prisoner.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I agree with the Minister that it is fortunate that the number is lower than expected, but is the Government satisfied with this ratio, which seems to me to be quite excessive? The annual net cost per prisoner is \$28 587, and I find it hard to believe that the taxpayer would agree that that is an acceptable figure. That figure appears on page 75 of the Auditor-General's Report. It is compared with an annual net cost for a male prisoner of \$11 369.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I do not have the report with me. My attention was drawn to this matter, and I have obtained a report on it. Male prisoners, by and large, are kept in large institutions such as Yatala, in which there is usually a high occupancy rate, and certain economies are involved in keeping them in large numbers. The average occupancy in the women's special unit has been 13, but it has fluctuated markedly. Obviously, we cannot turn staff on and off, depending on the number of inmates.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** It would be cheaper to the taxpayer to employ a personal wardress in the home of each woman prisoner than to conduct correctional service on the basis of each woman being kept at an annual average cost of about \$28 000.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I do not know whether the figures are correct. It is desirable that alternative methods of treating prisoners, other than by incarcerating them in institutions, be examined, and I will do that. Prisoners, whether in their own home or in an institution or in hospital (which sometimes happens), require supervising 24 hours a day. If we had a wardress for each woman prisoner we could well be paying more than the sum quoted.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** The sum of \$120 000 has been voted for payments to prisoners. I do not know what their log of claims is, but it seems that they are not up for a large increase this year over last year.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** As the honourable member may well have a personal interest in this matter, I will ascertain what his remuneration is likely to be.

**Mr. VENNING:** I ask the Minister my annual question regarding the Gladstone Gaol. It must be five, six or seven years since the gaol was closed, and it has not been used for anything since. Does the Government intend to reopen

the gaol or to hand it over to someone to be used for purposes other than those for which it has been used in the past?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I am informed that all outstanding creditors were finalised in the past financial year, and the prison has now been transferred from our control to that of the Public Buildings Department.

Line passed.

Services and Supply, \$7 479 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Is the current system now encompassed in the Services and Supply Department achieving the economy it was thought it would achieve by bulk buying and the general approach taken when the department was first conceived? I do not expect that the Chief Secretary will have exact details, but I think he should be able to give some indication whether the experiment has been successful or whether it has just created another large monolithic bureaucratic department?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** My first talk with the Director of the department occurred only yesterday morning, and we raised many topics, but that matter was not raised. However, I will look into it. It is my wish that this department should be efficient and economic, and I will do my best to achieve that end.

**Dr. EASTICK:** No doubt near and dear to the Minister's heart is the Automatic Data Processing Centre Division, in which I notice that there is a direct "contra" because its services are being charged out to the departments using the facility. The sum of \$1 313 000 has been voted for the division, together with supplementary funds of another \$771 000. Can the Minister say whether the Government and he are satisfied that the taxpayers of South Australia and the Government are receiving value for expenditure in this area? I ask this against information which the Minister gave the House as a back-bencher many years ago when he came here from that area of operation and was able to indicate that the systems were as good as the people who programmed them, but that human error came in from time to time. Other members know the difficulty they have had from time to time in arguing with the computer record of constituents as regards the Engineering and Water Supply Department, certainly in the Social Security Department in the Federal sphere, and in other areas.

**Mr. Tonkin:** There was also the case of water rates at Iron Baron.

**Dr. EASTICK:** Yes, and there have been many instances that do not relate back to that department. I know that many business organisations in the community have come to disaster by relying on a system which, on the surface, was supposedly to improve their operation but which, because of wrong programming or insufficient data being made available by the operators back at the various organisations feeding into the computer system, has led to major financial disaster. I am not aware of whether the departments in South Australia are totally satisfied, but I can relate a recent incident concerning a constituent who was having a running battle with the Motor Registration Division over a long period, because the computer had been wrongly programmed because of the transposing of the registration number. Personal representations and letters from that constituent did not result in his getting a satisfactory answer until, by representations from his member, it was possible to have someone check the programme through and find where the error had occurred. On all of these bases, I ask the Minister whether South Australians are getting value for the dollars spent on the data processing programmes involved in Government activity?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** The Automatic Data Processing Centre Division was set up about 10 or 12 years



ago, and it has progressively taken over more and more areas. I know that, for example, in the Environment Department a review of the systems carried out as a result of a report by the Public Accounts Committee has been undertaken. In adopting recommendations by the Financial Management Advisory Committee, consideration has been given to the use of a computer-based system that will be general to many departments.

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

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** Regarding the question whether the A.D.P. centre is providing value for money, I point out that it has been operating for many years and has been progressively moving into new areas of Public Service accounting. I would be very surprised if the necessary expertise and planning had not been developed to ensure the efficient operation of the computer.

Line passed.

Chief Secretary, Miscellaneous, \$2 438 000.

**Mr. EVANS:** The grant toward burial costs of ex-service personnel was \$1 000 last financial year, and \$1 000 was actually paid. This year there is no increase in the provision. Because the number of ex-service personnel dying is not significantly smaller and the cost of burial is very much higher, will the Minister consider extending the provision for this reason and also to cover repairs to graves and war memorials that are desecrated or damaged by vandals? In the Stirling cemetery recently vandals removed bronze plaques from ex-servicemen's graves, leaving civilian graves alone.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I do not know the full circumstances in which this grant is made. It is a grant to the Returned Services League toward burial costs of ex-service personnel. I cannot say what the demands are on R.S.L., but I will consider the point raised by the honourable member.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** Has provision been made for a member of this Parliament to attend the Australian Administrative Staff College at Mount Eliza, Victoria? I understand that an allowance was to be made for someone to attend every second year, and I think this is the year when the next person should attend. I would be disappointed if an allowance had not been made, because that college provides excellent training for members of Parliament.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I will obtain the information for the honourable member. The provision is for members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to attend conferences and to undertake study tours.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** Will the Minister check on the details of the allowance? I am due to have one week's further study, and I requested that money be made available for that.

**Mr. BLACKER:** The sum of \$1 000 was allocated last financial year for freight concessions on and costs associated with cartage of water to dry areas, but no money was actually spent. Is this money made available by way of grants to individual farmers, or is it for Government instrumentalities?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I cannot say. I believe the money is paid to local authorities for this purpose. The allocation of \$1 000 is merely to keep the line open in case it is needed. I do not know whether calls have been made on the provision, but I will find out for the honourable member.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Is the reduction in the allocation for the South Australian Fire Brigades Board explained by the fact that insurance companies are now

expected to make a greater contribution? Why was nothing paid out of the allocation last year of \$25 000 for the Sea Rescue Squadron? Because this year's allocation toward conferences and tours of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is less than half of last year's allocation, can the Minister say whether another provision has been made for this purpose elsewhere in the Estimates? Further, why has there been a decrease of more than \$100 000 in the allocation for printing, publishing, and paper in connection with the *Government Gazette*?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** The *Government Gazette* is now divided into a general gazette and an industrial gazette. This provision is for the general gazette only, the provision for the industrial gazette being under the Minister of Labour and Industry's line.

Regarding Commonwealth Parliamentary Association contributions, a conference was held in Adelaide during the previous financial year, and that would have been the reason for the increased allocation made at that time.

A provision of \$25 000 was made last year from the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron; it was a once-only grant for the purpose of installing radar equipment in selected vessels. The funds were provided, but they could not be used because of supply difficulties. Provision is made for this item again this year.

The grant to be paid to the South Australian Fire Brigades Board is the amount paid under Statute. It amounts to 12½ per cent of the total cost of running the Fire Brigades Board. That provision must be made and, presumably, it is adequate.

**Mr. BECKER:** Regarding the supply of fuel to the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron, I notice that this grant was previously included in the total grant to that body. How much was allocated previously for the supply of fuel and will this now be a continuing grant? The South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron, whose base is in my district, performs an excellent service to the community. It is a back-up service that is used if ever a disaster occurs at sea that emanates from the Adelaide Airport. More importantly, it is a band of voluntary people who give a considerable amount of their time and the use of their own boats in the interests of the general safety of those who wish to use the waters near the metropolitan area or a considerable distance away.

The whole operation must either be financed from within the fund-raising efforts of the group or from Government grant. It is pleasing to note that the Government is now making a contribution towards the fuel used by this body because that would be one of the largest costs incurred by it. Has the Government yet received a report about general safety operations performed by the various sailing and yacht clubs? Some time ago it was considered that there should also be a back-up support and assistance by the Government to the many sailing clubs that make their boats available not only during regattas but also at times of emergency when, during events, the rescue boats of sailing and yacht clubs are used.

Such rescues have been carried out several times when boating mishaps have occurred. A boating accident occurred at West Beach and, fortunately, people at the Henley Sailing Club launched the rescue boat and undertook the rescue. Members would appreciate not only the work of the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron but also that of the sailing clubs.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** Last year no payment was shown for the supply of fuel, because the item was included previously in the total grant to the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron. That would explain



why \$25 000 was allocated as a once-only grant and why it is now \$24 000. I guess that costs have not gone down in the meantime. The line provides for the cost of 6 819 litres of fuel a year that is supplied to the Sea Rescue Squadron. It includes \$1 000 for fuel supplied by the Police Department during 1976-77 that could not be redebited because the line did not exist.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** In view of the enormity of the drug problem and the value of the profits to be made by drug traffickers, the sum of \$1 000 for the payment of rewards for information in respect of drug traffic offences seems totally unrealistic. Was the payment of \$883 made in 1976-77 a payment made to one or more persons, and is the amount regarded by the Government only as a token gesture?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I cannot say whether the \$883 went to one or more persons, but I can ascertain that information for the honourable member. Regarding the \$1 000, I believe that that is a nominal amount. If there was occasion to pay rewards to people for information in that area, I am sure that that sum would be exceeded. It is not intended to restrict the reward to \$1 000 if there was a worthwhile reason to increase it.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** I have looked through this document and, although grants are made to Austcare, Freedom from Hunger, and numerous other associations and organisations, unfortunately no grant is made to the District and Bush Nursing Society. In my area of Glenelg—

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that if the matter to which he refers is not in the vote it cannot be discussed.

**Dr. EASTICK:** At this juncture I should like to congratulate the Treasurer for making available the sum that he has made available to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. I do that against the background that this is not the first year that the Government has made funds available to that society. This, from memory, is the third year it has been done. An increase of \$4 000 is involved. I suggest that it is money well spent, because it relieves the Police Force and several other Government instrumentalities, certainly councils, of the worry associated with many aspect of the stray dog problem and sick and injured animals.

The society, with Government assistance plus an ever-increasing number of legacies, has been able to transfer its headquarters to Currie Street, Adelaide. That location is more central to its operation and has created a holding centre. I, as a member of the State committee of that society, together with the former member for Ross Smith, wish to say that, in our opinion, this is money well spent, and I trust that it will continue to be given for many years to come.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I note the appreciation expressed in the honourable member's remarks. The increased grant was in recognition of the increased cost of operating the society, and we are keen to see it continue.

**Mr. BECKER:** Can the Minister say, if not too many organisations are involved, how the sum of \$10 000 will benefit charitable organisations in relation to transport concessions, what form that benefit will take, who can apply for the benefit and what is the general background behind it?

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** The only information that I can supply now is that the sum relates to fares and the freight for approved charitable organisations concerned with orphanages, welfare and distress relief. I cannot say which organisations are involved.

Line passed.

Legal Services, \$7 795 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I refer to the vote for clerical

staff under the heading "Administration and Finance Division" in the Legal Services Department. There is an enormous jump in this vote from \$4 000 to over \$282 000, which requires explanation. Also, I notice that in some departments the chief officer concerned has his own line and, therefore, his salary is readily identifiable. However, in the Crown Law Office, for instance, the Crown Solicitor and others are lumped together, their salaries totalling \$1 112 762. I have found it useful, when going through these documents, to know what salary the top officer concerned gets. However, this is not always shown.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN (Attorney-General):** With the formation of the new department, there was a transfer of officers from a number of former departments and sections, which were joined together to make up the Administration and Finance Division of the new department. Most of the officers transferred were from the Crown Law Department's administration section; one officer was from the Attorney-General's office; and three officers were from the courts administration division. Two additional office assistants have been appointed, and provision has been made for 10 temporary assistants to assist with the transfer.

Regarding the other point that the honourable member raised, if he looks at the line relating to the Director-General of Legal Services, he will see that that officer is the senior officer of this department and that his salary is shown there. Under the heading "Officer of Director-General" of the Public and Consumer Affairs Department, the salary of that officer is also shown. These are the two senior officers of the department.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I refer to the provision for overseas visits of the Minister, Minister's wife (where approved) and officers. How long was the Minister away; how many people were in the party; where did the Minister go and for what purpose; and is the \$2 500 allocation this year a carry-over figure from last year, or is it provision for an additional trip?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Regarding the first part of the question, the overseas tour was associated largely with the Gilbertson matter and the visit to England for the Privy Council hearing. The expenses of the Solicitor-General and other officers were included in that sum. Other places visited included Canada, the United States and France. However, I will obtain the detailed itinerary for the honourable member if she so desires. Regarding the second part of the question, the sum of \$2 500 has been allocated this year to pay for the cost of attending standing committee meetings of Attorneys-General, one of which will be held in New Zealand in February.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I ask that the report contain information about the purpose of the visit to places other than London for the purposes of the Privy Council hearing, the number of people in the party, and a breakdown of the expenses for members of the party.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The members of the party were my press secretary, my wife and the Director-General of Public and Consumer Affairs, all of whom visited Europe. The visits to places such as Canada and America were made for the purpose of studying legal reform and consumer affairs matters.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Although the Deputy Leader has already asked a question regarding the vote for clerical staff in the Administration and Finance Division of the Legal Services Department, I notice that there is a close relationship between the provisions for administration expenses and the purchase of office equipment, last year's vote having been \$2 000 compared to this year's vote of \$57 000. There has been a marked upturn in the expenditure of the Administration and Finance Division that is quite out of

proportion to anything else. If there has been an amalgamation of departments, these sums would previously have been shown in some other line. However, there is no indication of this.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** There is. If the Leader refers to the line "Operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries" for the Crown Law Office, he will see that there is a reduction from the actual payment of \$55 394 to this year's allocation of \$30 000. There is, therefore, a reduction in the vote of \$25 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** The Attorney has satisfied me to some extent regarding contingencies: that \$30 000 has been transferred from operating expenses. However, the total actual payments of \$1 591 last year for the Administration and Finance Division has changed to a vote of \$57 000 for 1977-78. Although the Attorney has pointed to a drop of \$25 000, there is an enormous difference between the \$1 591 actually spent in 1976-77 and the \$57 000 proposed for 1977-78. We have still to account for about another \$27 000. In relation to wages and salaries for clerical staff in the Administration and Finance Division, the vote for 1976-77 of \$4 500 compares with a vote of \$282 265 for 1977-78. Although the Attorney has given me some explanation, if these departments have been aggregated, and this is the total sum of the aggregation, these sums must previously have been shown under other headings. However, I cannot see in the remainder of this department's vote where this deficiency has been made up. Perhaps I am missing something. If I am, I shall be grateful if the Minister tells me.

**The Hon. Peter Duncan:** They used to be in Crown Law.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Then why is it not shown in another line? The amount for the Crown Law Office has gone from \$1 158 000 to \$1 126 000. There is a small reduction, but it certainly does not account for the tremendous increase in the line I have mentioned.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The amount of \$23 500 is proposed to cover the cost of the purchase of word processing machines and electronic typewriters to upgrade the typing services provided by the Crown Law Office. In relation to salaries for the Administration and Finance Division, provision has been made for the transfer of these officers from other divisions of the department to form the new Administration and Finance Division. Most of these officers were transferred from the Crown Law Office, although there was one from the Attorney-General's Office, three from the Courts Administration Division, two additional office assistants have been appointed, and provision has been made for some 10 temporary assistants.

**Mr. BECKER:** Has the Coroner's Branch been moved to new premises?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** No.

**Mr. BECKER:** When is it likely to move into new premises, and will there be any upgrading of facilities generally? Recently, I had to go to the Coroner's Branch to assist a constituent, and I was appalled at the conditions for the staff. I believe they should be highly complimented on tolerating what they have.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The staff are working in difficult circumstances at the moment, but, with the Government's action in completing the new forensic science building, staff morale is quite high in the knowledge that they will be moving to that building shortly. I cannot give exact details of when that will happen. I understand that it was to have been late this year, but that depends on the progress of the building and the equipping of it. I shall get the information for the honourable member.

**Dr. EASTICK:** The Water Resources Appeal Tribunal and various other appeal tribunals are now, I understand,

associated with the activities of the Legal Services Department. Is there any component of their involvement in these items under the Legal Services Department?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I understand that the information the honourable member is seeking is in line 00.30 on page 35, which we have not yet reached.

Line passed.

Public and Consumer Affairs, \$5 743 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** The same query arises under this heading in relation to administrative and clerical staff. I take it that this will be explained in much the same way, with the build-up of staff, but there is an increase of more than \$100 000 in this item.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The creation of new positions was necessary following the establishment of this department. Previously, the administration of the divisions now incorporated in this department was done in the Lands Department and in the former Attorney-General's Office. Accordingly, virtually the whole of the Administration and Finance Division of this department had to be created from scratch. Provision is included for new positions to be created during 1977-78, including positions to be created for the taking over of accounting and pay work from the Lands Department, and the appointment of management services officers and staff and other support staff.

**Mr. TONKIN:** With all these items we have been talking about, instanced by this one, we are looking at a large increase in staffing of a new section within the Public and Consumer Affairs Department.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** It is the creation of a whole new department. There was no Public and Consumer Affairs Department previously.

**Mr. TONKIN:** We are looking at the creation of a new section here, with administration and clerical staff. That is a new section?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Yes.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Although these officers are coming from other branches, such as the Lands Department, it seems that there is no marked reduction in those other departments, so the rate of increase of the Public Service is considerable. Can the Attorney tell me (perhaps he will have to get the answer from the Premier) the current rate of increase in the Public Service, what it is expected to be over the next 12 months, and whether the people are coming from other departments or from outside? This is basically subject to the Public Service Board, but it is a matter of concern when one sees the sum of \$32 000 replaced by \$139 000 in one small section. Although it is a new section, it is not balanced up by a corresponding reduction in any of the other departments that I can see.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The honourable member has not looked carefully enough. In the figures for the Lands Department there is a reduction of \$100 000 in salaries in the Administration and Finance Section.

**Mr. EVANS:** The actual payments for the Builders Licensing Board of South Australia last year totalled \$191 000; this year the amount is nearly \$250 000. Is the Attorney-General prepared to implement the other section of the Act so that an indemnity scheme could operate, affording people the full protection intended when the Act was first introduced? This evening a constituent from the district of the Minister of Education came to see me in desperation. He has seen the Minister, and also the Attorney-General. He had to take bridging finance of \$18 000 in relation to the purchase of his house. The State Bank refused to accept the house as being of suitable quality. The story has been continuing for two years.

The total income of the family is about \$600 a month,

and the payments on the bridging finance for interest only are more than \$200 a month. He has to make payments of \$70 on a second mortgage, which he cannot meet. The person holding the second mortgage has offered to forgo payments until this man can sort the matter out. He can get no satisfaction from the Builders Licensing Board or from the Public and Consumer Affairs Department. The Attorney-General has looked at the matter, too. If we bring in the indemnity plan that is covered in the Act but needs only to be implemented, we will give full protection.

It is a disgrace to be spending \$250 000 without obtaining the expected benefit. At present we are offering only an inspectorial service, which does rectify some faulty workmanship and faulty material. However, it does not rectify faults where the builder fails through lack of monetary resources or a determination to challenge the board. Will the Attorney take the next step to give protection that the community needs?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The Government does not believe that the cost that would be involved in implementing the scheme that is written into the Act would be justified in the present cost structure in the industry and, therefore, we do not intend to introduce the indemnity scheme at present.

**Dr. EASTICK:** Is the Underground Waters Appeal Tribunal serviced from the Commercial Tribunals Branch? No indication is given on this line, and I suspect that the costs are hidden elsewhere.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I understand that the Chairman of the Water Resources Appeal Tribunal has his salary as a magistrate paid from the Premier's line, whilst the tribunal's actual administration costs are paid from the Minister of Works line. I will need to check on that.

**Dr. Eastick:** It's no longer under your jurisdiction?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** It is under my jurisdiction, but the actual administration is a charge against the Minister of Works.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** What does the allocation to the Commercial Tribunals Branch include? Members' fees have increased from \$4 347 to \$25 850. Why has the total allocation more than doubled?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The costs of boards that were formerly in the Attorney-General's line have now been transferred to the Commercial Tribunals Branch. I think that includes the Secondhand Motor Vehicle Dealers Licensing Act, the Land and Business Agents Board, the Land Brokers Licensing Board, the Commercial and Private Agents Board and several other boards and tribunals, which are now covered by this branch, where their administration has been centralised. Fees for all their members are paid from that line.

**Mr. EVANS:** If the Attorney is unwilling to implement the part of the Builders Licensing Act I mentioned, is he willing to widen the board's scope to provide for an indemnity scheme similar to the scheme operating in Victoria which would not cost the Government any more money but which would mean passing further legislation through this House to allow the scheme to operate?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I shall examine the matter.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** As the allocation for the board and advisory committee members' fees of the Builders Licensing Board has increased from \$10 143 to \$22 100, is it intended to extend the board or has there been an increase in fees paid to board members? Also, because of the increase from \$181 053 to \$216 028 for the secretary, inspectors and clerical staff, is it intended to appoint additional inspectors? I agree with the member for Fisher about advice given by the board's inspectors. In one case a carpenter stuck panelling on to a wall with adhesive. The adhesive removed the plaster from the wall, and the

inspector's advice was to stick the plaster back again. Such advice is worth nothing. Rectification of such a mistake requires agreement between the client and the contractor to batten the wall and replace the material. Subsequently an officer of the board said that that was the best arrangement they could come to. If that is the case, how much of the \$216 028 is well spent?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The increase in fees is partly the result of undertakings I gave this House in response to questions by members opposite when the recent amendments to the Builders Licensing Act were dealt with. Members expressed concern about the Builders Licensing Advisory Committee, and I undertook to restructure that committee and activate it in the future. As a result, it is expected that that committee will meet frequently in the next 12 months, but that involves a considerable sum in the payment of members' fees.

Further, the Salt Damp Committee, with which members are familiar, is paid from this line, as is the newly established Building Contracts Advisory Committee, which I have established to examine building contracts to ensure that not only contracts between builders and their retail clients but also contracts between builders and sub-contractors are fair and reasonable and in the best interests of the building industry. That committee is paid from that line, also.

Regarding the allocation to secretary, inspectors and clerical staff, when that Bill was dealt with in the House members expressed concern about delays and inefficiencies in the board. As a result, a work value study was undertaken by the Public Service Board in the past few months, and it has resulted in an increase in the number of inspectors and clerical staff in order to ensure that the board can give efficient and prompt service. If members' complaints are any guide, the move has been successful, because in the past eight months I have received virtually no complaints about the service from the board. If the honourable member has received complaints and not brought them to the attention of the Minister concerned it is unfortunate for his constituents, because that would be the proper and appropriate course to take.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** The Minister has said that the sum of \$25 850 allocated for fees for members of the Credit Tribunal also includes fees paid to many other boards. This seems to be an unsatisfactory way of drawing up the Budget.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I presume that there was a line previously for "Credit Tribunal" but, as other boards have been transferred to this line, its name should have been altered. I assure the honourable member that this line includes the payment of fees of all other boards under the jurisdiction of the Commercial Tribunals Branch.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Last year for the Public Trustee's Office an amount of \$100 756 was actually paid although \$210 300 was voted. As this year \$260 000 has been allocated, can the Attorney explain the difference in these figures?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** Provision was made for the payment of rent that was not spent, because the Public Trustee moved into the new building earlier than expected.

**Dr. TONKIN:** I am disappointed that new Government members are not asking questions. I cannot see why, now that the Public Trustee's Office occupies a new building, the expense should escalate from \$100 756 to \$260 000.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The Public Trustee must now start returning funds into the common fund for the purchase price of the building, which was purchased out of the common fund.

**Mr. TONKIN:** It is just as well that, as a Government department, it does not have to pay land tax.

**Mr. BECKER:** I pay a tribute to the staff of the Consumer Affairs Branch because of their hard work. The Auditor-General's Report states that complaints leading to investigations numbered about 8 600 (6 200 in 1975-76), telephone and personal inquiries by consumers were about 72 000 (47 000 in 1975-76), and special investigations were also carried out on behalf of the Government. These figures show a tremendous amount of work by the staff, and it seems to me that they do it under some difficulties. How many staff at present work in this branch, and are there any long-term plans to upgrade their accommodation, because they deserve much better office conditions?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The staff will be shifting to Grenfell Centre some time this financial year. I will obtain details for the honourable member, and I thank him for his comments. I believe there would not be a group of public servants anywhere who would be harder working than is this group. Visitors to the department will see what seems to be bedlam in the office, indicating the pressure under which the staff work. Many members of the public come in with their problems, and the efficiency with which the numerous complaints are handled is a great credit to the staff.

Line passed.

Supreme Court, \$946 000—passed.

Attorney-General and Minister of Prices and Consumer Affairs, Miscellaneous, \$722 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** The Government has given notice of amendments to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, and the amount proposed for compensation for injuries resulting from criminal acts has been increased to \$53 000. Is this amount based on the probable sum to be paid under the new legislation or the old, or was the Budget drawn up before the introduction of the new legislation was notified? In view of the unfortunate increasing volume of violence and injury now occurring, does the Attorney believe that \$53 000 will be sufficient, anyway?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** This sum does not take into account the effect of the new legislation. Consideration was given to the timing of the new legislation, but we believed that, by the time Parliament had considered it, and the appropriate administrative machinery had been established, it would be at least close to the end of the financial year before the new legislation would be in effect, and there is of course the time lag before claims under the new legislation would actually become charges against the revenue. The \$5 000 increase over the actual payments of last year is a fair estimate of the increase that we expect will result from inflation and the increased number of claims.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Regarding the item "Contribution towards legal aid", undoubtedly members will recall the Bill which came before Parliament towards the end of last session of the last Parliament and which was to set up the Legal Assistance Commission to rationalise legal aid between the Commonwealth and the State. It was stated then that that Act would not be proclaimed until agreement had been reached with the Commonwealth. When does the Attorney-General expect that the new arrangements to rationalise the provision of legal assistance between the Commonwealth and the States will come into force?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The sum proposed on this line does not indicate anything as far as the Commonwealth's attitude to the matter is concerned. My comments, when the Bill was going through the House, have proved to be more than justified by the Commonwealth's attitude. Although the Bill went through

the House earlier this year, final agreement on the financial arrangements has still not been made with the Commonwealth, because of the attitude it has shown in this matter. The Commonwealth has indicated all along that it is prepared to negotiate with any State individually on a unilateral basis, and we have been negotiating with the Commonwealth ever since the Act passed this House in an endeavour to reach a financial agreement.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** What's the hold-up?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** The hold-up has been that the Commonwealth has not been willing to be realistic in its attitude to providing legal aid. My suspicions all along that the Commonwealth was anxious to reach a short-term agreement with the States and dump the whole of the legal aid on to this State's Budget have been well-founded, because the Commonwealth has been tardy to agree to anything with a long-term component. It has been pleased to agree to an annual agreement and to shift the whole of the burden on to the State and then dump it, but it has been reluctant to hold negotiations on the basis of a long-term agreement, and that is why agreement has been delayed for so long. However, I hope that we will soon reach agreement with the Commonwealth, whose new Attorney-General has proven to be more realistic in his approach than was the former Attorney-General. I hope that we will soon be able to announce publicly that some progress has been made. In the meantime, the State's contribution towards the Law Society's legal assistance scheme is to continue, and that is what the sum proposed in the line is for.

**Mr. EVANS:** Can the Attorney-General obtain for me the sums that have been paid out of the Land and Business Agents Fidelity Fund over the past 10 years? Although \$4 000 was paid out last year, no sum has been allocated this year for that line. Believing that the amount claimed has been small, this shows that most land and business agents operate in a legal manner.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I do not intend to obtain the information for the honourable member, because it is readily available to him in the library, simply by researching the estimates of payments from the Revenue Account for the past 10 years.

**Mr. EVANS:** It is not just the actual amounts each year, but the areas in which they have been paid. Can the Attorney-General say how many claims were made in respect of the \$4 000?

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I will obtain a break-down for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Treasury, \$5 380 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I refer, first, to the Public Actuary's Office and to the considerable increase in salaries, for which \$121 000 has been voted. Can the Auditor-General say whether the staff of that office is now up to date? In other words, is the establishment filled, and what is the situation generally with the backlog of work that has built up over the past 18 months or two years, as a result of the illness of the previous Public Actuary and the work load that had been brought about by other staff shortages?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN (Premier and Treasurer):** It is expected that, in 1977-78, the positions of research graduate and building societies clerk will not be filled, but the appointment of two actuarial assistants will be made.

**Mr. Tonkin:** Will they be qualified?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** They will be qualified and, when they have been made, they will bring the office close to full strength. The Public Actuary and his assistant have been working extremely hard in catching up on the backlog of work that occurred in the Public Actuary's Department. I know that they have been making a

considerable dent in that work, but it is not possible for them to have brought all of the backlog of work up to current completion at this time.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Has the valuation of the State Superannuation Fund been completed, as is required every three years? As I think the Premier will understand, this matter was of some concern at the time the whole matter of the Public Actuary came before the House previously. Regarding the South Australian Superannuation Fund Investment Trust, is there still an age restriction on membership of that trust, and can members of that trust be aged over 65 years? In other words, considerable concern has been expressed to me in the past that the members of the Superannuation Fund, the superannuants, are unable to take an active part in their affairs because of an age barrier. Is that still the situation, or has some special consideration been made?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I am not aware that there has been any change in the Act concerning this, but I will consider the matter. It has not been drawn to my attention. The final valuation of the Superannuation Fund, which had fallen behind because of the previous situation, has not been completed, although I have had an interim report giving the Public Actuary's forecasts as to the position of the fund. That has been discussed with officers of the superannuated civil servants association.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Because there has been a significant increase in the allocation for the operation, maintenance, and development of A.D.P. systems, can the Premier say whether the systems are working exactly as they should?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The charges which caused the increase were for special maintenance and modifications to the central processing of account systems. These were found to be necessary, and they led to the increased costs in 1976-77. The provision for this year allows for costs associated with the development of improved systems.

**Mr. EVANS:** If the allocation for remission of stamp duty on purchase of new houses is for only six months to the end of this calendar year, it follows that a full year's remissions would amount to \$3 500 000. Will the Premier consider extending these remissions at least to June 30, 1978?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** As at present advised, the Government does not intend to extend the scheme beyond December 31, 1977. The aim of the remission was that for a temporary period we would give a boost to move the backlog of houses. A significant number of houses has been sold, and the industry has expressed appreciation for the support given. It was not intended that the scheme would be a permanent feature of the stamp duties legislation, and I do not think there is justification for extending it beyond December 31, 1977.

**Mr. EVANS:** Will you consider the matter at the end of December, 1977?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** Yes.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** I understand that the Under Treasurer, together with other senior public servants, compiles for the Government and particularly for Government back-benchers a list of Government activities on a fortnightly basis, which list is distributed to Government members and marked "Strictly confidential" in red. Do the Under Treasurer and other senior public servants prepare such material and will the Premier make that same material available to Opposition members? Why has it been kept confidential and marked "Strictly confidential"?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The Under Treasurer does not prepare fortnightly information on a confidential basis. My office prepares material in my co-ordination

office, which material is for me; that is, there is a co-ordination report as to what happens in major Government departments and what are the on-going programmes in those departments. That is prepared on a confidential basis for me. From time to time I sit with Government back-benchers to discuss with them on-going Government activity.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** It is a five-page document.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** From time to time it may run to 20 pages, and on no occasion does it deal with every Government department. Further, it is not always fortnightly; from time to time it is weekly. These are co-ordination reports prepared in my office for me. The material is obtained from Government departments, and it is confidential material because it is not for public release until it is proper for public release. If the honourable member has such a document, it has been stolen from somewhere.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** What an accusation to come from the Premier! I have stolen the document!

**The CHAIRMAN:** Will the honourable member resume his seat? I draw the honourable member's attention to the fact that he cannot discuss this matter under the line "Treasury Department". Such a matter should have been discussed under the line "Premier's Department". It would be out of order to continue the discussion now.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I ask the Premier to withdraw the remark implying that I am a thief. The document was not stolen. It is a poor sort of accusation for the Premier to level across the Chamber at any person. I ask the Premier to withdraw it.

**The CHAIRMAN:** There is no point of order, but the honourable member can ask the Premier to withdraw.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** With due respect I believe it is unparliamentary to label anyone in this Chamber a criminal, and that is exactly what the Premier did. I ask him to withdraw the remark.

**The CHAIRMAN:** If the honourable member had stayed in his seat, he would have found that I was proceeding to ask the Premier to withdraw the remark to which the honourable member took offence.

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I am not alleging that the honourable member stole the document. If he inferred that from what I said, I am perfectly willing to withdraw the remark.

Line passed.

Treasurer, Miscellaneous, \$40 612 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Why does the line "Pursuant to Urban and Regional Development Agreements—Adelaide Water Treatment Programme" appear under this item rather than under the Engineering and Water Supply Department lines?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** It is for interest and principal repayments on advances by the Commonwealth Government.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Regarding the line "Pursuant to River Murray Waters Agreement—Dartmouth Reservoir", can the Premier give a progress report on the reservoir, when it is now expected that it will be completed and when can we expect some benefit from it for this State?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I do not have detail of the time table. The Minister of Works has been in touch constantly with this matter, but I will get the information for the honourable member.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Can the Premier give some details about the *ex gratia* payment for the purchase of fishing gear?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** It relates to a case in Port Pirie where a decision was made to introduce regulations

that prevented a fisherman in Port Pirie from continuing to fish in the only way he could because of a certain physical disability. The matter was then discussed with fishermen in the area and, after investigation, the Government decided that the policy that had been adopted in the regulation was wrong. The regulation was rescinded but, in the meantime, the fisherman had been put in a position where he had to sell his gear because he could not fish to maintain himself and his family.

After examining the whole situation we decided that the policy that had been implemented was wrong and that compensation should be paid to the fisherman. He got back into business through a grant that enabled him to repurchase the gear that he had had to sell.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** It affected only one fisherman?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** It was a policy that effectively did that.

**Mr. TONKIN:** The sum of \$250 000 has been set aside for debt services for the South Australian Film Corporation. The Auditor-General's Report on the Film Corporation shows that up until now and since the formation of the corporation in October, 1972, the Government has made available grants totalling \$2 517 000 to the corporation. The grants have been for various sums. The total to June, 1977, has been \$158 000 for the payment of interest under these loans for debt services. I note, too, a net asset deficiency for this year of \$227 312. I would be interested—

**The Hon. D. A. Dunstan:** Earlier today I replied quite fully to the member for Hanson when he raised the matter on another line concerning the Film Corporation. I dealt with the precise matter the Leader is raising.

**Mr. TONKIN:** When does the Premier expect that the advance for debt services will no longer be necessary?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** I do not expect that the Film Corporation will be self-funding in respect of its own commercial operations before 10 years from the time of its establishment.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Why is the sum of \$265 000 for the Coast Protection Board included in "Treasurer, Miscellaneous" when other lines relating to the Coast Protection Board, if added together, would amount to nearly \$1 000 000? What is this line for?

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** It is for interest and principal repayments on Governmental borrowings. Indeed, most of these lines are for interest and principal payments on borrowings.

Line passed.

Lands, \$16 437 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** The Minister of Works may not be aware of what occurred on previous lines that were discussed earlier. Under "Department of Legal Services—Administration and Finance Division, Clerical Staff" the Attorney-General in explaining the enormous increase from \$4 500 to \$282 265, referred, among other things, to the Lands Department. I would now refer the Minister of Works to page 44 of the Estimates of Expenditure document to item 00.10. The Attorney said that the enormous increase related to the transfer of officers from other departments, including the Lands Department, and therefore that it was appropriate that the sum would be lower this year. Indeed, it is about \$100 000 lower and for that reason, I accept the Attorney's explanation as far as it went.

Apart from that drop of \$100 000 there has been an increase of nearly \$200 000 in the line "Survey—Surveyor-General, Deputy Surveyor-General, Surveyors, Draftsmen, Technical, Photographic, Printing, Clerical and General Staff", an increase of nearly \$100 000 in the line "Land Settlements—Chief Administrative Officer, Superintendents, District Officers, Inspectors, Watermas-

ters, Foremen, portion of salaries of Engineers and Draftsmen, Engineering and Water Supply Department, Administrative, Clerical and General Staff", and an increase from \$297 591 to \$561 000 in the line "Administration expenses, minor equipment and sundries" under "Administration and Finance". When those differences are considered it is difficult to reconcile the statement that the Attorney made that officers taken from the Lands Department and other departments would have resulted in a general lowering of expenditure in those departments, particularly in the Lands Department.

It is agreed I think, that there has been an overall increase in wages paid to officers of the Lands Department, and certainly a large increase in that item for "Administration expenses, minor equipment and sundries". Can the Minister of Works explain how this has come about? The Attorney-General has been using the Minister's department to excuse the tremendous escalation in his own department.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works):** I do not think the information that I have here explains the points raised by the Leader. I will therefore look into the matter and obtain a reply for him.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I accept that the Minister is in some difficulty regarding this matter. It becomes rather complicated and it seems that the Attorney has ducked for cover at the right time. I refer now to the Valuer-General's Office. What is the cost of the temporary office which was set up, at the instigation of the local member, the Premier and Treasurer, at Norwood following the revaluations made in that area just before the recent election? If no such figure is available, will the Minister obtain it for me?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** As I do not have the exact figure, I will obtain it for the Leader.

**Mr. RUSSACK:** What action is being taken by the department to correct the weaknesses in accounting activities referred to by the Auditor-General? At page 186 of his report, under the heading "Weaknesses in accounting activities", the Auditor-General said:

During the year it was necessary to draw the department's attention to unsatisfactory aspects of its accounting work in respect of—

- (a) inadequate internal checking procedures relating to the calculation and payment of salaries;
- (b) non-observance of accepted procedures for the payment of accounts;
- (c) cost reporting and budgeting control of the Survey Division; and
- (d) inventory recording of equipment.

Remedial action is being taken by the department.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I cannot give information off hand. However, I will obtain a report for the honourable member and bring it down as soon as possible.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Regarding the South-Eastern drainage scheme, estimated receipts for this year are \$132 000 compared to \$140 000 actually received last year. As those sums are not much more than twice the cost incurred in collecting fees, will the Government now seriously consider abolishing those charges?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I do not think that is a fair statement, or that the Leader is serious when he says that that is the cost of collecting these fees. The Leader ought to know, if he is familiar with this matter, that this system is being maintained and that the cost does not involve the collection of these fees. In fact, the Government has been generous indeed to the people involved in the South-Eastern drainage scheme. Does the Leader know what was the capital cost of constructing this scheme? I do not think he does.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** Do you?



**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Yes, I do; it was \$19 000 000. That is the sum that was written off, and, if the Leader is complaining about the pittance that the Government collects—

**Mr. Tonkin:** What's the point?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** There is a point. People ought to realise that they must pay something for a direct benefit which they have received and for which everyone in the State has had to pay. The Government has been extremely generous to these people and, if the Leader thinks that he has a case to make out on their behalf, I am afraid that he is wrong.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** I refer to the allocation of \$5 000 for the provision of carry-on funds for Kangaroo Island settlers under notice of intended forfeiture. Will the Minister explain that allocation?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I do not know what it is for.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Will the Minister undertake to provide me with information regarding this allocation, which seems to contradict itself? If it refers to the soldier settlers who were subject to having their leases terminated last year, it was my understanding, as a member of the Land Settlement Committee, as a result of receiving subsequent correspondence from the Minister and, indeed, as a result of direct discussions with him on this matter, that the settlers who were subject to forfeiture had qualified for direct grants of \$5 000 each from the State Government, as well as \$5 000 each from the Commonwealth Government. I therefore fail to understand why such a provision should be made.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Although I am sure that the vote is legitimate, I will ascertain that information for the honourable member.

**Mr. RUSSACK:** The sum of \$6 000 is to be allocated for the purchase of town lands and refunds. What is meant by town lands? I take it this refers to country areas. What lands have been purchased?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I shall get the details for the honourable member.

**Mr. RODDA:** I do not disagree with what the Minister has said about South-Eastern drainage, because the figure he quotes for capital input is correct. It is becoming obvious that the drains are overdrawing the South-East and upsetting the ecology of the area. I want to place on record that the Underground Waters Committee must look at the effect of the run-off of the draw-down of the underground basin, which is having a dire effect on one of the most fertile areas of this State. In one of the driest years we have had in South Australia, it would be irresponsible not to look at the effect of drainage on this important area.

Line passed.

Minister of Lands, Minister of Repatriation and Minister of Irrigation, Miscellaneous, \$253 000—passed.

Engineering and Water Supply, \$51 211 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** The amounts shown under the heading "General" are totalled and then we see a deduction with the notation, "Charged to other accounts." To what other accounts is the total charged?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I simply have it as being, "To other loan and deposit accounts." That is the only information I have. I cannot detail it for the honourable member, but I shall try to find out for him. Obviously, it is an accounting entry.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** When are the sewerage works in Monalta likely to commence? How long does he expect the work to take? Could he give an undertaking (it really requires that) that work will commence this year?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will get the information for the honourable member.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** The amount proposed for electricity for pumping is \$3 500 000, and the amount for chlorination of the water supply is \$620 000. Costs for pumping this year will be high because of the lack of winter rain; the cost probably will be the highest on record. What effect will this have on the purity of the water? The water in the Millbrook reservoir has been a strange colour throughout the winter. The high percentage of water coming from the Murray River this summer surely must affect the treatment programme. How will the treatment be complicated because of this factor? With filtration, I understand that the Minister will be able to authorise people to use the reservoir reserves for recreational purposes. What effect will filtering have on the bacteriological content of the water? When the water is muddy and not clear, an increase in the bacteria content results. The argument is being spread abroad that if we are able to filter our water it will be safer. Mud in water does not make it unsafe. How, by filtering the water, will the bacteriological content and the quality of the water be improved?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Filtration of water does not alter the hardness or salinity of the water; it removes the suspended solids and discolouration. I think it also improves the taste. In relation to the bacteriological quality, it is easier to make the water pure, because the suspended solids are removed and chlorination of the water is much more effective.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** You don't have to use as much.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** That is the situation in a nutshell. That is an improvement. This will probably be a record year for pumping from the Murray River because of the dryness of the year, but that does not necessarily worry the department because the Darling River has been in flood. It is good water, but it is milky because of the colloidal clays. They cannot be got rid of without filtration. As the honourable member knows, we have discovered that, with an injection of alum into the water (where the water comes into the reservoir), we have been able to coagulate suspended solids or the sediments in the water.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** Is that what the new tanks are for?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Yes, they are alum tanks. Alum is fed into the water at that point and precipitates coagulation of sediment; it settles the water much more quickly in the reservoir so that we can draw off from the reservoir water that is much more acceptable than the water we would otherwise be pumping.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** How does the quality compare if you have a decent winter rain?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** If we had a natural intake and winter rain in the area, we would not have the problem that we now have.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** Pumping has caused the quality of the water to deteriorate?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Not so much the quality, because we maintain the quality from a health point of view but in respect of its aesthetic appearance it deteriorates because of pumping. We were pumping water into the Anstey Hill system from the Murray River, and it really was the worst colour we have had in Adelaide. No-one will dispute that, as it was really crook. That was the reason why the department recognised for the first time that we needed to attempt to settle water before we put it into the system.

It was really a fluke that we decided to inject alum into the supply as it came in. It did the job better than we expected, but we could not continually do that or we



would have filled up our reservoirs with both sediment and alum. The only real solution is filtration. The extra expense involved in injecting the alum into the system has been well worthwhile because it improved the quality of the water going to consumers' houses. Indeed, I was one of the people receiving it and I can assure members that the water was not pleasant.

Also, the honourable member said that, with filtration, we would allow reservoirs to be used by the public. That is not the case. I have established a committee comprised of people whom I believe to be representative of all sections of the community to examine the matter and report to me on the desirability or otherwise of using reservoir reserves for recreational purposes if and when filtration comes into effect. I did this because I was sure that if it came into being people would apply pressure for such use. The member for Mitcham is one who has said that we are wasting this resource, saying that we should be using it for recreational purposes.

When filtration occurs I want to be in a position to say, "Yes, we can do it in this way or in that way, or we cannot do it." I want to be able to give reasons for the decision. Hence my reason for establishing this committee which is currently working and which will report to me in about nine months on whether or not it considers it desirable to do the things contained in the terms of reference.

**Mr. Venning:** What happens overseas in this regard?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The committee will look at that. In fact, the member for Fisher has consistently raised in this House the need for such recreational use. I do not disagree with his views, but I want to be convinced that we can do this safely. I want to be told how we can do it if we are to do it at all, and that is the reason for establishing the committee—nothing more and nothing less.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I thank the Minister for the information, but obviously he will not establish a committee for nothing, especially in view of the cost of such a committee, unless there is a real possibility of the reservoirs being used. The Minister must have this in mind. People from Chain of Ponds, who were displaced unceremoniously in the name of pollution control, were not happy when they read of a committee being established to look at the recreational use of reservoirs, because they were told overnight that they had to pack up and sell out to the Government in the cause of pollution control.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I point out that the department is violently opposed to any use of reservoirs as reserves in any circumstances. It has consistently and continually said, "No". Through this committee I have attempted to obtain an impartial view about whether or not we can have such use, and if we cannot why we cannot. That is all. I have not in any way directed the committee, as its terms of reference are broad. At the initial meeting I told it of its responsibility and that, if it says we cannot make recreational use of reservoirs, it should provide me with some reasons why we cannot, and if it believes that we can, it should explain why we can and how we can do it safely.

**Mr. EVANS:** First, I agree that the Minister's department has been consistently and strongly opposed to the recreational use of reservoirs. I believe Dr. Melville is capable of heading the independent committee that has been set up, and I hope some areas will be provided where people can use reservoirs and adjacent areas for recreational purposes, as they are used in other States and other parts of the world, although our catchment areas are closer to the metropolitan area than in some other cities. Secondly, as the department, which is working on stage II

of the sewerage scheme in the Mitcham Hills area, has proceeded much more quickly with its programme this year than in the past year and achieved better results than expected because of less rain and because it is digging through easier soils, will the Minister see whether stage III can be implemented immediately that stage II nears completion? Thirdly, as the cost of projects in some areas in my district such as the McDonald subdivision at Chandler Hill, Happy Valley, does not reach the level that would require the projects to go before the Public Works Committee, the Minister could make a Ministerial decision to allow them to proceed if he believed funds were available and if the effect of the health hazard on the quality of life in the area warranted the extension of the sewerage mains.

Also, at Aberfoyle Park the department is working on a project that has received Ministerial approval and was not referred to the Public Works Committee. There is some wisdom in completing the projects at Mitcham Hills and Happy Valley before moving the plant to, say, the Stirling area. I hope the Minister will consider those projects, because more work has been achieved in my electorate this year than ever before with the same equipment and staff, and I give them credit for what they have done.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will consider the matters raised by the honourable member and let him know the result of any decisions.

**Mr. WOTTON:** Is any of the money allocated to country waterworks to be spent on a reticulated water scheme for Woodchester, Callington, and Hartley? These districts are in desperate need, especially because of the dry conditions that we are experiencing, and there is need for a water supply right through to Strathalbyn. Also, will the Minister obtain a report on the programme of cleaning up the Bremer River?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will do that.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** What stage has been reached in the programme to design the upgrading of the system at Pyap? I understand that plans have been submitted to the Engineering Services Section and await the approval of the Minister.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will check and let the honourable member know.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Has the department reconsidered my proposals in relation to the districts of Emu Bay, Seddon, Haines, MacGillivray and American River on Kangaroo Island, and also Mount Compass? I do not list these areas in any priority, but they are all in desperate need of a water supply, especially the Seddon area.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** There is no provision in this line for such schemes. The honourable member knows that, whilst I have great sympathy for the people involved, tremendous financial difficulties exist.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** The Government has been asked to consider paying rural people some form of compensation for carting water for stock. It seems to me that, rather than pay this form of compensation, it would be more economic for the Government to assist in providing equipment to ensure water supplies to which I have referred.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Money is not provided in these lines for that type of operation, but I shall be pleased to take that inquiry to the appropriate department in order to ascertain what can be done.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** What stage of development has the Water Resources Section reached in relation to its options and criteria for solving the salinity problem in the Murray River? In July this year the department issued Position Paper No. 5 which contained several options available to the Government to overcome this problem. These options could be effective if they were acted on but, until the

Government decides which one to put into effect and allocates money for the capital works programme, we go on from year to year doing nothing. We are in the grip of a severe drought and many learned forecasters predict that it will be worse in the next few years, so it is important that a decision be made soon.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** This is a question of progress made on a programme that has been released for public consumption. Soon, we will receive an assessment of all the contributions that have been made by various organisations throughout the river areas. This matter has nothing to do with this line, but I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

**Mr. BECKER:** What is being done by the department to improve its accounting system and methods, what is being done to improve water pressure in the south-western suburbs, and what is the standard water pressure one should receive at one's residence? I am concerned at statements made by the Auditor-General, who refers each year to the Engineering and Water Supply Department. Page 112 of his report for the financial year ended June 30, 1977, states:

Payment of accounts—During the year attention was drawn to unsatisfactory aspects of the accounts payable activity resulting in incorrect payments and overdue accounts.

That sweeping statement is a reflection on the accounting section of the whole of the department. One wonders how that can happen and what kind of administrative supervision is going on. The report also states:

Sundry debtors—Outstandings for water and sewerage rates at June, 1977, totalled \$6 742 000. This was \$2 899 000 higher than at the end of the previous year and was due mainly to the late billing of country lands additional rates.

That is another reflection on the department's efficiency. The report also states:

The number of accounts in arrear at June 30, 1977, was 97 000 (81 000 in 1976) and the number of ratable properties was 462 000.

Regarding the department's financial result, there was a deficit of \$18 499 000, compared to a deficit of \$9 338 000 in 1976. On the income side, the total rates received by the department were \$68 760 000, management costs were \$18 000 000, and operating and maintenance expenses were \$13 500 000. What really annoys me, as a ratepayer, is the \$35 809 000 in interest, or an increase of over \$6 000 000. I probably have one of the worst water pressures in the whole of the metropolitan area, and I object to having to pay increased water rates, let alone excess water rates, because I cannot see how the water can come out of the taps fast enough for me to incur the latter. Has the department made any approach, through the State Treasury, to the Federal Government to fund country water services? It appears that the metropolitan area ratepayer is heavily subsidising the tremendous losses on the country water services.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The honourable member never fails to amaze me. I suggest to him that one of the most efficient departments in the Government is the Engineering and Water Supply Department. He can laugh his great laugh. It is fine to be in Opposition, when one can knock and do nothing. I am amazed to hear him complain that general revenue has to carry a deficit for the operation of water supplies in country areas. This Government's policy is, and has always been, clear: we have said that the metropolitan area must break even on its operations.

**Mr. Becker:** It has shown a profit.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** If we are showing a profit, it must indeed be a small one. The policy is to break even. General revenue will carry the loss in the country, which I

think amounts to about \$17 000 000. If we want to go over the history of that, we can do so. It was not a Labor Government in this State that laid the thousands of kilometres of pipeline necessary to assist people throughout the State. After all, we are one of the most urbanised States in Australia, if not in the world. If we did not have those pipelines, we would not have the people in the country we have there now, yet the honourable member condemns it.

It was the Playford Government, in the main, for about 20 years that did it. He supplied water to all parts of the State. Under the Waterworks Act, we are now compelled to supply water to those people, and we are doing it at a cost of \$17 000 000 a year, I think. If the honourable member wants to condemn it, let him go to the country and say that. I hope that some of his colleagues will straighten him up in his thinking and make him realise that people live elsewhere than in the metropolitan area. The member for Alexandra is one of the victims in this area, together with others. Certainly the member for Eyre is constantly clamouring for extensions to services in his area. I cannot give them because they are uneconomic, as Government policy is that we should receive at least a 10 per cent return on anything we do, and the member for Alexandra and the member for Eyre know that, in almost every case they put forward, that is not achievable. Government policy provides that we will not deprive people in those areas entirely. We have set aside \$500 000 a year at present (which we may have to increase) to supply people in areas where the supply would be uneconomic. I think that 33 applications in this category are presently before me, and I am unable to meet them. I suppose the honourable member would support his colleagues if they said, "We need a water supply here, there and elsewhere," contrary to what he has said this evening.

**Mr. Becker:** You didn't listen to all the questions.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The honourable member said that the people in the metropolitan area were subsidising those in the country.

**Mr. Becker:** Of course they are.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Our policy is to break even. General revenue subsidises country services, so country people are paying, too. The other points raised by the honourable member are recorded in *Hansard*, and I will reply to them. I think he referred to outstanding accounts, which were commented on by the Auditor-General. I have a report from the department on this matter. There is a reason why the outstanding accounts are higher this year than they were last year; I think it is a matter of late accounts or something of that nature, but I will get a detailed report for the honourable member.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** What line does paper No. 5 come under?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The actual inquiry does not concern this; it is the payment of salaries to people that are involved.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** What stage has been reached in the preparation of this document? I take it that it is being handled by the Water Resources Division.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Yes. I move:

That the time for moving the adjournment of the House be extended beyond 10 p.m.

Motion carried.

**Mr. BECKER:** Can the Minister say whether any approach has been made to the Federal Government in connection with funding the Engineering and Water Supply Department, particularly the country waterworks system? I believe that some years ago some of the States approached the Federal Government and that they

received, and perhaps still receive, some assistance. I am not aware that we receive any special assistance from the Federal Government in this connection. Accounting and financial procedures should be re-examined. Some States have separated country water services and metropolitan water services and the country programme has been greatly assisted by the Federal Government. We should approach the Federal Government, and I will support the State Government in any approach it makes.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I shall be grateful for any help from the honourable member!

**Mr. EVANS:** Will the Minister tell me in the next week or so when the water quality will be improved in the Stirling district and the Mitcham Hills district? The water in the Stirling district has a rusty look about it; it looks awful and it tastes awful. In the Coromandel Valley area the water is a shandy, comprising water from Happy Valley reservoir and Clarendon weir. The Mitcham Hills and Coromandel Valley water has a murky, muddy colour, and water from those areas is particularly bad at weekends.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I shall be pleased to provide the information.

**Mr. GUNN:** Previous Liberal and Country Party Federal Governments provided money for the main from Tailem Bend to Keith and the Poldo-Kimba main. The Hon. Mr. Whyte and I made representations in this connection when Mr. McMahon was Prime Minister. I should like to see the Federal Government provide more money, because many South Australian projects urgently require funds; for example, Coober Pedy, areas west of Ceduna and Terowie. The right policy has been operating for many years, and it is unfair to say that city people have subsidised country people in this connection. I point out that many country people who never use metropolitan transport pay taxes that subsidise metropolitan transport to a far greater extent than the extent to which the metropolitan area subsidises country water schemes.

It would do some people good to live in areas where there is no reticulated water; for example, Andamooka and Coober Pedy. I never have much sympathy for metropolitan people who have to put up with water restrictions, because such restrictions make them appreciate the service they receive.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** It is refreshing to realise that Opposition members can hold differences of opinion without damaging the unity of the Liberal Party. Regarding "Chemical costs—chlorination of water supply", which relates to the filtration of country water supplies, especially the Barossa Valley water supply, I would point out that, at certain times, the Barossa Valley must have the worst water in South Australia. I probably get more complaints about water quality in my district than about any other issue. It is a major problem. About a year ago I asked the Minister whether any plans existed to filter that water supply. From memory, I was told that an investigation was being carried out in relation to the northern cities and that the proposal would be put to the department that the Barossa Valley water supply be included in the investigation.

Since then I have not heard anything more, but I assure the Minister that in my district it is a continuing problem. It has been suggested from time to time that the cheapest way to solve the water problem would be to buy everyone a household filter. If it is not feasible to filter the whole of the Barossa Valley water supply, perhaps household filters could be installed to clean up the water.

Adverse comment has been made about Barossa Valley water by tourists. The water supply is not consistently bad but, frequently during summer, water is run from the

Stockwell pipeline that mixes with water from the reservoir and the resulting water is literally mud. Can the Minister obtain full information for me regarding the investigation of the filtration of the Barossa Valley water supply for the major towns supplied basically by the Barossa reservoir and the Stockwell pipeline?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** There is no truth in a report that in the past couple of days that a leading Adelaide hotel has displayed a notice in its shower alcove that states, "This is a hard hat area"! The honourable member can say what he likes about the water that is supplied to the district he represents, but great competition exists as to who has the worst water in South Australia. South Australia can be grateful that it is not undergoing the severe water restrictions that are occurring in Perth. We can still supply water, whatever it may look like.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** Can you get me a report?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Yes.

**Mr. VENNING:** When is the Northern water supply likely to be filtered? When the Premier was campaigning in 1975 he said that the Northern water supply, including, the Port Pirie supply, would be commenced to be filtered in 1977.

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** Did he say that?

**Mr. VENNING:** Yes, in the press, before the 1975 election.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I know what the Premier would have said, because we were not in a position in 1975 to do that. We were anticipating that it would take 10 years to filter the metropolitan water supply. We said that we would investigate and decide what methods we would use to filter the northern cities' water supplies. We do not now have the money to filter the metropolitan area. I went to Port Pirie before 1975 and said that we could not filter the supply until the metropolitan supply had been completed, and that we did not have the financial wherewithal to do so. I am sure the Premier would not have said that; anyway, it would not have been physically possible.

**Mr. Venning:** He was campaigning.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** No-one can accuse the Premier of doing that sort of thing. It would be physically impossible to filter the water supply, and anyone with any sense would know that.

**Mr. Venning:** I agree.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The Premier would not have said it. I will get a report on the matter for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Public Buildings, \$49 352 000—passed.

Minister of Works, Miscellaneous, \$2 223 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Regarding "Sundry works—Preliminary surveys and investigations" and "Water supplies and irrigation schemes—Preliminary surveys", the Minister has indicated that few, if any, further water supplies in the country are contemplated, because they are uneconomic. I can think of three matters I have put to the department to ascertain whether water supplies could be extended to one or two areas, surrounding the Barossa Valley, in my district. In all cases the answer has been "No, it is not feasible."

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** Uneconomic.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Keyneton was one of the towns where it was said it would cost \$250 000 or \$500 000 to extend the supply and that the return did not warrant it. Every scheme about which I have inquired has proved to be uneconomic. I hope that the water reticulation scheme for Blanchetown will prove to be economic, as that town is right on the river and the water would merely have to be

pumped straight out. The townspeople are expecting to get a water reticulation scheme and I have received from the Minister a reply that various schemes for the town are being examined.

I should like to know where all the money allocated for "Sundry works—Preliminary surveys and investigations" and for "Water supplies and irrigation schemes—Preliminary surveys" goes. If this money was spent on actual schemes, we would get something for it. Is this money used to investigate water supplies in country areas? I do not know how long such investigations take. Although the answer is generally "No", it seems that it is costing \$1 500 000 to investigate such schemes.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It is not costing that sum to conduct such investigations. The Deputy Leader would realise that, in order to have on-going works, the Government must at times shelve designs and all sorts of surveys so that it can proceed with such things when the money is available, and that is what this money is for. This is similar to what happens in relation to the Public Buildings Department. It ensures that in future no delay occurs in proceeding with schemes when the money becomes available for them.

The \$50 000 allocated for "Sundry Works—Preliminary surveys and investigations" is for investigations and preliminary surveys to be conducted on works other than water supplies which will not be developed and which will, therefore, be charged to revenue.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I refer to the allocation of \$30 000 for "Protection and improvement of Torrens River", etc. The Minister having asked for constructive comments, I should like to make a suggestion regarding the protection and improvement of the Torrens River. A book entitled, *Five Creeks of the River Torrens*, has recently been published. It documents the history and deterioration of the five creeks that feed the Torrens River, and calls for a co-ordinated plan to upgrade the creeks. Will the Minister make provision for this future project?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The honourable member may not realise that there is a River Torrens Beautification Committee which co-ordinates development on the river, and which reports to me. The money allocated in this line is for investigative, and not actual, work. Funds for this work come largely from the State Government. I shall be pleased to examine the proposition to which the honourable member has referred and put it before the committee. In due course, I will obtain a report on whether it is feasible. However, it must tie into a co-ordinated programme.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I refer to the allocation of \$50 000 for "Contribution by State towards cost of controlling water hyacinth". I take it that this scheme is being undertaken by the New South Wales Government, and that South Australia is paying it money to keep up the good work.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** That is so, as are the Victorian, New South Wales and Commonwealth Governments. This scheme is controlled by the local authority, and is overseen by the New South Wales State Government. It undertook a spraying programme which, evidently, was partially successful. However, the dry spell occurred, and the threat of water hyacinth getting into the Darling system was dissipated temporarily. However, we are still keen to ensure that that programme is continued because, if water hyacinth gets into the system, we will experience much trouble.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** I refer to the allocation of \$216 000 for "Installation and maintenance of meters—River Murray". What stage has been reached in the metering of all water diversions from the Murray River in South Australia?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** This allocation is for a continuation of the programme that has already been commenced. I will ascertain for the honourable member what stage that programme has reached.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I refer again to the allocation for the protection and improvement of the Torrens River. If the sum of \$30 000 is solely for investigative purposes—

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** No, it is for the acquisition of land, and so on.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** Then, it is misleading to suggest that it is for investigative purposes. What land has been acquired and what subsidies have been made to councils in relation to that sum of \$30 000?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** As I do not have that information with me, I will ascertain it for the honourable member.

**Mr. ALLISON:** I refer to the allocation for "War service land settlement—Eight Mile Creek". Before asking the Minister for information I should like to express the gratitude that has been passed on to me many times by different settlers and residents of the Eight Mile Creek drainage area for the Minister's decision to equate that area's rates with and peg them to the South-Eastern Drainage Board rates. That decision has met with great approval. When does the Minister expect to introduce retrospective legislation to cover it?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Certainly, it will be in this session. I am delighted to think that we were able to assist in what was a very real problem with the people in this area. There is no alternative for them. They are involved in dairying, and that is the beginning and end of it. It is absolutely imperative that the drainage system be properly maintained. This sum, of course, is transferred from the Lands Department. Previously, that amount would have been shown under the Lands Department had that department still been responsible. I am grateful to Neil Killmier, of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, who was Chairman of the committee that looked into this matter and did an extraordinarily good job in presenting to the Government the recommendations that led to the decision the honourable member has commended.

**Mr. WILSON:** The River Torrens Development Committee has used a great deal of public involvement in the study it is considering, and I believe it has had to consider the River Torrens transport corridor in its deliberations. Is the committee to bring down a comprehensive report, or is it going along in a series of acquisitions on a piecemeal basis?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The idea of the investigation is not to do it on a piecemeal basis, as was occurring previously. The other difficulty was with the survey. Some people aim to the centre of the river, and the definition of this from certain survey terms was extremely difficult. Tremendous problems were involved. The investigation is designed to overcome that and to set up an orderly method of purchasing this land back. It is most desirable that the authority should regain control of what never should have been granted in the first place. It is similar to our coastline, or the fringes of the Murray River. I will be happy for the honourable member, if he wishes, to speak to the Chairman of the committee, an engineer in the Highways Department and a very good Chairman. I will be happy for the honourable member to meet him and talk to him about it so that the honourable member can familiarise himself with the activities of the committee.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** The sum of \$25 000 is proposed in relation to the survey of the Renmark flood banks. Is that for survey work only, or does it involve some consolidation of the banks in the form of work?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It is for survey work only.  
Line passed.

Education, \$285 978 000.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** I wish to raise a matter relating to Mrs. Goode (the Minister may know the correspondence under the name of Mrs. Goode's mother, Mrs. Moffatt). This is an extremely important issue, one which the department should examine. Mrs. Margaret Sue Goode started work as a teacher in 1975. She worked for two terms at Port Lincoln then went overseas at the end of 1975. Her mother was asked to guarantee a bond of \$500 to the Education Department ensuring that Mrs. Goode would come back and start work.

She returned to Australia in the last term of 1976 and worked at Norwood High School as a casual for the last term. She tried to get a refund of the \$500 and was refused. That occurred late in 1976. I wrote to the Minister at the beginning of March, 1977, and said that Mrs. Goode was unable to get a job in 1977 and could not get a permanent position. In April, 1976, she wrote to the department advising that she was returning to South Australia and she applied for a position with the department, commencing at the beginning of the third term.

I understand that, when she returned to Adelaide, a permanent position was not available and she was employed on a casual basis at Norwood High School. She subsequently re-applied for a permanent position with the department in 1977. To that date, she had not been appointed. I refer, of course, to the date of my letter to the Minister on March 4. The letter continues:

When your Government announced that all teacher bond liability had been waived as from December 6, 1976, Mrs. Moffatt immediately contacted the department and requested that the \$500 guarantee be returned to her. Mrs. Moffatt was asked to contact the department again mid January. This she did and was told that the \$500 guarantee money would not be refunded as her daughter had not been "permanently" employed by the department before December 6, 1976.

As I put it to the Minister:

Mrs. Goode has at all times demonstrated her willingness to work out her bonded period. It has been the responsibility of the department to offer her a permanent position. The fact that the department has not done so should not result in the loss of the guarantee money by Mrs. Moffatt. It would appear that the decision of the department is completely unjust.

I asked the Minister to investigate the matter. On July 25, 1977, I received a reply from the Minister, indicating that his policy had been formulated, that the three-months period in which she had been working as a temporary teacher had been added on to the time worked, and that she would only have to work for two years of full-time service before becoming eligible for a refund of the \$500. I wrote to the Minister again saying that I believed this to be a totally unjust decision. I said that I would take further action, as I intend to do. I am still waiting on a reply from the Minister's department, and I would appreciate that reply as soon as possible. The matter has now dragged on for almost 12 months, and it should be finalised.

Mrs. Moffatt paid this \$500 as a guarantee that her daughter would come back to Australia and be willing to work for the Education Department. Her daughter has fulfilled that obligation. She came back, and worked for three months. Unfortunately, it was the Education Department that could not meet the obligation of giving her a permanent position. I see no reason why Mrs. Moffatt should lose her \$500 guarantee because the Education Department has not been able to keep its end

of the deal. I think it is a grossly unjust decision made by the Education Department. It should be looked at. If Mrs. Moffatt's daughter had not come back and offered her services, or if she had come back briefly and taken off again, I could understand the decision, but she has come back and the Education Department has failed to meet its end of the obligation. Will the Minister consider this matter as quickly as possible and reply to the letter? If the reply is not favourable, I will take the matter further.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD (Minister of Education):** This is a matter of special interest to the honourable member rather than of general interest to the Committee as a whole. I have seen a report on this matter in the last day or so that suggests that the matter is close to resolution in terms of the honourable member's receiving a reply from me, and I think that is the most important thing he wants to hear from me.

**Mr. ALLISON:** I seek a composite picture of the relationship involved in the increases and changes of staffing in primary and secondary education. For primary schools there has been an increase of 10.1 per cent above last year's actual payments and for secondary schools there has been an increase of 8.5 per cent, which indicates that there is a stabilisation of staffing in the secondary area, because of a commensurate decrease in student population. Can the Minister relate these figures into the number of teachers becoming available from teachers colleges? Will there be an increase in staffing?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The honourable member's interpretation of the figures is substantially correct. As was the case last year, such expansion as occurs in the teaching service will occur almost completely in the primary area. There is a more drastic reduction in enrolments in secondary schools than obtains in primary schools, and additionally there is a much greater need for improved staffing ratios in the primary area.

There will be much greater expansion in the primary area, which means that the position that will obtain will be similar to the position which obtained last year: there will be some secondary-trained people who, in order to obtain employment with us, will have to accept employment in the primary area, or possibly in an area school. Beyond that I cannot go at this stage. There will be some movement of teachers who last year were given primary appointments, into the secondary area, in which they were originally trained. This only increases the likelihood that there will be increased numbers of secondary-trained people who will take appointments in the primary area.

**Mrs. BYRNE:** I refer to the provision for wages of playground supervisors and seek information about where these playgrounds are, when playground supervisors were appointed and any other relevant information?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I understand generally that these people are ancillary staff associated with child-parent centres. I will obtain information about the exact locations.

**Mr. ALLISON:** In respect of primary and secondary teachers and staff, does this provision include ancillary staffing? If it does, in the light of the pruning that has gone on during the past few months of ancillary staff in schools where the student population has fallen below required figures, will the ancillary staffing targets be met as indicated in the minister's previous statement to the South Australia Institute of Teachers regarding a five-year plan?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Yes.

**Mr. ALLISON:** On that same matter, the Schools Commission Report published a few months ago maintained that South Australia amongst other States had reached targets that had been set for 1980 in primary schools and 1982 in secondary schools, and that in

secondary schools we had reached a standard equivalent to stage 2 in respect of the private school classification. Because of repeated comments by the Minister that there was inadequate funding available from the Federal area, is it correct that we are so far ahead of our expected standards for primary and secondary schools?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** True, the figures quoted by the Schools Commission in relation to these matters are correct, but we do have commitments that are not ambitious commitments: they are well below what has been requested of us by S.A.I.T., especially in relation to non-contact time for primary teaching staff. The effect of the vote we are now considering will enable us to go to 8 per cent non-contact time in primary schools. That was less than S.A.I.T. expected, and less than what I would regard as desirable in view of the non-contact time available for teachers in secondary schools.

I admit that in secondary schools the material being handled is conceptually more involved and, therefore, involves greater preparation. Doubtless, marking processes are more complicated. Regarding Federal funding, certain expectations were created not only by pressure from the education community but also from the Commonwealth Minister in taking about a 2 per cent increase in real terms in education funding. It was largely in relation to that fact that these expectations were not met that my critical comments were made at that time.

**Mr. VENNING:** Much controversy has existed because of the intention to turn Moonta High School into an area school. Consultations having taken place, can the Minister say whether in the new year the Moonta School will become an area school?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The department has been encouraged by the reception that the concept of an area school for Moonta has received. Controversy raged over the concept of closing the high school and busing students to nearby Kadina. I believe there has been little, if any, controversy in relation to Moonta. Regarding the area school concept, the Regional Director (Mr. Hewton) has had meetings with local people and has reported that they support the scheme and it is therefore the department's view, as it is my view, that the area school concept should proceed. We are in a position, if we are to proceed with it, that it could be introduced at the beginning of the new school year.

**Dr. EASTICK:** A regional director has recently been appointed to a new district in the western suburbs. Some of these regional areas show a disparity in work load having regard to the size of the area and the number of schools. Has the regional director concept come up to the expectations of the department, and is there a flow-on advantage in spending, facilities, and the delivery of education?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** One remaining appointment has to be made to the Central Southern Region, which will be part metropolitan and part country including the whole of Fleurieu Peninsula, as well as the south-western suburbs, the Noarlunga area and areas bordering it. The position has been advertised and we expect to make an appointment early in the new year. When that happens regionalisation at the director level will be completed, although one or two matters have to be ironed out with the Public Service Board in relation to the Upper Murray area in which we have a personal superintendent level. There is also the possibility of the appointment of a superintendent for the Eyre region, and one or two other matters to be considered. Concerning the disparity of size between districts, we are in the hands of the CURB recommendations, to which we must adhere. With the exception of the Central Southern Region, by and large

early appointments were made to country districts as a recognition of the job's being more demanding because of the greater area to be covered. At this stage we are very pleased with the response that regionalisation has received, especially in areas in which it has been established for some time. Regional directors are fulfilling an important function. There has been a restriction of growth at the central office because of facilities now available in the regions, and this process will be accelerated. If more specific information is required, I will obtain it for the honourable member.

**Mr. ALLISON:** What percentage of students emerging next year from teachers colleges are expected to be absorbed into the Education Department?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Two factors make it difficult for me to comment: first, it is not yet clear what the resignation rate will be and, secondly, the balance of employment between exit students and other people seeking employment in the department, such as contract teachers looking for permanency and former registered teachers who now wish to rejoin the department. If we offered no employment to other than students, a high percentage of exit students could be offered employment. At this stage we do not have a clear picture of resignations and, until the process begins, it will be difficult to have some idea of the balance going to exit students.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** A new building at Townsend House for deaf and blind students was built at a cost of more than \$1 000 000, but within 12 months the part catering for deaf children was about to be closed, because the department had moved most of the children into different primary schools in the district. The parents of these children have worked hard for reasonable accommodation for them and, as many of the parents have the same affliction, they realise the problems that their children will face and have been adamant that their children should not be placed in other schools, because they were satisfied with the accommodation provided at Townsend House. What is to become of the deaf school at Townsend House?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** First, I would be surprised if any deaf children would have been removed from that school against the specific wishes of the parents, but I will check to ascertain whether what the honourable member implies is the case. Secondly, although I am aware that the facilities are substantially under capacity, we have adopted a wait-and-see policy in relation to it. I will obtain more information from the department.

**Dr. EASTICK:** Concerning ancillary staff, I understand that the decision as to the amount of time made available to a school has been based around the mythical 100, a terminology that has been used by school councils and staff members. It has been put to the Minister that the opportunity for non-contact time in smaller schools is much less than it is in schools with more staff numbers, and the need for the Principal and other staff to undertake an administrative role becomes a greater burden. Is it the policy of the department to reduce or use some other grading factor than the arbitrary 100-student level?

The other matter to which I refer is the upgrading of school facilities—not major works which come under the Loan programme—but the provision of landscaping, asphaltting or other activities. It was the vogue, perhaps six or seven years ago, to upgrade these facilities. A priority arrangement existed whereby the larger schools got first consideration, whereas many of the smaller schools, particularly in the country, low in priority, have recently been advised that they will not receive the benefits of the landscaping which other schools have enjoyed, because



there are areas of higher priority than landscaping. New initiatives are being shown in education.

I suggest to the Minister that it would appear to be wrong to undertake new initiatives before the previous initiatives have been completed throughout the system. We might get a claim of discrimination by some schools, and there would appear to be some truth in such a claim. Some schools have not caught up with the old set of initiatives before the new set has been undertaken. Has the Minister considered this matter? What is the Government's policy, and is there a chance that some further consideration may be given to ensuring that, in any new initiative arrangements that exist, all schools will have been upgraded to one position before funds are made available for new initiatives?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Taking the second set of questions first, I think this will be one of the advantages that will accrue from regionalisation in the minor works programmes, which will be under the control of the several regional directors, and it will be up to them to order their priorities. There will be some kind of cut-up of the cake as between the regions, but that will be on the basis of the needs of the regions and also some kind of general understanding of equity as between the regions. I think that is where the advantage will come in. It would be quite ir-supportable for, say, the South-East to be seen to be favoured above the Mid-North, or whatever. Beyond that, it is a matter of the schools and the school councils being able to establish their case with the regional director and his staff. I think that will go some way towards solving the problem the honourable member has specified.

Regarding his first set of questions, the honourable member referred to ancillary staff and went on to talk about non-contact time, which involves professional staff. Does the honourable member want me to comment on both those matters, or was it a slip of the tongue?

**Dr. Eastick:** I was making the point that ancillary staff is there to help, but staff in the smaller schools have less non-contact time; therefore, they have a greater need of ancillary staff than have some of the other schools.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** In relation to non-contact time itself, the department is currently investigating the possibility of a greater percentage of fraction-time appointments, which will have two effects—first, it will enable more people to benefit from salaries from the department for a fixed sum. Secondly, it will allow in some areas for a realistic amount of non-contact time to be made available. If we have a school with two teachers, we may grossly over-staff the school by adding an additional teacher if it is a full-time appointment. However, if we get into the fraction-time appointments, we can do something realistic without grossly over-staffing a particular school. That is one of the ways in which we are looking at it.

Secondly, in relation to the possibility of some increase in help with ancillary staff to make up for the fact that, even with the reform I have indicated, it may still be difficult from time to time to bring a smaller school to a position of equity with the larger schools, this is one of the matters currently being investigated by my departmental team, which is looking at some means of varying the formula to which the honourable member has referred. The formula in the past has proven inflexible, covering as it does a wide variety of functions which occur in the school but which are lumped under the general heading of ancillary staff. The member for Goyder will recall the school I opened in his former district where the operations of the old formula, which still technically exists, meant that these people were put to great work to maintain an immense area that this four-teacher school had inherited.

**Mr. Russack:** That's a problem.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Yes, it is still a problem for both of us. The school council was having to do a lot whereas a more flexible formula might have meant that more areas would have been available for ground staff. This matter is still being looked at for some variation of the formula.

**Mr. ALLISON:** Regarding the \$80 000 voted for contribution towards the cost of bringing teachers from overseas and other States, does the Minister expect to bring a substantial number of teachers in from outside the State, or is this a provisional figure in anticipation of getting some really top-class excellent staff members who cannot be provided within the State?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** No, it is to get rid of some who will have completed their contracts with the department and who came over here back in the days when we were desperate to get staff. It is repatriation out of the country, rather than bringing them in. The heading has been carried over from earlier Budgets. It is slightly misleading, because there is an implication of import when, in fact, it is all export.

**Mr. ALLISON:** There has been some contention over a decision to transfer regional film collections back to a central collection under the auspices, I think, of the South Australian Film Corporation. Has that decision been finally made, and is it irrevocable? It is possible for regional collections to be provided in the form of copyrighted video tapes in lieu of films?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** This matter is under review, and I have had correspondence with people from the South-East, possibly even from the honourable member, on the matter. There is no finality about it. I will try to obtain an accurate resume of the current position for the honourable member.

**Mr. ALLISON:** Of my knowledge, I think that the film collection in the South-East has been extremely well used by many schools in the district and that it would be unfortunate if the problem could not be solved.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I seek information about the provision for disabled high school students to attend normal high schools which, as the Minister would know, by their design invariably make it difficult for disabled students to travel from one classroom to another? Has any provision been made for the necessary equipment that might be required to transport such students in and around the school property, upstairs and downstairs, and into classrooms?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I will get the information for the honourable member. In designing new high schools there is increasing provision for these facilities, which will be quite a feature of the design of the projected Surrey Downs High School, although that school is some way off.

**Mr. ALLISON:** Over the past two or three years there has been a considerable improvement in invoicing and receipting equipment sent to schools through the computerised sheets. Are bursars wholly and solely responsible for inventories and stocktaking of equipment, or does the Education Department still have a centralised inventory?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I understand that there are still elements of centralisation in the system, but I will try to get more detailed information for the honourable member.

**Dr. EASTICK:** I have referred previously to equipment that has been sent to schools, although that equipment was not requested and not needed. On many occasions schools have spent funds near June 30 on the old syndrome of "spend up or miss out next year". Has the Education Department tried to devise a system which allows schools



to use funds available for materials and in some circumstances to hold their funds so that those funds can be added to the following year's funds to enable the purchase of equipment that may be relatively expensive but very effective?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** That would certainly be a feature of school based funding as it develops. Regarding the question of schools getting equipment that they have not requested, why do they not send it back? I can see that it is inexcusable for them to be sent equipment that was not requested and was not needed, but it is also inexcusable that they should hang on to it if they do not want it. These matters should be investigated to ensure that they do not occur again. Schools would help if they co-operated in this matter.

**Dr. EASTICK:** Has the Minister drawn to the attention of school administrators that any surplus or unwanted equipment should be dealt with as he has suggested?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** No. To my knowledge, there has never been any notice put in the *Education Gazette*, although I have discussed this matter with departmental officers. Perhaps principal education officers have talked to school principals about the matter. I will check with the Director-General of Education to see whether any action has been taken along these lines.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** What increase in staffing will be made at Belair school next year?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Without knowing clearly what the enrolments will be next year, I do not know, but I will get the information for the honourable member.

**Mr. WILSON:** I understand it is the Education Department's practice to place deaf children in normal schools as a deaf unit. I believe some private schools are involved too. How many schools are involved, and how many children are involved?

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

**Mr. MATHWIN:** What is to be the future of the old Townsend House, and how far have plans gone for the property?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The honourable member will recall the so-called Morphett committee which, among other things, said that there had been certain excrescences to the original Townsend House which should be demolished. That recommendation will proceed. In addition, a matter that was not canvassed by the committee (the matter of the Lady Smith building) has now been resolved; that building will be demolished. It is roughly in that area that the swimming pool will be built. Regarding the old original Townsend House building, the central wing, the Anderson wing, and the Carlton wing will remain. There will be no demolition of those three wings, and some money will be spent ensuring that the building does not further deteriorate. It is not the Government's immediate intention to upgrade substantially the buildings for immediate use, but we are now committed to preserving the buildings, and it is conceded that certain things have to be done, particularly in relation to the roof. We are talking about merely a care and maintenance situation in connection with the old building.

Line passed.

Further Education, \$36 721 000.

**Mr. ALLISON:** There have been comments in the press and in the Auditor-General's Report concerning unjustified expenditure involved in the purchase of cheese knives at \$32.50 each, sugar spoons at \$29.50 each, Wedgwood bone china dinner plates at \$7.38 each, and 1 100 crystal glasses at between \$6 and \$8 each. To what

extent is expenditure at this level justified; is there a considerable pool of trainees in South Australia who would benefit considerably from using this type of expensive equipment; and are there potential trainees from the whole of Australia who might use this sort of training in South Australia for an international hotel course, for example?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I have visited the Regency Park Community College only recently; in fact, I was fed there. Whether I was fed off some of the expensive equipment, I cannot recall. I accept the information that I was given there that all of the people who have gone through a course there have got employment without any trouble. It is proving to be a worthwhile course from the viewpoint of people being able to enter the work force immediately.

Regarding the Auditor-General's comments, one point that may not have been known to the investigating officers of that department was that certain of the expensive items were purchased at substantial remissions. For example, the cheese knives and sugar spoons were purchased less 47½ per cent. The prices quoted in the Auditor-General's Report are list prices and not the actual price paid. A 45 per cent rebate was obtained for champagne and sherry glasses. It was the judgment of the college staff that a limited amount of expensive material should be purchased for training purposes. The vast quantity of material that has been purchased for the college has been much more modest in cost than was suggested in the Auditor-General's Report.

For example, 648 coffee spoons were purchased at 18c each, 552 forks were purchased at 18c each, 648 teaspoons were purchased at 20c each, 600 dessert spoons were purchased at 43c each, and 1 020 dessert knives were purchased at 47c each.

**Mr. EVANS:** Language courses have virtually been stopped in the southern area of Adelaide. Some people who have come from other lands are interested in attending those classes. Recently I ascertained that, in the southern area of Adelaide, no classes are available now. Has there been a cutback in this area and, if so, why, and will the matter be rectified?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Since the general outlines of the Budget were firmed, the Government has approved a further appropriation of funds for the Further Education Department in order to ensure that some of the enrichment programmes could continue. Because of the encouraging upsurge of enrolments for vocational courses, apprenticeships and so on, a squeeze occurred in relation to enrichment courses. That upsurge could not really have been anticipated, because the entrance to apprenticeships far exceeded expectations. In the light of expected cutbacks in enrichment courses, I know that some courses were terminated, but the additional money that the Government has now made available to the department will, in some cases, assist this matter. When the additional money was made available it was contingent on reasonable levels of enrolment being maintained.

I am aware that one or two classes have not continued in the third term, not because of a lack of funds for the programme but simply because enrolments could not be maintained. Language courses have not specifically been referred to my attention, so I had better get further information on that for the honourable member.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** I understand that copper craft courses are run by the Further Education Department and that a fee of \$12 is charged each term. Recently it was necessary to announce to some students that, because of a lack of funds, the number of copper craft courses would have to be cut back. Consequently, instead of the usual 12

lessons each term students are likely to receive only six or seven lessons, and there is doubt as to whether whole classes might be cut out altogether. A constituent of mine wrote to me stating that the obvious way around the problem would be to increase the fee because \$12 a term is ridiculously low.

Apparently all students attending the courses are willing to pay additional fees provided they receive 12 lessons each term. Will the Minister examine the fee structure? According to the person who wrote to me, no fee increase has occurred for some time. I can see no reason why students should not be charged the sort of fee that would be comparable for running the specific course.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I am not sure that \$12 a term is ridiculously low. I would prefer that nothing was charged. However, Cabinet considered this matter on Monday and I am about to announce some increases in fees.

**Dr. EASTICK:** When the new scheme of further education was being set up, the system was criticised because more money tended to be put into top administration than was put into providing services to students. That may be an attitude that depends on how much individuals know about the system and where they are in the system. If the Minister is not aware of that criticism, I assure him that it is an attitude that I have heard expressed in several places across the State. If the Minister cannot comment on the matter now, I would appreciate a subsequent comment from him.

My second point relates to the rather vital concern being expressed in several areas about what is the province of further education and of colleges of advanced education. Can the Minister indicate whether there is any area, be it in the rural sector or in the provision of many agricultural type courses by the Further Education Department, particularly in areas associated with the wine industry?

Is there any closer recognition of the role that individual organisations play in the provision of courses relating to natural resources? Questions on Notice were answered only last week by three departments—Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Lands. The Minister would realise that these are areas of contention at present, and the last thing on earth that any member would want to see would be an unnecessary duplication of courses. One is looking for the maximum benefits that can accrue to the public as a result of the direction of funds.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I will take the opportunity of getting more information about the honourable member's first question, as the department has little to hide in this matter. I should have thought that the Further Education Department was a fairly lean organisation in terms of administration. I point out that the services referred to in the line "Services rendered by other departments", for which \$796 703 was actually paid last year and for which \$862 000 is proposed this year, involve in the main administrative services that are provided to the department by the Education Department. There is reference to that matter in the Auditor-General's report.

The honourable member would agree with me that, if a staff structure was generated by the Further Education Department to do the job that is in effect being contracted out, it would certainly be a more expensive proposition. That is only one example, and it may be possible to find other examples to counter it. I have the impression that the Further Education Department is a lean organisation in this respect, and I welcome the opportunity of perhaps trying to bring some hard data to the Committee regarding this matter.

The specific role of the Further Education Department and the colleges of advanced education is one of the

matters that is currently being considered by the Anderson committee, which expects to report to the Government at the end of this year. Even if it not possible for Dr. Anderson and his people to come down with a hard and fast definition as to the respective roles of the two areas concerned, I am not sure that this matters very much.

It is made clear in another line that the State Government is funding subtertiary courses at Roseworthy Agricultural College and the Institute of Technology. I suppose it could be argued that, because they are subtertiary, those courses could just as easily be Further Education Department courses. However, there is certainly no intention of transferring them to the Further Education Department.

Generally, there needs to be some flexibility in this area, and whatever institution is appropriately set up to deliver the courses should be able to do so even though it sometimes seems a little anomalous that the course is in the college area when, in the other States, it is in another area. In the extremes, we must be careful about this. It is unlikely that we would put into a university the type of course offered by the Further Education Department. It is certainly not contemplated that the Further Education Department will start to offer doctorates, or anything like that. Provided that there is not gross duplication, I can see advantages in there being flexibility between the various sectors.

The honourable member raised particularly the matter of viticulture and rural studies. In this respect, the Further Education Department has a programme in train. It is not designed to trespass on the area which, it is conceded, is the province of Roseworthy Agricultural College; nor is it my intention that it ever should do so. If the honourable member wants more specific information regarding certain courses, I will try to get it.

**Mr. ALLISON:** I refer to the line "Colleges and branches—equipment, materials, services, general education expenses, costs of operation and maintenance", and seek information regarding how large is the cellar of wines at the Regency Park centre to go with the 1 100 wine glasses purchased for the centre. I have been told, although I have no way of substantiating this (I am therefore asking this question) that the centre may have a cellar of 5 000 bottles. If that is so, I am more than a little concerned because so many courses are being pruned that to have a substantial expenditure on stock that could be replaced quickly would seem to be inconsistent with the sum of money that is now available. Will the Minister say what is the list of wine stocks; what is their estimated total value; and by whom and for what purpose the wines will be consumed in the course of a year?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The Committee will readily understand that a wowsler is unlikely to carry that sort of information around in his head. He will therefore try to get it for the honourable member.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I think it is important that the Minister of Education does know what is going on in every aspect of his portfolio, regardless of his own outlook and attitude towards alcoholic beverages. I do not in any way decry his attitude, for which I respect him. Nevertheless, it is apparent that purchases of wine have been made for the catering school. If the reports that I have received are accurate (and I have no reason to suppose that they are not), I find it hard to understand why it has been necessary to buy vintage wines, including relatively expensive port, for catering schools, when the age and vintage of the wine should not make much difference, other than in the normal respect that one would have for a fine vintage, in the training of people in this course.

I will wait until the Minister gets the full details. Indeed,

I hope that they are full details of the costs and everything else involved. The Opposition reserves the right to look at the whole matter again. If, as I understand to be the case, thousands of dollars worth of vintage wines have been purchased and are in the cellar at Regency Park (I also understand that the cellar is well fitted out), I would regard it as an unjustifiable expense, particularly at this stage. This is the sort of matter on which I sincerely hope we will get information from the Minister tomorrow.

**Mr. ALLISON:** I seek information on the line relating to lecturing, administrative and ancillary staff in the Further Education Department. On page 100 of his report, the Auditor-General states that there is some discrepancy in the average number of hours worked by full-time officers in the department. He quotes differences of between 31.8 hours a week to 39 hours a week. My own brief inquiries at one or two centres indicate that there would be a considerably wider discrepancy than that. In fact, some full-time officers would work as little as 10 hours or 20 hours a week, although that may involve only exceptional cases. These are full-time officers and, as part-time hours have been greatly reduced throughout the State, it is important that we ascertain to what extent full-time officers are working to maximum capacity so that courses can continue.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I shall get the information.

**Mr. ALLISON:** Page 101 of the Auditor-General's Report draws attention to the fact that a number of items of equipment given to colleges by companies are not recorded in college records. As I am aware of at least one very substantial donation of a piece of equipment worth tens of thousands of dollars, if it is a common practice that equipment is not recorded, could the Minister give some assurance that in future these items will be put on charge somewhere within the departments records and a note kept of them?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I think it is most unlikely that this would be a common practice. I will take it up with the department. It is most important that records of these matters are kept, and I would see the appropriate locus of the record as being the individual college rather than some central storehouse of information.

**Mr. ALLISON:** At page 103 of his report, the Auditor-General states that there was a situation where security for stores in colleges was unsatisfactory. Is the Minister aware of any losses of stores which occurred during the period which caused the Auditor-General to draw specific attention to college stores control?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I am not aware of any and I imagine that if they had been substantial the Auditor-General would have drawn our attention to them.

**Mr. ALLISON:** At page 100 of his report the Auditor-General comments that the cost of the adult literary programme is not available, nor is the additional cost of personal tuition. I should like some information on the accounting methods used to ascertain whether a course is being operated economically. This would be an important question; after all, a number of courses have been cut back considerably over the past few months and, apart from the adult literary programme, there is also the migrant education programme. The Federal Government has provided more than \$9 000 000 throughout Australia towards this programme. I know from letters I have received recently from people involved in colleges inside and outside the metropolitan area that a variety of courses has been cut back. If there is no effective means of accounting for the expenditure in each course, how can we effectively prune the courses, knowing that we are knocking off the uneconomic or unnecessary ones?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The honourable member

shall have such information as is available.

**Mr. ALLISON:** On page 100 of his report, the Auditor-General points out that a number of officers employed as full-time teachers are also being paid as part-time teachers. He comments that they are doing this without meeting departmental requirements regarding attendance and class contact time. I am not sure what the Auditor-General means by the last comment, because I do not think that either in the salary awards or within the departmental regulations any specific number of hours is set down for an officer to work. Because there is a wide discrepancy in the number of hours worked by full-time officers within the department, I would appreciate the Minister's comment of full-time officers being paid also as part-time teachers when it may be possible to stagger their hours quite effectively to fill in these part-time requirements.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** It is by no means a new practice. It occurred at Whyalla, for example, when I was teaching there in the Education Department. I shall get more information for the honourable member.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** The sum of \$5 000 is to be allocated this year for overseas visits of officers. Where is it expected that such officers will go and how many officers are likely to go for such a comparatively small sum?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** It is obviously a notional amount put into the Estimates. I am not aware of any proposition for an officer to go abroad at present.

**Mr. ALLISON:** Could the Minister explain the paragraph on page 100 of the Auditor-General's Report which states that insufficient budgetary control was exercised on the Wardang Island project? Has that budgetary control been tightened up?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** It has. It relates to the speed with which this project got off the ground, and perhaps the rather unusual methods that were required to get it moving because of the novel nature of the project. The matter has been resolved.

Line passed.

Libraries, \$6 280 000.

**Mr. RUSSACK:** The amount for subsidies to local government libraries is to be increased this year by 93 per cent. Is it contemplated that more councils will be participating, or what is the reason for this increase?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** It is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in library provision this year. The actual vote overall for libraries is up by about 40 per cent in money terms on last year. The Premier has announced the initiatives which are to occur in relation to the western suburbs of Adelaide, where there is a low level of provision of library services. In addition, it is expected that further assistance will be made available to other areas of local government in this State.

**Mr. ALLISON:** The sum of \$50 000 was voted in 1976-77 for library services for the disadvantaged but only \$25 462 was spent. Since a special Library Association report was commissioned three or four years ago, Modra and Pickering completed the report and drew attention to the fact that there were people who were blind, in gaol, in hospital, at home and who were infirm, people who were isolated, Aborigines, and migrants among many disabled and disadvantaged sections of the community. If only \$25 000 was spent, representing 3 000 or 4 000 books at present prices or 5 000 at discount prices, this reflects an unimaginative approach if officers of the Libraries Department were aware that money was available. There are obviously many disadvantaged people in South Australia, even if we think only of the western suburbs of Adelaide, who may have taken advantage of it. What was the reason for the expenditure of only half the amount?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Regarding the physical disadvantage, the problem is the paucity of materials available. Also, the programme proved a little more difficult to get off the ground than we had foreseen. I had hoped that some savings on other lines could be expended on this line as the year proceeded, so that the \$30 000 should be regarded as a fairly notional amount.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** The allocation to local government libraries is nearly \$2 000 000. Has allowance been made for mobile libraries to operate, as only \$3 000 has been allowed for the purchase of motor vehicles? In which districts are mobile libraries to be provided?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I shall get more specific information for the honourable member. I understand that the areas involved in mobile library services in the coming year already have vehicles, but there is a lack of books. So as much money as possible will go into book stock. Much of this sum is for salaries as well as book stock. I shall try to get more information for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Minister of Education, Miscellaneous, \$2 482 000.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Can the Minister tell us about the Beltana Field Study Centre and why expenditure is doubled for this year? What is the position regarding community centre projects? What were the circumstances surrounding the *ex gratia* payment to four deputy principals, the Women's Studies Resource Centre and United World Colleges, and what are United World Colleges?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The Women's Studies Resource Centre is located at the Grote Street Campus of Adelaide High School. United World Colleges is situated in Singapore, and this is the second year that this matter has featured on this line. I received an approach from people in the South Australian community involved in this matter. They pointed out that South Australia was the only State not making a scholarship available for a youngster from a secondary school to spend a year studying at this college, which is largely academically oriented and which has a laudable object of promoting international goodwill by the mixing of children from an international background.

I took up this matter with my colleagues, who were happy to support the concept. Regarding the other matters raised by the Leader, the *ex gratia* payment to four deputy principals, although I do not recall the specifics of the matter other than as a result of an anomaly in an award brought down some time ago, these people in our judgment were underpaid over about four years—it is not just payment for one year, as it extends over three or four years. This matter had to be taken up by Cabinet for that payment to be made.

In respect of the community centres projects, we now have a manager for the Thebarton Community Centre, (Mr. Paul Varma), who I will be meeting for the first time tomorrow. The Parks Community Centre is well on the way and the manager has been there for some time. There has already been a small build-up of staff, and it is those appointments which are largely reflected in the line. Regarding the Beltana Field Study Centre, this concerns resource materials for that centre, but I shall get more specific information for the honourable member.

**Mr. WILSON:** The vote for the Workers' Educational Association had been reduced by \$29 000. Has some of this expenditure been transferred to the Further Education Department?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The vote for the Workers' Educational Association has historically been in two components: one has been the trade union education office and the other involved more general studies. The

\$31 000 is the vote for the trade union education activities, and support for the general studies of the association is still being negotiated.

**Mr. Wilson:** Has it been changed over?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** There has been no transfer to the Further Education Department.

**Mr. EVANS:** I should like to correct a statement, which I thought was a little misleading made by the Minister in respect of the *ex gratia* payment to the four deputy principals. At page 86 of his report, the Auditor-General stated:

Four officers of the Education Department were appointed as deputy principals at area schools, one during 1972 and three during 1975, but were paid the salary applicable to deputy principals, secondary schools. This resulted in overpayments totalling \$19 000. The Teachers Salaries Board award was amended subsequently to provide authority for the payment at the higher rate from March, 1977, but the overpayment was not validated. However, in May, *ex gratia* payments to the four officers involved, equivalent to the overpayments, were approved.

The position is not quite as the Minister stated: the reverse applied. The deputy principals were overpaid and the award did not cover the amount that was overpaid. In preference to having the teachers pay the department, Cabinet allowed the teachers to keep that salary. Also, has the Minister knowledge of how and by whom students are chosen to attend United World Colleges in Singapore? Is only one student chosen from Australia, or is it one from each State?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I shall get specific information. Generally, there is one from each state. As there is a committee involved, I can give the names of one or two committee members to the honourable member.

**Mrs. BYRNE:** Of the \$12 125 000 allocated for the childhood services programme, apart from salaries, in what other direction is this money committed?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Capital facilities of various kinds. As I indicated earlier today, the Kindergarten Union, being a statutory body, raises capital funds and can borrow up to \$1 000 000 a year without impacting on our general Loan programme.

The Kindergarten Union does not have funds to service this loan money, which must be made available from the State Treasury, and is done under this line.

**Mr. WILSON:** I thought the Minister said that about \$29 000 was being negotiated because it was going to the trade union education fund, but there is no line for it. Am I right?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The \$31 000 listed in the Budget is for the trade union training aspect of the Workers Educational Association. I said that whatever moneys may be made available by the Government to W.E.A. for general activities is still being negotiated.

**Mr. VENNING:** What has been the programming of schools for visits to the Adelaide Festival Centre: do children come from country areas, or is it for metropolitan children only?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** They have come from country areas, and the information about these visits, which have proved popular in schools, is contained in the annual report of the Education Department, to which I refer the honourable member.

**Mr. NANKIVELL:** Whilst the Government may be negotiating concerning additional W.E.A. funds, how will they be provided for in the Budget?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I will obtain an excess warrant, which would be shown in Supplementary Estimates.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I understand that the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee for special grants for independent schools have markedly increased since Mrs. Medlin has become Chairman and it now advises on all matters and not only those referring to special grants, but the allocation is almost the same as that for the previous year. Have additional staff been engaged to cope with these additional responsibilities?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** No, and Mr. Stone, Executive Officer of the committee, is the only staff, with typing and other facilities being provided by the department.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** But the allocation is almost unchanged, although the committee's responsibilities have increased. I refer to line 1092.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I will obtain a report for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 11.56 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, October 20, at 2 p.m.