

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, October 26, 1977

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

### PETITIONS: TRADING HOURS

Mr. **KLUNDER** presented a petition signed by 258 citizens of South Australia, praying that the House would urge the Government to amend the Shop Trading Hours Bill to retain the current trading rights of existing exempt shops.

Mr. **BECKER** presented a similar petition signed by 790 citizens of South Australia.

Petitions received.

### PETITION: SUCCESSION DUTIES

Mr. **WHITTEN** presented a petition signed by 22 residents of South Australia, praying that the House would urge the Government to amend the Succession Duties Act so that the position of blood relations sharing a family property enjoy at least the same benefits as those available to other recognised relationships.

Petition received.

### OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT

The **SPEAKER** laid on the table the report of the Ombudsman for 1976-77.

Ordered that report be printed.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: HOUSING COSTS

The Hon. **HUGH HUDSON** (Minister for Planning): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. **HUGH HUDSON**: During the Budget debate questions were raised regarding housing costs, and I promised to bring down information concerning costs as experienced by the South Australian Housing Trust. In view of subsequent statements by the Leader of the Opposition, I believe that these costs are interesting. The details I have are a breakdown of the comparative building costs at Munno Para and Christie Downs for a single unit, three bedroom house, type 197, the full area of which is 129.32 square metres.

A house built on a relatively flat site at Munno Para (this involves the latest tender prices as at a couple of months ago), with appropriate allowance for rise and fall (\$2 650 in the case of Munno Para) and including other items in producing the finished house, as well as allowing 8 per cent on the cost for the trust's own administrative and architectural costs, the building cost is \$20 957. At Christie Downs, on a sloping site, with a \$2 750 provision for rise and fall and an 8 per cent provision for architectural and planning costs for the trust, the total building cost is \$22 804.

That is excluding the cost of land and is fully consistent, once the land cost of \$6 000 to \$8 000 has been allowed for, with the current sale prices of the Housing Trust which vary between \$28 500 and \$32 000, depending on the actual site and the cost of land. I am informed by the Housing Trust that the tendering climate is now very much

more favourable than it was last year; not only have tender prices ceased to rise but they have actually been reduced in most cases. It is quite clear that one of the factors operating on building and housing costs in 1976 was the high level of activity within the housing industry. More than 15 000 houses were completed in 1976, and there is no doubt that last year profit margins widened within all sections of the building industry. Profit margins for subcontractors, for example, become the costs of the builder and enter into building costs directly. I think it is generally known that in Sydney the housing market has been depressed and profit margins have been squeezed in the last two or three years.

Certainly, the housing market in Adelaide is currently much less active than it was last year, and profit margins have come down significantly. I venture to suggest that next year, when we compare the rise in building costs with that for the previous 12 months, we will find that South Australia has a significantly lower increase than any other State, because the base on which that comparison is made is a high base, with high profit margins in the case of South Australia.

I wish to emphasise again that the public should beware of anyone who quotes just percentages and does not specify what are the absolute increases and what is the base on which those absolute increases occur. I was pleased that the *Advertiser* this morning quoted the example I gave, which was an extreme example to illustrate the point, but quite clearly, if developed land costs rise in a year by, say, \$1 000 throughout Australia, the per cent increase will vary from State to State depending to which base the \$1 000 is applied.

The Leader has set out again and again, first, to choose a base that is favourable for his argument and then always to use percentages, and it is simply not good enough that the public of South Australia is being misled in another part of the Leader's campaign to knock anything associated in any way whatsoever with South Australia.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: CAVAN BRIDGE

The Hon. **G. T. VIRGO** (Minister of Transport): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. **G. T. VIRGO**: Last week the member for Rocky River asked what progress had been made on construction of the Cavan bridge. In my reply I said that tenders to construct the concrete structures had been called. That was not a statement of fact: the preparation of the tenders is proceeding, and they will be called early next month.

The second point of interest is that I have now received from the Federal Minister for Transport a reply reaffirming that the Federal Government will not provide finance but saying that the State should not accept that as an indication that the Commonwealth Government does not believe that the proposal should proceed. I do not quite know what that means, but I am heartened by his final statement, namely:

If there are any particular matters you wish to raise in relation to this project, we could perhaps discuss them when we meet to discuss the finalisation of the railway transfer agreement.

That meeting is due to be held next Monday, and I will certainly take the opportunity of asking Mr. Nixon what he means by saying that it is incorrect to infer that the Federal Government will not proceed with the project but, at the same time, saying that it will not provide money for it.

## QUESTIONS

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

### ST. AGNES CENTRE

In reply to **Mrs. BYRNE** (October 12).

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** A 4-hectare site for the future St. Agnes West Primary School has been reserved in the Lands Commission site on Smart Road, St. Agnes. In keeping with our normal practice, a site for a future pre-school will be delineated on the primary school site. It is usual that delineate the pre-school site in such a manner that the pre-school facility will be contiguous with the junior primary component of the new school.

### PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

**Mr. TONKIN:** Will the Minister of Works say, which Government departments, and what specific actions by them, have given rise to the criticism contained in the annual report of the Public Works Standing Committee, and what action, if any, the Government intends taking to ensure that the committee is not misled in the future? The whole question of Government accountability to Parliament and the people, including the various roles and limited powers of the Auditor-General, the Public Works Standing Committee and the Public Accounts Committee, in keeping a Government open and honest, has already been widely canvassed during the short term of this Parliament. The Auditor-General's Report makes annual comments on the Government's failure to institute adequate financial and budgetary controls on its departments, and yet successive annual reports show that little or no action is taken.

The Public Accounts Committee examines wasteful spending and other losses well after the event. And now, the annual report of the Public Works Standing Committee adds to criticisms already made by the Auditor-General that it has no real power to control spending once a project has been approved, or even, on occasion (for example, the Paringa Park school) when it has not been approved.

The practices referred to in the report of deliberately avoiding scrutiny by the committee, or of adding or changing specifications after a project has been approved by the committee, are clearly totally dishonest, and, in fact, involve gross contempt of Parliament by Government departments or authorities. The practices have been referred to before by the committee, but no action has as yet been taken by the Government to ensure that departments and other specified authorities comply with the requirements of the Statute in all instances. The deficiencies of the present system have become more apparent under the administration of this Government, and it is for this reason that the Minister should make the Government's attitude quite plain.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** First, I point out that I have not yet read the report, because I have not had the time.

**Mr. Tonkin:** It's a very serious matter.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I read the report in this morning's *Advertiser*. I am treating the report very seriously, and I do not accept the Leader's statement that the Government or any department has misled the Public

Works Committee. To my knowledge, no department under my control (and, after all, those are the departments which are mainly concerned with this committee) has ever withheld, deliberately or otherwise, any evidence that this particular committee has sought from it. This morning, I asked the Directors of three of the departments concerned, namely, Marine and Harbors, Public Buildings, and Engineering and Water Supply, to give me a full report on the allegations (if one can describe them as that) that have been made in this committee's report.

The only conclusion I can draw, if it cannot be shown that any evidence has been withheld, is that the committee has not used the powers available to it to seek that evidence and that, therefore, the recommendations it has made to the Government have been inadequate. Regarding the Leader's reference to the Paringa Park school, if he reads the Act he will see that there is no necessity on the part of the committee to recommend approval for a project to proceed. The committee is merely required to make a recommendation so that appropriation can take place.

I can give the honourable member a classic example of this. The Tourist Bureau building would never have been built if the Government had followed the recommendation of the Public Works Standing Committee. The committee had good reason for recommending against the project on that occasion, because there were legal implications over light rights. The Government decided to proceed; it was able to overcome those legal implications, and the building went ahead.

I treat most seriously the allegations made in this committee's report and now raised in the House by the Leader. I shall be having a very thorough investigation into the whole of that report, and I shall want to see to it that the committee and the people responsible for the report can stand up to everything said in it. That is how seriously I am treating the matter. I can assure the House that that will be case. I have already had preliminary reports from my Directors. I do not propose to read them, because they support what I have said. All my directors say that, to the best of their knowledge, they know of no case where evidence that has been asked for has been withheld. What is more, as I see it, if there has been any instance that can be isolated and if my departments are involved, surely I should have heard about it from the Chairman of the committee, but I did not. To my knowledge, I have not heard from the Chairman of that committee in relation to any aspect of this report.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** He bailed out in time.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It is not a matter of bailing out. There is no doubt about the Deputy Leader; he is absolute poison. I shall have the matter thoroughly investigated—the Leader need not worry about that. In due course, I shall bring down a full report.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. KENEALLY:** I know of the concern of the Minister of Labour and Industry for employment opportunities for 1977 school leavers. Is the Minister able to inform the House whether the position has improved, or does he view the situation with the same degree of pessimism as does the Prime Minister, who seeks to have a Federal election before parents are aware that he will not be able to provide the jobs for their children that he has promised them?

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** I suppose the real reason why the Prime Minister is having an election 12 months or 18 months early—it is probably 18 months—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** —is fear.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! With so many interjections, I cannot hear the honourable Minister. I hope the interjections will cease.

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** The real reason for the election would be fear—not fear associated with the fact that that Government is unable to run the country properly, but fear of being thrown off the Treasury benches and losing the power that comes with the Prime Ministership and the Government of Australia. Let us look at some facts. The Opposition will not want to listen, I know; I know the form of members opposite. You can listen, Mr. Speaker, because, after all, I am speaking to you. It is clear that the national unemployment situation will deteriorate next year. Even the Federal Government's own economic advisers are talking of figures of up to 500 000 people being unemployed next year. Many of those unemployed will be school leavers—those who left school last year and have yet to find first jobs, and the generation of young men and women who will, in two months time, be leaving schools, colleges, and universities to face the most bleak and forbidding employment situation in a generation. In May, 1974, 4.2 per cent of the young people in the work force were unemployed. In May, 1975, the figure rose to 10.9 per cent; in May, 1976, to 12.1 per cent; and in May, 1977, to 15.2 per cent. This is not a good record for the Liberal Party; in fact, it is quite a drastic record.

Next year is certainly going to be far worse than was this or last year; every indicator of job vacancies shows a continuing decline in the number of job opportunities throughout Australia. Those who find a job are hanging on to it, so the burden will fall even more heavily on those who will be looking for their first job. Up to 30 per cent of those who leave school at the end of this year will still be looking for a job in the middle of next year, and many of them will just not find one, however long they wait. I could add that this situation may alter with a change of Federal Government. It is easy to see from these figures why Mr. Fraser is so keen to have an election before the people become aware of just how grim things will be next year.

#### FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Will the Minister of Community Welfare ask the Minister of Health whether the Government will investigate conditions at Flinders Medical Centre to see that any potential fire hazard is eliminated? A report in the Melbourne Age yesterday states that one of Australia's newest and largest hospitals is a potential fire trap. The report states that if the hospital or its flats ever caught fire the result would make world headlines. The report quotes Dr. Pressley of the C.S.I.R.O., Melbourne, as saying at a Fire Safety Seminar that the acrylic carpet is a high fire hazard; that there is no sprinkler system; and that the block of flats servicing the hospital has single entrances, no fire stairs, and is furnished with fabrics that burn freely. There is also doubt cast on the use of cotton blankets in the hospital. Inquiries I have made indicate that the hospital referred to by Dr. Pressley is the Flinders Medical Centre.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I will bring the matter to the attention of my colleague and I am sure that he will be able to get a report for the honourable member.

#### CONSUMER TRANSACTION ACT

**Mr. BANNON:** Can the Minister of Prices and Consumer Affairs say how effective is the operation of section 38 of the Consumer Transaction Act? Section 38 enables a consumer who is having trouble in fulfilling his obligations under a consumer credit contract to apply for relief against the consequences of a breach of the contract. For instance, at the time of entering into a contract for a certain consumer good, a family or a husband or a wife may be in an economic situation that makes that contract easy to fulfil by the payment of instalments. However, there may be such a change in economic circumstances that they cannot continue to fulfil the contract. It is that sort of situation at which the section aims. It is specially important in the present situation of high unemployment with people who are thrown out of work finding that they are landed with a considerable amount of hire-purchase contracts that have been entered into on the basis of a certain level of income, which has now been reduced. It will be even more important (and this is the main reason for the question) when the change in the basis of payment of unemployment benefits is introduced by the Commonwealth Government, whereby a person receiving unemployment benefits will have to wait and have them paid retrospectively. This will cause extreme and disabling hardship in some cases to people who rely on the benefits as their only source of income.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I thank the honourable member for bringing this matter to the attention of the House because, with the situation that is developing as a result of the economic policies of the Fraser Government, there is no doubt that this provision will prove to be one of the most important provisions in the legislation of this State. More and more people will be put in a position where they cannot meet the commitments they took on when they were employed and felt their future was reasonably secure. With the economy of the country having deteriorated to the extent that so many hundreds of thousands of people are out of work, I have no doubt that the people of this State will greatly appreciate the fact that in South Australia (which is the only State that has legislation that provides this type of protection for people who get into difficulty through no fault of their own by being thrown out of work and put in a position of being unable to meet their commitments) the Labor Government has provided a means for them to receive temporary relief from their obligations.

I think members are aware that the recent report of the Commissioner for Public and Consumer Affairs points out that in the past 12 months there have been 86 inquiries of the Commissioner in relation to section 38. The number of formal applications investigated was 21. The Commissioner also made the point that the number of complaints and investigations was about the same as in the previous year, notwithstanding the fact that the level of unemployment had increased so disastrously during that period. The Commissioner pointed out that in the cases that the branch had successfully dealt with the credit provider had been co-operative and an arrangement had been arrived at. That is very encouraging in light of the present economic climate.

It is a matter of concern that the Commissioner's report clearly indicates that the people of this State are not fully familiar and aware of their rights under section 38. I am concerned to ensure that all the people of this State who need the assistance offered by this section will be able to get it. To ensure that that is the case, I have given instructions to officers of my department that they should study the possibility of directing credit providers to make

known the existence of section 38 and its effects to people who are taking out credit contracts. As soon as the ways and means of instituting this scheme are arrived at appropriate action will be taken.

I have also instructed my officers to investigate urgently the feasibility of giving debtors notice of their rights under section 38 when letters of default are being sent out by creditors. I think that is the most effective method by which debtors can be advised of their rights under section 38. If that is done it should ensure that many people who are the innocent victims of the economic policies of the Fraser Government will be assured that their personal finances are not thrown into total chaos and that they are not financially ruined in the fashion the Fraser Government seems happy to accept.

My officers will be contacting credit providers to ascertain what can be done most effectively to bring the provisions of section 38 to the notice of debtors in this State. As soon as those consultations are complete, I will publicly advise people what action is being taken to ensure that these innocent victims of the Fraser Government's policies obtain the protection to which they are entitled.

### MIGRANT EDUCATION

**Mr. ALLISON:** Does the Minister of Education admit the error of his claim yesterday that any reduction in South Australia's adult migrant education programme was determined by Federal cutbacks? I ask this question in the light of the following facts: in answer to a question in the Federal Parliament yesterday, Senator Carrick confirmed that in 1976-77 the South Australian expenditure for adult migrant education, which was claimed as reimbursement, was \$349 820, as stated yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition. Senator Carrick allocated for South Australia \$423 000 in the 1977-78 Federal Budget, an increase of \$73 180 or more than 20 per cent over the 1976-77 base.

If that were not enough to demolish the Minister's accusations, the Federal Minister, after consultations between myself and the Federal member for Barker (Mr. Porter), announced last night a further allocation of \$2 300 000 to adult migrant education, of which South Australia's share is \$159 000, bringing the funds for 1977-78 to 66 per cent above the 1976-77 figure.

Furthermore, I received the Federal Minister's guarantee that even further funds will be made available to South Australia this fiscal year for adult migrant education services. As applied last year, these funds are subject to negotiation. There will be funds for new programmes which will need to be negotiated by each State.

In addition to this direct funding there will be further benefits for adult migrants in approved educational programmes in the form of increased living allowances raised to the level of unemployment benefits.

Finally, the Federal Minister's department informed me today that South Australia's presumed problems in this area were caused directly by South Australia's Minister of Education acting unilaterally to increase adult migrant education programmes. The State Minister had wildly accused the Federal Government of renegeing on commitments when there had been no prior agreement with the Commonwealth Minister.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** First, I will have the honourable member's figures checked very carefully because I had in the Chamber yesterday a letter on file from Mr. Ken Jones, the Director-General of the Commonwealth Education Department, dated September 5, which set down the allocations that would be coming to South Australia. It was on that basis that I gave that

information to the House. If other money is available to the State, it was certainly not referred to in Mr. Jones's letter. Secondly, I am well aware of the announcement made this morning over the A.B.C. It was significant that the announcement was not made by Senator Carrick but that it was made by the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

**Mr. Allison:** You should—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Mount Gambier has asked his question.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I am sure that this is a face-saving operation on the part of Federal Cabinet in the interests of Senator Carrick who, having vigorously defended the Commonwealth's role in this matter, could hardly put his name on an announcement that was an admission that the Commonwealth was under-funding this area. That is precisely the situation. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition tried to whitewash his Federal Colleagues but, within 24 hours, an admission has been issued that the Commonwealth's funds in this area have been deficient. To get around that problem the Commonwealth has used the clumsy expedient of issuing the announcement through the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs instead of the Minister for Education, who had been trying to defend the Commonwealth's role in this matter. On top of all this we have demands—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Any honourable member who calls "Order!" is reflecting on the Chair, and I will immediately name him. The honourable Minister of Education.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** On top of all that, the member for Davenport made demands, which were misdirected yesterday to the Minister of Labour and Industry, about the provision for apprentice training in the Further Education Department. Our ability to respond to this matter has been one of the reasons why it has not been possible for the State to expand the migrant language area as much as we would like, and why we have depended utterly on Commonwealth funds for this matter.

The Opposition cannot have it all ways: it cannot, on the one hand, try to defend what at the time seemed to be inaction on the part of the Commonwealth Government, and, on the other hand, try to put it on the State to do more in the apprentice area, when we are doing as much as we possibly can with the modest expansion of funds that has been made available by the Commonwealth Government and with the considerable extra allocation made available from the State. In money terms, there has been a 25 per cent expansion in the State Budget as far as the Further Education Department is concerned. The most important point is that my source of information is from none other than the Director-General of the Commonwealth department in a letter dated September 5 that I had with me yesterday in the Chamber. I take it (and I am sure that every reasonable person would), that the subsequent announcement from the Commonwealth is an admission that the position I reported here yesterday was as I reported it—that there was serious under-funding from the Commonwealth in this vitally important area.

### RENOWN PARK GATEWAY

**Mr. ABBOTT:** Has the Minister of Local Government seen a report in the *Sunday Mail* of October 22 concerning the two-metre street tree that was planted in the centre of a gateway to the property of one of my constituents living in Renown Park? Will the Minister have the matter investigated? In June this year my constituent applied to

his local council for the provision of a crossover into his property. The matter has so developed that it is now the centre of a rather vicious battle between my constituent and the local council. I ask the Minister to investigate this matter because the whole position is growing crazier each day. This morning my constituent telephoned me at 7.30 to tell me that last evening someone had cut the tree down to 18in. above the ground. If this vandalism continues, I am afraid the public telephone box and the stobie pole adjacent to the lopped tree might also be cut down.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** I do not think I can look into the matter of cutting down stobie poles, because I do not think we have axes sharp enough to do that, but I will certainly look into the question of the tree and bring down a reply.

### MIGRANT EDUCATION

**Mr. WILSON:** In view of last evening's announcement by whichever Federal Minister made it (I believe it was a joint statement), will the Minister of Education immediately reinstate those courses and programmes relating to adult migrant education that he claims have been severely cut back and, if not, why not?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Just before my getting to my feet to answer the previous question from the honourable member's colleague, I received advice from my Director-General of Further Education, but I wanted to check out my figures before I went on public record about this. The position as we now understand it is that we have been granted an additional \$159 000, for which we are grateful. I do not understand whether the entire \$2 300 000 is a grant for the whole of this educational area, or whether it is to go in other directions. If, in fact, it is for the whole of the education area it would appear that on a population or per capita basis South Australia would have been entitled to about \$230 000. I do not want to raise any criticism about that until I have had a chance to get more specific figures about the overall disbursement of the \$2 300 000. We have been given an extra \$159 000, and we will reinstate courses right up to the limit of that \$159 000. Not a dollar will be left unspent.

### WHYALLA HOSPITAL

**Mr. MAX BROWN:** Will the Minister of Works obtain information on when tenders will be called and the contract is likely to be let for the proposed \$8 500 000 extension to the Whyalla Hospital? The proposed expansion of the Whyalla Hospital has been a long-standing matter that has been of grave concern to me. The real need for this extension became apparent years ago when the present hospital became the major base hospital for the western area of the State. As the Government has announced the spending of \$8 500 000 for these extensions, obviously the people of Whyalla are anxious to see bricks and mortar.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will obtain a report from the department for the honourable member and let him have it as soon as possible.

### DISABLED PERSONS

**Mr. BECKER:** Will the Minister of Labour and Industry table in the House the recommendations contained in the report of the working party on the rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons, and say what action the Government intends to take with regard to the

recommendations? I understand that in certain overseas countries employers are required to employ a percentage of disabled persons. On his return from overseas last year, the Minister said that he had examined employment opportunities for the disabled and had appointed a working party, chaired by Mr. Kenneth Jenkins, and I understand that the working party's report was presented to the Minister last April.

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** I made a public announcement just prior to or during the recent election to the effect that I had been given permission by Cabinet to release the report, which, I think, has been available for five or six weeks. It would be a simple matter for anyone interested in obtaining a copy to obtain one from my office. We have posted copies of the report to the many organisations, both in South Australia and, for that matter, throughout the Commonwealth that expressed an interest in it. We had many inquiries about the report. The honourable member is free to obtain one any time he cares to do so, and so, too, is any other honourable member or any member of the public. Many copies of the report were printed. There is even a copy in my bag that I am still marking. But the honourable member may have that copy today: that is express mail for him.

Tabling the report would necessitate further printing, which I would not like now to say off the top of my head could be done, because I would have to see what that would cost. Adequate copies are available for those who want them. Regarding what the Government is doing about the report, it has been circulated to all Government departments for their views on the recommendations contained therein, and it has also been sent to Mr. Justice Bright's committee, which is doing work on the legal side regarding the rehabilitation of people, for it to examine. We have been active in what we are trying to do with it. I hope that in a few months time we will be in a stronger position to inform the people of South Australia where we are going with it.

### APPRENTICESHIPS

**Mr. OLSON:** Will the Minister of Labour and Industry consider amending the Apprentices Act to enable apprentices to complete their indentures? Because of the current economic situation, some employers are retrenching apprentices within two months of completing their indentures. Under the Act, it does not remain the employer's responsibility to find job opportunities within the industry. Will the Minister ensure the continuation of training and employment, in order to obviate hardship to apprentices, which is fairly widespread?

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** I am not aware of the facts the honourable member has raised. I hope that he can give them to me in writing, explicitly explaining the situation. I am unable to say today that I would be prepared to amend the Act, but I am prepared to examine the details and make up my mind whether or not it needs amending. I do not know whether the economic situation has been the cause of people terminating apprenticeships. I should like to know the details of the matter. I wish to make clear that I will do whatever I can to protect the rights of apprentices in any circumstances. If the honourable member will furnish me with the details, I will have the matter examined.

### LOCK COAL

**Mr. BLACKER:** Will the Minister of Mines and Energy explain to the House the Government's intention

regarding the assessment and development of the coal deposit situated west of Lock? The Minister is aware that some concern has been expressed within the community of Lock as to future development. Whilst I have passed on to some residents the information that the Minister has given me, I am still getting repeated requests for further information regarding possible industrialisation of the area.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** When I first spoke to the member for Flinders some weeks ago, it was thought that the coal deposit at Lock was probably not large enough to enable a viable undertaking to develop from it. Since that time, I have to report that further drilling has substantially altered the assessment of the size of the deposit and to some extent its quality and usability. It is now thought that the size of the coal deposit there is of the order of 100 000 000 tonnes, and that a project based on it could well be feasible in the future. However, I should say to the honourable member that any project, were it to be developed, would have a lead time, I would think, of at least three years before any disturbance of the area took place, that is, three years from the time that the decision to go ahead was taken. There is no immediate prospect of a decision being taken to go ahead.

In this connection, it is worth noting that the northern power station to be built at Port Augusta, expected to come on stream in 1983, will involve the further development of Leigh Creek coal and is expected to be associated with the complete using up of that coalfield. It is clearly possible that the next power station to be built after the northern power station may be required to come on stream in 1986, and that conceivably we would be involved (or it is a possibility) in a proposition to base that on Lock coal. However, it is far too early to say that and, even if it were to take place, one would not see any significant development in the vicinity of Lock until say, 1984, at the very earliest.

Whilst the latest drilling that has taken place has substantially upgraded the deposit and therefore altered the previous assessment that I gave to the honourable member, it is still the case that the lead time in such developments is long and that it would be a considerable period before any development could be expected to take place; a considerable period of notice could be given to the people resident in the area before any such development occurred. In summary, it may happen, it is a little more likely than it was previously, but a great deal of notice will have to be given if anything ever does eventuate.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: JUVENILE OFFENDERS

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

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** The *News* yesterday carried a story headlined "Boy rapists on fourth charge". The story obviously had been based on answers provided to Questions on Notice from the member for Glenelg. The opening paragraph of the story was completely inaccurate, and that is the area to which I am referring. It was a misinterpretation of the information relating to those juveniles who appeared before the Juvenile Court on charges of rape during 1976-77.

The paragraph stated that two of the eight youths who appeared on rape charges during that year were on at least their fourth charge of rape. The information I provided for

the member for Glenelg did not disclose what offences these two youths previously had been charged with. It simply stated, as can be seen from a perusal of *Hansard*, that they had faced unspecified charges on four or more previous occasions.

I am pleased to report to the House that the *News* has recognised the error, as it were, that occurred and, under the heading "Payne explains figures", has taken action in a report to put the position right for the public of South Australia. I had further checks made by officers of my department today, and these have disclosed that neither youth had previously faced a charge of rape.

#### QUESTIONS RESUMED

##### STOCK FEED

**Mr. RODDA:** Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture to ensure that adequate fodder grain will be retained in this State to meet the obvious needs for stock feed next year? The *Primary Industries News Bulletin*, a copy of which is in the Parliamentary Library, states that at this stage there are on farms stores of fodder of 1 100 tonnes of feed wheat, 8 000 tonnes of feed barley, and 110 000 tonnes of fodder hay. The bulletin states that, at this time of the year, there are usually 100 000 tonnes of feed wheat, 140 000 tonnes of feed barley, and about 700 000 tonnes of fodder hay. In the past eight months there has been a severe deficiency of rainfall in agricultural areas in most parts of South Australia, and quite large stock numbers are being held. There will be a big demand for grain fodder in order to maintain flocks of sheep and herds of cattle in the autumn and, with the weather cycle as it is, there is no telling whether we will have a worse season next year. I should be grateful if the Minister could consult with his colleague so that primary producers could be assured that they will have the safeguard of fodder available in the coming season.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I shall be pleased to do that, and will tell the honourable member when I have a reply.

##### ROUND HOUSE

**Mr. GROOM:** Can the Minister of Works say whether the Government will consider and investigate the feasibility of purchasing the building known as the Round House on Anzac Highway, Glenelg? The Round House has remained in its present state for about seven years: it is half completed, and the original developer went into liquidation. I believe it was repurchased by a private developer about 18 months ago but, to date, nothing further has been done. From information I have received it is unlikely that it will be completed at least in the foreseeable future, or at all. Several Government departments are scattered around Glenelg, and I believe that the council could make use of this building as well. Perhaps Government departments and council offices could be housed in the building, it could be used by community groups, and as a convention centre, and at the least it could be used for residential purposes.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** If it were leaning to one side, it might be more attractive, or perhaps I could have the Public Works Committee consider the matter, if I

provided sufficient evidence to convince that committee. However, it is a pity to see the structure not used, a condition that has applied for so long. Also, I understand that vandalism and other acts have caused some damage whilst the building has been unused. One feature of the building that would make it unattractive for Government offices is that it was designed to be either a motel or flats. I am no expert on this matter: I have never thought I was. I will have my officers investigate the proposal that the honourable member has put this afternoon and let him know the outcome of their investigation.

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. EASTICK:** Can the Minister for Planning say whether Mr. Hart's inquiry into aspects of planning and development is proceeding according to schedule and, as a consequence of that inquiry, whether he has thus far been able to identify any area of current legislation which requires urgent amendment in the best interests of the community? In answers to Questions on Notice last week, which are reported on pages 232 and 233 of *Hansard*, the Minister indicated that it would probably be necessary for the Government to extend the period of time available for interim development control, but not necessarily in advance of Mr. Hart's findings. Have any of the decisions or any of the circumstances of the inquiry indicated areas of grave deficiency which are working against the best interests of the community either in planning or development?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I think the inquiry is proceeding according to plan. Mr. Hart has received many submissions. I think he either has seen or is in the process of seeing those councils that wish to discuss the matter with him. I do not propose, as the honourable member should know, to comment on anything on which Mr. Hart might be reporting prior to his finalising his report to the Government. It would be most improper for me to do so.

**Dr. Eastick:** Unless he had made an interim report.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** He has not. It is likely that his report will be a staged document that will involve a series of reports rather than a single report. When any announcement can be made in relation to any aspect of the reporting process I will certainly make it, but I will not be commenting on the report prior to Mr. Hart's reporting to me.

### SEX DISCRIMINATION

**Mr. HEMMINGS:** Will the Attorney-General have inquiries made about whether the recent retrenchments at Kenwood Peerless Proprietary Limited of Elizabeth of 110 people could in any way be considered unlawful under the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975? Of the 110 people retrenched, 102 were women. A report that appeared in the *Advertiser* of October 20 stated that 110 workers would be stood down indefinitely by Kenwood Peerless Proprietary Limited. The report under the heading "Kitchenware lay-off", states:

Kitchen appliance maker Kenwood Peerless Pty. Ltd. will stand down 110 workers indefinitely at its Elizabeth plant on Monday. The company's managing director (Mr. D. F. Clift) said yesterday "complications arising out of the Victorian power dispute" had forced this.

When I first read that report my impression was that it was an unfortunate side effect of the Victorian power dispute. However, on Tuesday, October 25, a group of constituents, women retrenched by Kenwood Peerless

Proprietary Limited, visited me and stated that of the 110 persons retrenched, 102 were women and the remaining eight were junior males. It was their opinion that they were being discriminated against because of their sex.

They informed me that at a meeting of the workers prior to the dismissals the management had stated that no men would be laid off as they were considered to be breadwinners. My constituents argued that they, too, were breadwinners, due to differing domestic circumstances, such as being deserted wives, divorcees, widows etc., and that the retrenchment notices should have been based on the principle of "last in, first out" or on a needs basis.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I will certainly refer the matter to the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity for an urgent investigation to be conducted to ascertain whether, as reported to the House by the honourable member, discrimination has occurred. It certainly seems that that has been the case. The firm to which the honourable member refers is in the general area that I represent and is known to me for the unfortunate industrial relations it generally has. Maybe in this instance—

**Mr. Chapman:** That's a scathing remark.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** It is not. The fact is that the firm has had difficult industrial relations.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Attorney will resume his seat. There are far too many interjections. Honourable members complain that insufficient questions can be asked during Question Time, but repeatedly more than one question by way of interjection is asked. I hope that the honourable Attorney will not reply and I hope that honourable members will not interject.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** I simply said that this firm suffered from difficult industrial relations. I will not take that matter any further. It is not a direct reflection on the firm or its employees. All I am saying is that over several years, to my knowledge, the firm has had difficult industrial relations. I will certainly refer the matter to the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, ask her to investigate this matter urgently, and to let me have a report on it so that I can inform the honourable member whether a breach of the Sex Discrimination Act has occurred or whether discrimination on the grounds of sex has occurred in this instance.

### DEPARTMENTAL DISPUTE

**Mr. GUNN:** I direct my question to the Minister for Planning in his capacity as the Minister responsible for the State Planning Office and the Housing and Urban Affairs Department. Has the Minister resolved the bitter dispute that has occurred within the two departments to which I have referred following the appointment of Mr. Mant to the Housing and Urban Affairs Department? It has been brought to my attention that much ill feeling has been generated between the two departments. I understand that at one stage the Minister had to call a conference between the two departments to try to resolve the unsatisfactory situation. My informant tells me that the situation developed to such an extent that it was interfering with the proper administration of both departments.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** One can rely on the member for Eyre, when he is peddling rumours that he has heard, to get the facts wrong.

**Mr. Becker:** Why don't you face the Speaker?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Hanson is out of order.

**Mr. Gunn:** Why don't you answer the question?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I shall indeed.

**Mr. Venning:** Why don't you address the Speaker?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honorable member for Rocky River is out of order. That is a matter for the Speaker to decide.

**Mr. Venning:** Why—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Rocky River is out of order again. He well knows that when the Speaker is on his feet. The honourable Minister for Planning.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** As the honourable member should know, because the Budget figures were before him only a few days ago, the figures demonstrate clearly that there is only one department and not two departments involved. He would also know that the State Planning Office is part of the Housing and Urban Affairs Department. Certainly there has been and there is now in progress a reorganisation within the department. When such changes occur, whether in Government departments, in teachers colleges, or in shadow Cabinets, when something of this nature is in prospect, not everyone is entirely pleased, especially when the reorganisation is still in the process of discussion.

I would never expect, if one wished to reorganise something in the world that needs to be reorganised, that one could satisfy everyone. If one waited until that were the case one would never change anything. The second general point that should be made for the benefit of the member for Eyre—

**Mr. Gunn:** That's exactly—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Eyre is out of order. The honourable member has already asked a question.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** No doubt when the honourable member heard the rumour he listened assiduously to it, but once a true statement of the position is made he does not wish to listen. It should be noted that I had a session with senior officers of the State Planning Office about nine or 10 months ago and that I have not since been associated with any conference, as the member for Eyre claims, involving the full staff of the State Planning Office.

Even that session did not involve the full staff of the State Planning Office, but it involved my visiting the G.R.E. Building where officers of that office work. The member for Eyre's facts are wrong, and I suggest that he should go back to his informant and say, "Either I misheard what you said and got it wrong" or "You've given me wrong information." If the honourable member wishes to peddle rumours in the House, I would ask him to try to have checked the veracity of the information in another way.

**Mr. Gunn:** The way you're going it was spot on.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the honourable member for Eyre. The honourable member has already asked a question. This is the second time I have spoken to the honourable member, but he continues to interject. The honourable member has had the opportunity to ask a question. The honourable Minister for Planning.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** The member for Eyre is not spot on in any respect whatever. As I said, there is only one department and not two; the State Planning Office is part of the Housing and Urban Affairs Department; a conference involving me and the full staff of the State Planning Office has not occurred; the only discussion that I have had with senior officers of the State Planning Office occurred about nine or 10 months ago; and, finally, a reorganisation is taking place, and I do not expect that everyone is completely pleased about it. No-one ever is.

Nevertheless, it is necessary that a reorganisation occur, the need for which I will defend in public.

The member for Eyre has now a deserved reputation for not checking information and for making wild accusations based on the flimsiest of evidence. If he wishes to impress his own colleagues, who sit behind him and must listen to what he indulges in, he should be more careful and do properly the job that he is here to do.

#### NUDE BATHING

**Mr. SLATER:** Can the Minister of Works say whether the Government intends to extend areas for nude bathing in South Australia? I want to make the barest explanation to the question, because I believe the Government could be under some pressure to extend the areas for this purpose. Recently I read a report that at the Australian Naturists Convention some observers believed that there had been a definite swing to the left.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** With the bare explanation, it is difficult for me to reply to the question. I seem to recall having seen or heard something about approaches having been made to the Government, but I am not certain whether it related to increasing the number of beaches or to improving existing beaches. Recently the Coast Protection Board announced that it would, through State Unemployment Relief Scheme funds, build toilets at Maslin Beach. I inquired whether the toilets would have glass walls and was told that that was unlikely to be the case. I will ascertain whether approaches have been made to the State Government for the number of suggested beaches to be increased and ascertain what is the Government's attitude towards the question.

#### RACING INDUSTRY

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Will the Chief Secretary ask the Minister for Tourism, Recreation and Sport whether the Government is satisfied that the racing industry, embracing gallopers, trotters and dogs, is receiving adequate assistance to advance the status and economic growth of that important industry in South Australia? The Eleventh Annual Report of the South Australian Totalizator Agency Board reveals some interesting figures, which show that this is a multi-million dollar industry. Total turnover for 1976-77 was \$94 474 795 from which the Government received \$6 087 272 plus and \$2 575 182 was distributed to the clubs. The return to the Government during the 1976-77 period increased substantially from the \$5 453 850 of the previous year, whereas the distribution to the clubs increased only marginally during the corresponding period. Their annual receipts do not appear to be keeping pace with their ever-increasing costs. Therefore, I believe urgent attention should be given to these financial difficulties facing this important industry in South Australia.

My attention is also drawn to recent reports about a \$25 000 000 racing complex to be built in Iran. Kevin Sattler, who is considered one of Australia's most knowledgeable persons in all aspects of the racing industry, is apparently going to Iran to take up an appointment with the new racing company. He will be exchanging his expertise for some Arab gold. It is also reported that Colin Hayes, one of Australia's top racing trainers will be involved in applying his skills as a consultant. It is further reported (and I might be well advised to have a bet each way on this) that 250 Australian thoroughbreds will be exported to Iran. On the one hand



this may be seen to be Australia's loss but, on the other hand, it certainly demonstrates from a breeder's point of view what a valuable export venture that is. This also reflects the importance of the racing industry in Australia generally, and I suggest in South Australia particularly. Accordingly, it seems even more vital that this racing industry should be receiving the utmost attention. Whilst I am not casting specific reflection on the Government in this instance, I believe it is important to ascertain from the Government whether it is fully satisfied that this industry is receiving the attention it deserves.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** Probably on Tuesday next I will be having a small investment in a sweep on a particular event, because I believe I will probably be more successful in that way than I would be by applying to that event my knowledge of the whole racing industry.

**Mr. Chapman:** It's about time you got with it. It's an important industry and you ought to know about it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member has asked his question.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS:** I represent the Minister for Tourism, Recreation and Sport and I assure the honourable member that that Minister is much better versed in these matters than I am. I will be pleased to get a report on the matter from him.

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

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

#### PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from October 25. Page 446.)

**Mr. VENNING (Rocky River):** Last evening I expressed my pleasure that the area school at Port Broughton was placed on the programme of major projects for which planning and design is proposed during 1977-78. I said that I hoped the school would be completed during the Parliamentary life of the present Minister of Education. But when I realise that during the 10 years I have been a member of Parliament we have had five elections, I suggest that the Minister will have to push on with this project for him to be the Minister when the Port Broughton Area School is completed.

During the weekend I will have the pleasure of the Minister's visiting my area, particularly my home town of Crystal Brook. Not many additions have been made to the school since I left it 50 years ago. When the Minister is in Crystal Brook on Sunday, I hope he will look at the school closely. From time to time requests have been made for a new school to be built at Crystal Brook, and at other times requests have been made for new toilet facilities to be constructed. However, it has been considered better to wait for a new school to be built, complete with new toilet facilities. I believe no significant alterations have been made to the toilet facilities in the past 50 years.

It is pleasing to me to see that the Government will spend \$1 600 000 on effluent drainage throughout the State. This has been a good system for many of our country towns, but I believe that some of our major towns should have had something better. Deep drainage would have been better for Clare. Kadina has an effluent scheme, as will my home town of Crystal Brook. I believe that in future the Government should plan these schemes

in a better way rather than having them running everywhere and anywhere. I also believe that the people who live in the houses should be consulted before the final plan for a town is drawn up. I have received several complaints from householders who would have been saved much trouble if the council had consulted them about where the connections should be made to houses. It is as easy to put a connection in one place as it is to put it somewhere else.

Yesterday, on the way to Wallaroo, the member for Kavel and I visited the new recreation complex at Kadina. We inspected that very fine complex with Mr. Olson who had much to do with its organisation. We were introduced to a member of the staff of the department. I was pleased to find that the Government is seeing that this complex, which involved taxpayers' money, both at the Commonwealth and local level, is being run correctly. This complex is in my new district, and I have already visited it several times.

I notice that the Government will spend \$500 000 on the Port Lincoln bulk loading facilities. I had thought that it was closer to completion than that sum indicates. I was interested to see that the Government will spend about \$40 000 on the new bridge on the north-east side of Port Pirie. This bridge has been a matter of contention throughout the area.

Last Friday evening, I attended a meeting at Port Germein, which is outside my district, but many people from Rocky River go there because it is their nearest seaside resort. Port Germein's jetty is of record length. The meeting was called because of the state of the jetty, which is the responsibility of the Port Germein District Council, the headquarters of which is at Melrose. People at the meeting expressed concern about the Government's priorities when spending money. As members probably know, the jetty is also fairly wide at the deep end. Because of the high expense involved in the jetty's upkeep, the district council sought assistance from the Government, to the degree that I believe that the Coast Protection Board has agreed to take it over and assist with the financing of work on it by providing about \$100 000 this year for its maintenance, and for the district council to be involved by providing about \$25 000 or \$30 000, on the basis that the jetty be reduced considerably in size. The point brought forward at the meeting was that, although the Government had spent about \$600 000 on the bridge at Pirie (over the water, as it was said, to nowhere), why did it not make more money available to retain the entire jetty? I am pleased to see that it seems as though the bridge which has been built at Solomontown and which cost a large sum will serve some useful purpose, as the Government has a scheme to spend \$40 000 on work on the other side of it. I shall watch with much interest the development that takes place in that area.

I believe that the Country Fire Services, replacing the old Emergency Fire Services, will have some advantages over the previous set-up, although, as with many of the so-called improvements, the improvements have become very costly, to the degree that the Country Fire Services headquarters will cost about \$880 000, and \$38 000 has been provided to finance the new board. We are getting into a more costly set-up than was the previous one. We used to pride ourselves on our fire services in South Australia by saying that it cost less to finance the old Emergency Fire Services than it did to finance the Port Pirie Fire Brigade, largely because of the volunteer labour provided by many young people throughout the State. I support the Bill.

**Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg):** In supporting the Bill, I take this opportunity of congratulating the two Opposition

members who have made their maiden speeches on this Bill, namely, the member for Coles and the member for Torrens. I think that they provided a good insight into what may be expected of them, and I realise the colossal advantage they will be to the Opposition. They will prove to be good members, both within and outside this House.

This Bill is the second presentation of such a Bill by the Premier. After the "election of convenience", we now have the usual bleating by the Premier which has now become what one could term a hardy annual bleat against the Federal Government, which he says is starving the State. The Premier said that it was a horrible Federal Government, and insinuated that it had a "down" on South Australia. We know the Premier's ability as an amateur actor: indeed, he proved that last Sunday evening.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I do not think that there is anything in the Loan Estimates about the Premier's being an actor, so I hope that the honourable member will stick to the Bill.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** With due respect, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is a line relating to the arts, and I was merely saying that the Premier was a shocking actor, and certainly an amateur in that field, but I will not pursue the matter further.

**The SPEAKER:** This is not a place in which to voice such opinions.

**The Hon. D. J. Hoppood:** Haven't you just contradicted yourself? You started by saying what a good actor he was.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Minister is out of order.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Circumstances alter cases. The Premier politicked constantly prior to the election, whereas after the most recent Premier's Conference he was quoted as saying that he was as happy as could be. I suppose that, with a hididdledee, he could well partner in one of the musical comedies that often appear before the public. In his second reading explanation, the Premier said:

The money is also being used to fund unemployment relief programmes to give South Australians jobs at a time when the Federal Government seems intent on throwing as many people out of work as possible . . . As honourable members would be aware, in the past 20 months the Government has abolished the petrol tax.

I should think it would, because it was one of the few Governments that had applied it, and such a tax should never have been imposed. It was an example of the Premier's and the Government's greed for money. The more they get, the more they spend. They can never get enough, no matter how much the public is taxed. The motorist was again caught in the grab for the petrol tax, for the removal of which the Premier is now trying to take the kudos. The Premier has abolished rural land tax, which subject has been well dealt with by the member for Fisher, so I will not pursue that matter further. The Government has also abolished succession duties between spouses, but we know where the Premier got that idea: from Liberal Party policy, which it has always been. He had no alternative, because of Opposition pressure, and he knew that it was good Liberal policy. The abolition of succession duties between spouses was adopted by the Premier so that he could take as much kudos as he could at the "election of convenience". The Premier went on to say:

Those tax reductions have shown that the State Government, to the limit of its ability, has done its part in helping bring inflation under control.

I wonder what went wrong in South Australia, where inflation is increasing at a more rapid rate than in any other State? South Australia would have the highest actual

rate of taxation of the three smallest States. Western Australia, with a population of 1 183 700, has a per capita taxation of \$224.39; Queensland, with a population of 2 130 700, has a per capita taxation of \$192.17. South Australia, the other smallest State, with a population of 1 273 700, has a per capita taxation of \$241.67. Those figures are taken from the Budget statements in each State, so there can be no argument, and there is no percentage for the Minister of Mines and Energy to talk about. No matter how much the Premier tries to shadow box in that situation, he cannot get out of it. The figures are there and they cannot be argued with.

We must remember, when we talk about taxation in South Australia, that everything is taxed. When people use electricity to make a cup of tea, or when they turn on the light or the television, they are paying tax on the electricity. In the previous session, that tax was increased by this Government from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. It is a tax on everyone in the State. It is useless for the Premier to state gaily that this is a State of easy taxes. He knows that that is not so, and he is misleading the public in making such statements.

The Premier's speech mentions that payments for the Monarto Development Commission will decrease to \$1 400 000. Not long ago, when speaking about Monarto, the Premier made the following comments:

Building new cities requires of both Government and people talent, imagination, and vision, and these are qualities we will bring to bear in the planning of a new Murray Town. It will be a people's city, designed for people, their families, their education, their health, their control, and their leisure. It will be a lovely city and one in which standards will be set in planning, architecture, civil design, industrial design, and work design areas.

Those were the comments of the Premier in 1972, when he was announcing the site for the new town of Monarto. We all know what a sorry story it has been, what happened to it, who instigated the chop and who poised the axe. It was not the Fraser Government but the Whitlam Government.

**Mr. Whitten:** What do you—

**Mr. MATHWIN:** It is all very well for the member for Price to squirm in his seat. I happened to mention Monarto, which is close to his heart. He should be more concerned about the development of Port Adelaide and what has happened in Queenstown.

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. McRae):** Order! I hope the honourable member will return to the context of the debate.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** I apologise, Mr. Acting Deputy Speaker, for being led away on that occasion by the member for Price. I shall try not to allow him to lead me away again from the matter I am discussing. I know the subject of Monarto embarrasses some of my friends opposite, so I shall not deal with it any further.

**Mr. Max Brown:** Or one of them. You wouldn't have any.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** You have some very jealous opinions about Monarto.

**The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member must not refer to any member as "you". He must refer to him by the name of his electorate. The honourable member for Glenelg.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** For one moment, Sir, I thought he was "Hugh" Brown. The honourable member for Whyalla was a little jealous when the Monarto proposition came up: he had some ideas about a new township not far away in his own district which would help his figures at future elections. The Estimates for 1973-74, at the commencement of the Monarto project, set aside \$55 000 for Hackney and \$21 000 for Monarto. I shall not deal with

the matter any further. It upsets Government members when I mention Monarto, and I do not want to spoil their afternoon.

The Premier said that \$6 650 000 was required to complete phases 1 to 3 of the Flinders Medical Centre by the end of 1977. It is amazing to see how much money has been poured into that centre. I hope that the matter raised by the Deputy Leader today does not prove correct. It would be a bad thing if it were so. When Governments are dealing with such vast sums of money, one would think that safety would be of paramount importance. It should not be overlooked, and I do not think anyone would do that intentionally, but most thorough investigations should be made. Anyone who knows anything about acrylics knows that they pose fire problems.

The allocation of \$6 650 000 for Flinders Medical Centre reminds me of the vast sums of money spent there. The total is probably about \$80 000 000 or more. Parking facilities at the centre were non-existent. A small area was set aside in which senior staff members could park their cars, but patients and their friends and visitors were forced to park in the streets. Some drivers were given parking stickers for parking on grass verges, and so on, when there was literally nowhere else to park.

When I drew the matter to the attention of the Minister of Transport, he was unaware of the situation. I was reminding him of the need for a public bus service for those wishing to attend the centre, either for treatment or to visit patients. I do not know how much land the Government intends to acquire for parking, but adequate space must be provided because of the location of the centre. It is well away from major public transport, although some kind of bus service has been set up. People have to attend the centre at odd times, particularly if they are attending as outpatients or for treatment. It is imperative, in a complex of this nature, that adequate parking accommodation be provided.

I do not know the frequency of the bus service but I hope it will be adequate for the people in the area of Glenelg, Brighton, and Warradale, as well as for those from the Districts of Baudin and Mawson, who have to travel longer distances. I understand that a taxi service was available for people attending the centre for treatment, but that would be costly.

Concerning education, it is about time that the Government realised that it was a mistake to build open-space units. If the Minister does not know he should go on an overseas trip to find out what is happening in other parts of the world in relation to open-space units. He should be aware that in the United Kingdom and parts of America walls are now being installed in open-space units, because the units have not been successful. In this State we have built units for nine classes, and one can imagine the bedlam in such a situation. It would be impossible for any child to learn in those circumstances.

I wonder for how long the Government will continue to build open-space units, when three years ago this type of school ceased to be built in other parts of the world. If the Minister does not know, it is about time that he did, and one way to find out is to travel on an overseas study tour. I believe that the Minister is honest, and that when he returned he would admit that the Government had been making shocking mistakes in building such units in South Australia.

In his statement the Premier said that in 1976-77 the capital expenditure by the State Transport Authority totalled \$13 300 000, and that during 1976-77 the Bus and Tram Division commissioned 11 of its proposed new fleet of 310 Volvo buses and also opened a new bus depot at Morphettville Park. That is a sorry chapter in the history

of the Minister of Transport, in that he has only a handful of those buses operating.

**Mr. Slater:** You're wrong: there are plenty.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** I am not wrong. Members would recall the situation concerning the depot at Morphettville Park and the terrible mistake made by the Government in blasting down the excellent vineyard that had been located where the depot has now been built. This would be one of the environmental black marks of the Government in the past two years. The depot was built against the wishes of all residents in the area, and even the Minister of Mines and Energy would agree with that statement.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** Where would you have put it?

**Mr. MATHWIN:** I could tell the Minister where I would like to put it. The demise of that vineyard was a sad loss to people living in the areas represented by the Minister and me, because it provided a breathing space. We can recall that many times the Premier bragged about vineyards in this State, saying that there were so many near the metropolitan area and that we should do everything possible to retain them because we were lucky and fortunate to have them located within the metropolitan area.

In his second reading explanation the Premier said that the Rail Division had continued its programme of civil works, including work on the Christie Downs rail system, and had commenced a programme of resignalling the Adelaide railway yards and of improving the rolling stock. From information I have received, the question of rolling stock is a sore point in the railways. Few of the locomotives are any good; they are all lame and sick, so I am told. Rolling stock is in a bad state of repair, and employees have difficulty working on the locomotives. Also, there is not much comfort for people who have to travel in the present carriages.

In 1973, the Minister of Transport said that there had been a major breakthrough following the promise of substantial aid from the Federal Government. That was the Whitlam Government, and Mr. Charlie Jones was the Minister who promised this substantial aid. Many of us know that the two Ministers fell out and that, in the process, South Australia lost this substantial Federal aid that it was to get. We had the promises of high-speed double-decker trains and the electrification of the Christie Downs line expected to be completed by 1975; then it was to be 1977 when the first electric train would operate between Adelaide and Christie Downs. Now, we do not have electrification.

The Minister of Transport used to have his daily argument about whether it would operate under AC or DC, or whether there would be overhead wires or a centre line system, but a week later the decision would be reversed. That is the history of the matter but, unfortunately, the South Australian public has suffered from the situation. The "red hens" are still flying along on the Christie Downs line. We have pollution from them, although the Minister says this does not occur and that the black smoke coming from the diesels does not matter, as it merely indicates that they are not adjusted. We know that they are too old to take any adjustment.

I now turn to the South Australian Land Commission, which the Premier mentioned. This is the Government's means of socialising or nationalising land. The expenditure in 1976-77 amounted to \$17 700 000. Land purchases in urban areas involved \$7 000 000, and \$9 900 000 was spent on land development. One would have thought that the Government would learn its lesson from the experience of its socialist friends and brothers in the United Kingdom, who introduced a similar system. Mr. Wilson opted out of that because of the problems it caused. People would

rather own land than borrow it. The Government is expecting people to pay up to \$8 000 for a block of land on lease. It will never be theirs; it will never go to their children.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** That's not so.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** The Minister knows that it is a socialist ploy to take control of as much land as possible. I know the Minister agrees with me and is obviously upset.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** You're joking. You have obviously got your facts wrong.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** I am not joking.

**Dr. Eastick:** Can you tell the Minister what country you are talking about?

**Mr. MATHWIN:** I was talking about the United Kingdom, from where the Labor Party derived many of its ideas about the Land Commission. I turn now to tourism. I hope the allocation of \$1 200 000 proposed for 1977-78 includes provision for the extension of caravan parks in this State. This is an area in which there has been massive expansion, as many people now own caravans or campervans. Facilities in South Australia are not nearly as good as those in some of the Eastern States. It is time the Government did something about that. Many people derive much pleasure from camping and caravanning; it is one way in which an ordinary working class person with a large family can get a holiday fairly regularly. I support the Bill.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

First schedule.

State Bank, \$10 500 000.

**Dr. EASTICK:** What will this money do for the housing industry? Of course, I recognise this is not the only area from which funds are made available for housing.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Mines and Energy):** The honourable member would notice that both this year and last very substantial sums were paid out of the State Loan funds to the State Bank for housing. That has been to enable the State Bank to continue with the same rate of loan approvals as it was operating previously. The Commonwealth Government, under the existing Commonwealth State Housing Agreement, has not expanded the funds available in either 1975-76, or 1976-77, and for 1977-78 the expansion has been from only \$56 400 000 to \$58 600 000, a small increase. Because the increase over the past three years has been small, the State has been forced to make the kind of provision shown here. Rather than reduce the rate of lending, the Government has chosen to maintain that rate, and I think it will be able to be increased slightly. Without this provision, the full impact of the decline in the real value of the Commonwealth funds would have been felt in State Bank lending. This situation has occurred at a time when the queue for loans from the State Bank has expanded significantly. There is now a three-year waiting list, which is a matter of great concern.

**Mr. TONKIN (Leader of the Opposition):** I note that the General Manager of the State Bank was appointed to the board of Beneficial Finance during the past financial year. What part is that company now playing in the loan programme?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** None.

**Mr. EVANS:** What is the waiting time for State Bank loans to buy established homes? I believe that only about 10 per cent of the total amount has been allocated to that area. A means test has applied since about November, 1974. Is the waiting list greater than that for the lower interest money loaned on new homes? The level of income above which one does not qualify for a loan is about \$160 to \$170 a week.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I think, from memory, the waiting list is longer, but I will need to check. At the moment the State Bank is not taking any new registrants who wish to borrow to purchase an established home. The situation had been reached where it was necessary to say that there were so many people waiting for new home loans, which was tied up very much with the state of the building industry, that the State Bank was not in a position to take any further registrants.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I note that State Bank advances for loans to producers in 1975-76 were \$2 790 000, whereas in the previous financial year they were \$2 316 000. What is the reason for the reduced advances?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I will get a report for the Leader. Loans to producers are normally related to the estimates of the likely business that will be required under this heading during any year. That is usually a consequence of what discussions are occurring with the State Bank when this document is drawn up. The opportunity is always available for some degree of flexibility between the different years. If expansion is necessary, the State Bank can expand temporarily under its own funds and obtain a further allocation in the following year's Loan Estimates. However, it is proposed that the State Bank should have access to semi-governmental borrowings of \$1 000 000 and be able to use internal funds. At the end of June, its commitment for loans to producers was, I think, \$3 300 000.

**Mr. EVANS:** Does the Minister see any opportunity for improvement in the bank's taking applicants for loans for established or new houses because of any approach or suggestion that has been made to or has come from the Commonwealth regarding the new five-year period of the housing agreement starting in July, 1978? Our approach to welfare housing should be one of confidence because there is genuine concern by the Commonwealth and State Ministers to improve allocations available for this purpose and to decrease the leeway that exists in this regard. Such an indication would assist people whose names are on the waiting list.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** There is no immediate prospect of a substantial change, even under the new agreement, other than the possibility that, as the new agreement presumably will enable the States to make surpluses, the Commonwealth Treasurer might say, "If we give them additional funds, that will not be a permanent feature of our Budget, because those additional funds, when lent at higher interest rates, will create surpluses for them and ultimately we will be able to reduce the amount of support we can give." If that argument works with the Commonwealth Treasury and if we still have a tight budgetary situation, it is difficult to see that the Commonwealth unless there is a change of Government, will alter its attitude on this point.

We have certainly put to the Federal Minister that he should argue with the Treasurer that, if money is lent to the States under the Home Builders Account at 4½ per cent, the States then on lending money at 5 per cent in the first year and 5½ per cent in the second year right up to the bond rate, then over the years this money will produce surpluses, which presumably will be available for relending, so that additional funds pumped in by the Commonwealth will not be a permanent charge on the Commonwealth Budget.

Treasurers and Under Treasurers are often much more willing to allocate funds if they know that the allocation will not be a permanent charge on the Budget. If it is an allocation for additional staff, it is a much harder argument to win. Clearly, we will not know anything on

this score until next year's Commonwealth Budget has been determined on this point.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Regarding the appointment of the Manager of the State Bank to Beneficial Finance, what advantage, if any, has there been in such an appointment to the loan programme that is carried out by the bank, and what has been the purpose of the appointment?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** To the extent that the State Bank picks up additional business through its association with Beneficial Finance and strengthens its own internal liquidity position, its ability to handle loans will be enhanced. Regarding loans to producers, only \$1 300 000 of the proposed \$3 300 000 is coming from the Loan Account, about \$1 000 000 is coming from semi-governmental borrowing, and the remainder is coming from internal bank funds. Clearly, it is similar to the position of the Electricity Trust of South Australia, which can generate internally half the funds it requires for its capital development programme. To the extent that that can happen, a lower charge on Loan funds is made and therefore we have a greater degree of flexibility to do other things with those funds.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Regarding the advances to homes and loans from the State Bank, a situation pertained some time ago, which I am told has now been corrected, that people who were applying for housing loans from the State Bank were being instructed to conduct their insurance business with the State Government Insurance Commission. Various people produced letters that showed clearly that such an instruction was being issued. From memory, the same position applied to loans granted by the Savings Bank of South Australia. I understand that that practice has stopped and, although the S.G.I.C. has been advertising vigorously in the past on the basis of freedom of choice with reference to the Restrictive Trade Practices Act, I hope the Minister will give an assurance that such a practice will not occur regarding such loans and that people who apply for loans from these banks are not required either directly, indirectly or by implication to conduct their insurance business with S.G.I.C.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** Because of the support of the S.G.I.C. for State Bank customers and for other aspects of Government activity, I would certainly not give an assurance that we would not encourage State Bank or Savings Bank borrowers to take their business to the S.G.I.C. It is very much in our interest in running our own financial affairs to so encourage them. The commission supports many Government activities of one sort or another.

Housing loans have traditionally involved a tie up with certain insurance companies. Borrowers from the State Superannuation Fund for house loans have been required in the past to take out insurance with a certain private company, which I think was Mercantile Mutual.

The way in which the Restrictive Trade Practices Act applies to State institutions is a matter of some legal difficulty that I will not enter into. I am not sure what the position is regarding the matter raised by the Leader, but the Government's policy would be to encourage State Bank and Savings Bank customers to use the facilities of the State Government Insurance Commission. That practice is somewhat different from requiring customers to do so.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I think it is time to put a few things on record, if that is the Minister's attitude on this matter. In this place we have heard many times about the iniquitous practice of certain insurance companies which have lent money on first mortgage or otherwise, and which have required people to insure with specific insurance branches of their own companies.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** Encouraging is not requiring, and I said "encouraging".

**Mr. TONKIN:** I will deal with that later. I am getting the record straight. We have heard these complaints from the Minister and the Attorney-General. We have heard further complaints that banks who lend money in some instances have encouraged people to insure with specific insurance companies, and the Minister now, because the S.G.I.C. is doing good business from the State Bank and the Savings Bank loans, says the Government will not give any undertaking that people will not be required directly or indirectly—

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I rise on a point of order. Why should I be completely misrepresented by the Leader? I did not say that. This just extends the debate unnecessarily.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I will not accept the point of order. The honourable Minister will have an opportunity to reply to the Leader.

**Mr. TONKIN:** The whole point is that the Minister did not give any undertaking, and he said that people would be actively encouraged to do this. When I heard that, I was reminded of the classic statement which was attributed to the Minister of Transport, when he said many years ago, in connection with the membership of trade unions by public servants, that people would be given the necessary incentive by way of ultimatum. Basically there seems to be one rule for the Government and one rule for everyone else, particularly if it is private enterprise. What the Minister is saying is that he will encourage people to insure with S.G.I.C. and will give no undertaking that they will be encouraged to exercise their freedom of choice. He has said that past activities justify this.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** I didn't say that, either.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Mercantile Mutual?

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** I said this applied elsewhere; I did not say it justified doing it.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Why did you mention it at all? The Minister cannot have it both ways. If he is putting an argument to excuse the Government from this attitude, he cannot back off from it now.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** Oh, come off it; I was not excusing anybody.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Mr. Chairman, you have already told the Minister that he can sound off as much as he wants to when it is his turn. The Minister has been outspoken about activities of the insurance companies. Let him hear some outspoken criticism of his own Government institution. He glosses over the whole situation of Government institutions and difficulties involved in bringing them under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act—the old story of the Crown not being able to sue the Crown. The Minister knows full well that one of the debates in this place some time ago was predicated on the whole question of the S.G.I.C. not seeking for itself any advantages over private insurers—that it would compete on the open market and compete fairly, without any advantage at all. Sections in that legislation specifically relate to the S.G.I.C. and its ability to compete with private insurance companies. By writing those provisions into the legislation the Government was paying lip service to the fact that there should not be any advantage to a Government institution over private enterprise.

After all that, we see just exactly what that undertaking was worth. Let the Minister give the assurance I requested if he is prepared to do it, because he did not give it before. He can waffle and rant all around the subject, but he did not give any assurance before. Let him now give that assurance, that people who get loans from the State Bank

or the Savings Bank are not required to insure with the S.G.I.C.

Let us have it on record, clearly stated as a principle. The Minister has dodged around the subject until now, and he will probably get up, make all sorts of statements and try to dodge around the matter again. All we want to hear from him is an assurance that people will not be required to insure on pain of not getting their loan. That is what it is all about. Let us hear it.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** What I would like to hear from the Leader is some degree of honesty and some willingness to listen with a degree of precision so that what one says is not immediately falsified. That is what he has just done. I only said that my view was that I was quite happy for people generally, including those who borrow from the State Bank and the Savings Bank, to be encouraged to use the facilities of the S.G.I.C. They are likely to be encouraged, particularly as borrowers from the State Bank, to get temporary finance from the S.G.I.C. The particular administration of the State Bank comes under the Premier's administration. I am not in a position to say, other than I understand—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** Is one able to make a statement in this place without being subjected to interjection and misrepresentation all the time—

**Mr. Venning:** Who's talking?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** And you are one of the worst offenders.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I rise on a point of order. I do not think the Minister should accuse you, Sir, of being one of the worst offenders in interjecting. It is totally improper.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The honourable Minister did not accuse me, but the honourable Minister should refer to members by the name of their district.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I will take up with the Premier whether or not he is willing, and whether or not the Government should give an explicit undertaking. I do not know at this stage whether an explicit undertaking has been given. I assume that, because people are not being required to do so at present, that is the practice.

I am perfectly willing to say that I am not sure about it. The Premier is not here this afternoon, and I am not the Minister responsible for the State Bank. The only point I want to make at this stage is that it is perfectly legitimate for the State Bank to encourage its customers to use the facilities of the S.G.I.C. if those customers have the right to go elsewhere if they want to do so. The Leader gets up and misinterprets something, then rants and raves and makes all sorts of accusation against the Government. So far as an explicit undertaking is concerned, I will take that up with the Premier precisely in those terms.

Regarding general practice in this area, if a finance company had an insurance subsidiary previously it may have required, before the restrictive trade practices legislation, customers to use that insurance company; for example, Industrial Acceptance Corporation Limited and Ajax Insurance Company Limited was a traditional relationship. Under the restrictive trade practices legislation it cannot require its customers to use that insurance company. However, that does not stop it from encouraging its customers to use that insurance company, so long as it is not made a requirement.

That is the position, and the private practice would be to encourage customers to use related institutions, be they insurance or other institutions. That is normal commercial practice at present, and there is no reason why a State instrumentality, such as the State Bank, should not adopt those practices. On the specific question of an undertaking, I will take that up with the Premier.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I am absolutely amazed that the Minister responsible for housing is unable to give an assurance on this fundamental matter of human rights, freedom of choice, without consulting the Premier. I am also amazed that, apparently, Cabinet has never discussed the matter, although it has been raised in the press many times. Denials have been made in this place that that practice has been taking place. The matter has also been brought up that people have been receiving letters in the mail telling them that they must insure with the commission. Obviously, I can now understand why this is happening and why the Government does not know, because it has apparently never come to a decision on the matter, nor worked out a policy. I cannot imagine why this Government does not support the trade practices legislation, because apparently it does not. Surely the Government has been made well aware of the provisions contained in that legislation. It has had the Land Commission to deal with, and that commission competes with private developers on most favourable terms.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** That breaches the law.

**Mr. TONKIN:** That breaches the provisions of the legislation. Cabinet obviously has not considered the matter previously. All the statements made beforehand denying that this practice went on and saying that it was against the Government's principles, were balderdash and did not mean a thing. I raised this subject today to see whether the Government had come to a decision or had a policy on it, or whether it was once again play acting and shamming. Clearly, it is play acting and shamming. Even now, we do not have a straight answer from the Minister. All he can say is that it is legitimate to encourage people if they have the right to insure somewhere else. However, he is not even prepared to admit that they have a right to insure somewhere else.

All he says is, "I'll take it up with the Premier." I hope that we will get the reply from the Premier soon and that, when we do, he will ask the Minister responsible for housing to give it to the Parliament. The Minister cannot hedge by saying that he is not the Minister responsible for the State Bank. He is responsible for housing and for the practices that go on in providing loans and housing, so I want to hear the reply from him. As this is an urgent matter, I hope that we may expect to hear that undertaking from him within the next day or two.

**Mr. EVANS:** Much Loan money is involved in the Housing Trust assets in properties it owns, rents and uses for administration. I believe that the trust carries its own fire and accident insurance on property damage, but can the Minister say whether the trust—

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** What line are you on?

**Mr. EVANS:** I will try to tie it to the Loan moneys through the State Bank, some of which is used in the Housing Trust field, but I will raise it later, if the Minister likes. Does the trust have, or is it seeking to have, earthquake cover?

**The CHAIRMAN:** I do not see where that relates to the first schedule, so I will not require the Minister to answer the question unless he wishes to do so.

Line passed.

Highways, \$2 150 000.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** Regarding contributions towards stormwater drain projects, I bring to the Minister's attention a specific project which is apparently going on and which is known as the Torrens Road drainage authority. Apparently, a contract is being let for section 1, stage II, at Finsbury, to the East Parade relief drain. I understand that tenders have been called and apparently one company has already tendered. I also understand that the authority is now questioning whether the contract

should go to the lowest tenderer or to one of the other tenderers. Apparently, if it went to one of the other tenderers, an additional \$19 000 would need to be found, and the Highways Department would be requested to make up half of the balance of \$19 000, if not all of it. Will the Minister undertake that the tender will go to the lowest tenderer and that the Highways Department will not allocate additional money simply to make up any difference if the tender is granted to a higher tenderer?

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO (Minister of Transport):** I certainly will not give the honourable member an assurance that the tender will go to the lowest tenderer, without qualification: it certainly will go to the lowest tenderer who is competent to do the job. That is, and always has been, standard practice, and I know of no reason why it should not apply on this occasion. The references the honourable member has made regarding the cost are unknown to me; I do not have that information. As far as I am aware, the matter has not yet been submitted to me; I do not know whether it has even been submitted to the Highways Department, as must happen before finality can be reached. Certainly, if the lowest tender is not accepted, a substantial reason must be given, and the Auditor-General must be satisfied. That is the normal practice, and that practice will be followed on this occasion, unless there are factors of which I do not know at this stage.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** Has a request been made to the Highways Department and, if it has, will he give it to me?

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** Yes.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Last year, a \$20 000 allocation was made to the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, whereas actual payments were \$37 436. This year, we are proposing \$30 000 and estimated repayments are \$35 000. Can the Minister explain the \$5 000 difference?

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** The estimated repayments exceed the estimated payments. The work still outstanding involves minor activities along the various sections of the Sturt Creek. I do not have the specific details but, if the honourable member wants them, I will obtain them for him. I imagine we will find that a long list of minor jobs is to be undertaken; probably it is a matter of having people for clearing up, and that kind of thing.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I refer the Minister to page 233 of the Auditor-General's Report, and the statement made there, referring to the south-western suburbs drainage scheme, as follows:

The works were completed in 1975-76 but the total amount expended cannot be certified as required by the Act because of incomplete disposal of surplus land and a dispute arising from a contract.

Will the Minister now inform the Committee what progress has been made in resolving these difficulties and whether in fact they have been resolved?

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** I am not able to answer that off the cuff, but I shall get the information for the honourable member.

Line passed.

Lands, Irrigation and Drainage, \$7 130 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Can the Minister give details of land purchases for development and sale and also information about the purchase of waterfront holiday home sites?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON (Minister of Mines and Energy):** I shall get the information for the honourable member.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Will the Minister explain to the Committee the Government's current policy in relation to land tenure in South Australia? I raise this matter seriously, because it is noted in the Loan Estimates in

order to attract Loan funds. A large proportion of rural land in South Australia is leasehold land, the vast majority of which consists of leases in perpetuity. That term in itself indicates that the leases are of a perpetual nature and, accordingly, banks and lending authorities have recognised perpetual lease land, over a long period, as being almost the same for security purposes as freehold tenure land.

Recently, as a result of some action by the Government, by the Lands Department, particularly at a time of seeking Ministerial permission for transfer of such perpetual lease land, the Minister has exercised some powers and authorities (I am not quite sure under which Act, but perhaps under the Crown Lands Act) wherein he has altered the rental applicable to those lands. Explanations from various officers of his department indicate that in some cases there is an indication of a change in land use, and that this justifies the Minister's changing the rental at the time of transfer. In other cases, as a result of consideration by the Land Board apparently, the leases are viewed by that board and considered to be no longer adequate areas, that phrase replacing the well worn term "viable areas".

This policy adopted by the Government recently has, I suggest, tended to devalue perpetual lease land throughout South Australia. There have been cases where land which is genuinely for sale has no longer attracted interest. Land agents have reported consistently that, as a result of this practice, they are finding it extremely difficult, on behalf of clients, to dispose of the land. When invited to inspect the land, upon finding that it is perpetual lease land persons suddenly lose interest because of the reports of what has been happening as a result of the Ministerial decisions to which I have just referred.

This matter has reached a stage where the Parliament and members of the public in South Australia who are holding perpetual lease land should know exactly what the Government's policy is in relation to, first, the freeholding of such Crown land and, secondly, how far the Minister proposes to go in exercising this apparent departmental policy and extracting from the new owners new and extremely high rentals, such as in the cases I have mentioned. Will the Minister inform the Committee on those two points?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** The provision is for electronic equipment for the land ownership and tenure system. I think I would be out of order in discussing the matter the honourable member has raised. No doubt the Minister of Lands will see the points he has made, and I shall ask the Minister to reply to them.

**Mr. Chapman:** It talks about the land tenure system.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** But the expenditure provision is for electronic equipment. I presume we would be in order in debating whether or not that equipment should be purchased. However, I do not see that, if I got into debate on the question raised by the honourable member, I would be in order. I shall refer the matter to the Minister of Lands. No doubt he will be pleased to write to the honourable member and give the information he seeks.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** If that is the reason for the proposed expenditure of \$230 000, would the Minister explain why the department would want electronic equipment to determine or to assist in any way in the determination of ownership or its tenure?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** If, by the use of modern equipment, one can control and run the whole system of ownership and tenure, and the classification and recording of associated matters, and save staff, that is worth doing. If the staff saving from the use of this equipment was of the

order of \$23 000 a year, that would be a worthwhile investment being made by the Government. It is the same kind of question as is raised when computerisation is introduced. It is a modern system, presumably, of recording the land holdings that enables significant staff savings to be made. The relevance of whether or not it should be purchased must be judged in terms of the extent to which staff savings are made. I should have thought that was fairly obvious. If interest is being paid at 10 per cent on \$230 000, it is necessary to get value for it and to save wage and salary costs to that order to justify the expenditure.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** The Minister suggests that electronic equipment is to be installed, presumably to cut down on the labour force. In the Appropriation Bill, wages and salaries in the Lands Department are to be increased substantially in the forthcoming period. Even though the function of the Rural Industries Assistance Committee, one of the few effective functions of the Lands Department, is to go to the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, the money requirement for the next financial year has increased, yet at the same time the Government proposes apparently to install sophisticated equipment. Is there anyone in the Lands Department who knows how to handle the equipment and operate it?

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** Does the Minister know what it is?

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** I do not know what it is from the Minister's explanation. In that department, obviously, difficulties were experienced in accounting; otherwise, the Auditor-General would not have reported as he did. It is clearly ineffective within that department. If the installation of electronic equipment for determining who owns the land or what the tenure of the land in South Australia is all about for recording purposes, I accept that, too. However, one cannot have the criticisms justified by the Auditor-General, the sophisticated equipment, and the manpower all within a 12-month period but, if one has, a better explanation from the Minister is needed.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** The salary allocation for the Lands Department is up 6 per cent, which is not keeping pace with inflation. Therefore, the real value of that allocation is down. Also, until equipment of this nature is purchased and installed we cannot make a saving. Presumably, the main salary saving will come in the 1978-79 financial year.

**Mr. TONKIN:** What is this electronic equipment, why is it so important, and why is it costing so much? Has it something to do with the survey section, and will it be put in an aircraft? Surely, the Minister can clearly and simply describe the nature of this equipment.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I will get a detailed report for the Leader. I point out to him that in the Electoral Office equipment is installed that enables a member of the staff automatically to check immediately on the enrolment of every person in the State. I presume that this electronic equipment is of a similar nature and does the same sort of job. It may be more complicated, because the information to be stored and available for recall is more detailed.

**Mr. TONKIN:** That reply is not good enough. For a long time in both the Budget and Loan Estimates debates we have been fobbed off by incompetent Ministers with the reply, "I will get a detailed report for the honourable member." I am not satisfied and, therefore, I move:

That progress be reported and the Committee have leave to sit again.

The Committee divided on the motion:

Ayes (18)—Mrs. Adamson, Messrs. Allison, Arnold, Becker, Blacker, Dean Brown, Chapman, Eastick, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Mathwin, Nankivell, Rodda,

Russack, Tonkin (teller), Venning, Wilson, and Wotton.

Noes (25)—Messrs. Abbott, Bannon, Broomhill, and Max Brown, Mrs. Byrne, Messrs. Corcoran, Drury, Duncan, Groom, Groth, Harrison, Hemmings, Hopgood, Hudson (teller), Klunder, Langley, McRae, Olson, Payne, Simmons, Slater, Virgo, Wells, Whitten, and Wright.

Pair—Aye—Mr. Evans. No—Mr. Dunstan.

Majority of 7 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I suppose the result of that division was predictable, but I trust the Minister will find out what the equipment is and what it is meant to do. Another question I raise on the line "Land ownership and tenure system" is about something that is fundamental to the way the Loan funds will be used and to the way of life of all South Australians. What is the policy of this Government in relation to freeholding and leaseholding land?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The provision is for electronic equipment for the land ownership and tenure system, and my point of order is that the question of the expenditure on that item can be discussed, but the basic land tenure system cannot. I said in relation to the point when it was raised previously by the member for Alexandra that I would get the information for him, so it could be obtained for the Leader in other ways, but it is out of order in this debate.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I point out to the Committee that the explanation of the Public Purposes Loan Bill clearly states that the amount provides for the purchase of mapping equipment and electronic equipment for the land ownership and tenure system. Therefore, I believe I should uphold the point of order.

**Mr. TONKIN:** With great respect, I disagree with you. I will put my point of view as a point of order. If the Committee knew exactly what this electronic equipment was, perhaps the Minister would be able to put that point of order. We do not know what it is, and you do not know what it is any more than I do. We know that it is the purchase of electronic equipment for the land ownership and tenure system, and for that reason I would like to know what the land ownership and tenure system is. Has there been a change in the policy that makes it necessary to bring this forward? If the Minister is prepared to answer that, is he not then required, in respect of this particular line, to answer what is the policy?

**The CHAIRMAN:** I cannot uphold that point of order. However, honourable members can continue to question the Minister about how that money is spent.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I believe that it is absolutely essential that this Committee knows what is going on about this equipment. Will the Minister tell us what the system is, if he will not go any further?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I think the equipment is required for recording and recalling information. To my knowledge there is no change in the system that is proposed, no change in the administration of the system, but it is simply a more efficient method of recording and recalling information.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I repeat my question, which has not been answered: what is the system? Obviously, if this equipment will record more efficiently, I want to know what it is.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** Information on land holdings, tenure arrangements, and where the land is, etc.

**Mr. TONKIN:** In that case, perhaps the Minister will tell us whether this system of recording land ownership and tenure is designed to make it possible to determine more easily which is leasehold land and which is freehold



land; when freehold land comes on to the market; when it is available for sale or offer; and whether there is any possibility that it can be purchased by the Government and transferred into leasehold or Crown leases. Is this the sort of activity that this equipment will undertake; if it is not, what will it do?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** The Lands Department is involved in a large number of transactions that relate to the land tenure that applies throughout the State. There are changes in leases that occur on a regular basis in relation to perpetual leases, miscellaneous leases and other forms of lease. Whenever any transaction arises, information in respect of that leased land has to be obtained fairly quickly; the more quickly it can be obtained the more efficient is the service the Lands Department can give. There is no proposal that freehold land should be purchased by the Lands Department.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** The Minister has, in a roundabout way, explained that the equipment is required to record land tenure, whether it be perpetual lease land, miscellaneous lease land, freehold land or land in a pastoral lease. All of the land in South Australia that is leased or owned on a freehold title is already recorded in the Lands Department of this State. Unless all the records are to be thrown out and started again, for what purpose do we want to spend many thousands of dollars on sophisticated equipment to rerecord what is already on file? Every individual title of every parcel of land, irrespective of size, is recorded in the Lands Department office. I know there are occasions when officers of that department, and officers in other departments, have difficulty in finding these files. That is not a part of the recording system, however; it is part of the management of that department.

I am well aware that that department needs a shake-up in respect of its accounting and departmental management. I do not have to go into much detail about that, as the Auditor-General has made it clear in his report year after year. Many examples have been drawn to my attention. In my file I have photocopies of statements that were attached to cheques that were repeatedly sent by that department to the wrong settlers on Kangaroo Island. People received cheques that were meant for their neighbours who had names that did not bear any similarity in christian name or initials to their own. There are many examples of poor accounting in that department. I am the first to admit that it needs to be brightened up, but I am not prepared to accept the explanation made by the Minister that, in the figure of \$1 430 000 available to this department, an amount is provided for the purpose of mapping and electronic equipment, as the Minister put it, to improve accounting or recording in that department. I am not satisfied with the explanation given. We are entitled to know what that department's policy is in relation to land ownership in this State.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The honourable member can question what the recording equipment will do, but that does not allow honourable members to question what Government policy is.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** I recognise that. What is the point of this Parliament's agreeing to an expenditure of an amount such as this to do a job that members do not know anything about? We do not know what it will achieve. We must know what is the Government's intention in future regarding the identification of land, otherwise there is no basic justification for equipment that will churn out something about which we do not know now, and apparently the Minister does not know what it will churn out in future. Unless he can tell us what will be achieved,

how can he expect us to be satisfied with the explanation he has given on this line?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I have already indicated that I will get a detailed report for the honourable member. His point that because something is already recorded the system should not be changed would lead us to convict the airlines of the grossest inefficiency. The honourable member would be aware that once one has booked a ticket on T.A.A. or Ansett one can go to any booking office in the country and ask to confirm the ticket. Electronic equipment is used to record the information on the ticket that has been booked. The honourable member would ask, "What are you doing that for when you already have that information? Why record it in that form?" The purpose of the equipment is to provide a more efficient system either in terms of service given to the public or in terms of the way in which departmental labour is used.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Perhaps the time has come for us to put our cards on the table over this issue. When considering the electronic equipment for the recording of land ownership and tenure systems, the background to the entire argument about the equipment stems from there having been considerable discussion in the community whether a large change will occur over the next few years from freeholding to leaseholding.

The Minister has avoided assiduously the whole question of policy. Although I do not thoroughly agree with your ruling on that matter, Mr. Chairman, I am willing to defer to it. However, the point is that widespread feeling in the community exists that the Government is doing its damndest to change the freehold system into a Government leasehold system.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I believe that the Opposition is drawing a long bow by trying to relate the changing of equipment by which certain matters in a department are recorded to questions about the total policy of the department. Several departments in South Australia have changed their recording and accounting systems with no change in overall departmental policy. It is difficult for me to tie in what the honourable Leader is saying with the line we are debating.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I could not have asked for a better reply from the Minister than the one you, Sir, have just given. The Minister has positively refused to reply in that way. The connection with the line is simple: if there is to be a change in policy (and I am bringing this up deliberately because I believe it is relevant), obviously there could be a need for this electronic equipment to deal with the steady but quite marked amounts of transfers that could occur. I have asked this question of the Minister because people are starting to draw their own conclusions.

For the second time today the Minister has failed to give an assurance about what the equipment is to be used for. If the Minister is willing to do that and say that there is no Government expectation of there being a change from the freehold to the leasehold system necessitating massive increases in Lands Department recording, let him say it and be done with it. Let us have that assurance.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I have already said that there is no change in policy, but the Leader has chosen to ignore that. He would prefer to spread any canard that he possibly could.

**Mr. Tonkin:** That's not true.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** Why has the Leader ignored what I have said about there being no change in policy? That means that the canard that he has just tried to spread that the Government is about—

**Mr. Nankivell:** What are you trying to duck out of?

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** We know that the member for Mallee is involved in a firm that enforces compulsory

unionism and that that is why he is no longer on the shadow Cabinet.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** However, I would be out of order if I raised that matter. The position regarding freehold land will be exactly the same as it has been in the past. There is no base in any of the rumours that the Leader is trying to spread on that score.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** I would draw to the Minister's attention a case that was before the Chamber a few days ago relating to freehold land at Delamere.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! We are not debating whether the honourable member believes policy has changed. The question that the honourable Leader asked has been replied to by the honourable Minister. I will not allow discussion now, if that is what the honourable member is intending to do, in relation to individual happenings that might indicate to him that a change in policy has occurred.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am certain that the member for Alexandra was going to ask whether the new electronic equipment was to be used to record the transaction at Delamere to which he referred.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The canard that the Leader was trying to spread desperately was that the Government was going to change entirely from a freehold to a leasehold system. The member for Alexandra's example, I understand, relates to the purchase of land for a national park, and that is a different issue altogether.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I do not uphold either point of order.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Before trying to proceed with the example I was going to link sincerely to the line we are debating, I ask the Minister to explain what is involved in the allocation of \$120 000 in relation to land purchases for development and sale? It is under that line that I relate the example I commenced to bring to the Minister's attention a moment ago simply for the purpose of demonstrating that what the Minister is saying does not reflect the practice of the department.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The honourable member for Alexandra will resume his seat. When the Bill was introduced the honourable Premier stated clearly that the line provided for the purchase of mapping and electronic equipment. I would point out that the total allocation for the line is \$1 430 000 and that the Premier stated that it is proposed to make \$1 430 000 available in 1977-78 for that purpose. He stated that that amount provided for the purchase of mapping and electronic equipment for the land ownership and tenure system.

**The Hon. HUGH HUDSON:** I rise on a point of order. In the schedule of Loan works on page 5 of the document that item of \$1 430 000 is broken down into a series of sub-items, and \$230 000 is the sum available for land ownership and tenure system. The other items appear every year, and one of those items is \$120 000 for land purchases for development and sale, the item that the member for Alexandra raised. I would also point out that that relates to the activities of the Lands Department in providing allotments in country towns.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** In many areas of South Australia the Lands Department is, unfortunately, the sole subdivider. People living in the metropolitan area of Adelaide do not have to put up with the conditions existing in areas where the Lands Department is the sole subdivider. I suggest that if it were not for the restrictions that have existed because of Government involvement in this area, development in the Riverland would have been far greater in recent years than it has been. It is virtually impossible in many of the Riverland towns to purchase a housing allotment.

I suggested to the Government 12 months ago that, if the Lands Department did not have the funds available to handle subdivision, and did not have a good supply of housing allotments available for persons wanting to build in country towns, it should hand it over to the Land Commission or open it up for private development. Only \$120 000 is allocated in this line. No matter how much money a person has, he is unable at present to purchase a housing allotment in Barmera. The department refuses to let young people who have just married build a house on land outside the designated town area. Many people have wanted to move to a decentralised area in the Riverland but they have been forced back to the metropolitan area because of the restrictions of the Government in not allowing anyone else to become involved in land development. The \$120 000 will not go anywhere towards solving this problem.

It is an incredible situation. Every council in the Riverland has approached me from time to time to see what progress has been made in solving this problem. If the Government is genuine about its decentralisation policy, it should have a ready supply of housing allotments available to the public at all times. For example, a person should be able to go to a land agent in the Riverland and be offered numerous allotments from which to choose. People in the metropolitan area and other places in South Australia can be shown thousands of house allotments in varying price ranges from which to choose. The present system has restricted development in the Riverland. When will the Government be able to fund adequately this area of development so that there is a ready supply of housing allotments available? If the Government cannot do so, will it allow private development or bring in the Land Commission in the hope of solving this problem?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works):** I will not dispute what the honourable member has said about the Lands Department being the sole subdivider in Murray River towns. I think the department likes to see the majority of allotments on a new subdivision sold before it proceeds to subdivide further land. I think that was the practice when I was Minister.

**Mr. Arnold:** It doesn't work out that way.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I appreciate that. That has seemed to be the attitude of the department. I recognise the points made by the honourable member and I shall be happy to draw the Minister's attention to them to see whether or not he is prepared, in order to make it more attractive for people to purchase land in those areas, to open up a series of subdivisions. The objection was that the department had to outlay certain moneys ahead of time. If it expects a monopoly in this area, maybe that should be done.

**Mr. EVANS:** I appreciate the Minister's comment. The member for Chaffey did not explain (although he knows this is true) that many people from the metropolitan area wish to live in retirement in the Riverland. Many of these people are on high superannuation and other retirement benefits and, if they lived in the area, they would create more business and therefore job opportunities for young people. Many wish to live in the Riverland for health reasons because of pollution in the metropolitan area and the cold of the Adelaide Hills. Many of them have asthmatic and rheumatic conditions, and the Riverland is more suitable for them in their years of retirement. When these people wish to move to the Riverland they cannot do so unless they acquire an established home, but, because of the scarcity of allotments and established homes, the prices that the properties command are much higher than would be the case if there were a greater supply.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** The Minister said he would take up this matter with the Minister of Lands. However, this is not a recent problem; it has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Lands for many years by the councils in the Riverland. We have not made an inch of progress towards the solution of this problem. If we continue in this way the development of those areas will be held back even longer.

Ample grazing land is available in the Barmera area that could be used for housing allotments. It is not as if the Government is giving the land away. These allotments are selling for \$4 000 or \$5 000 an allotment by the time the Government hands them over. The argument was always put forward by the Government that, if it let anyone else move into the area, it would cost the home builder that much more for the land. There is no chance of finding that out because the Government will not let anyone else in on the act.

Many people have tried for years to acquire an allotment in this town, but they have not had the chance of doing so. I hope that the Government will find a way out of this dilemma after many years and, if it cannot do the funding, it is high time that it handed it over to private developers.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Parndana, on Kangaroo Island, was established as a township in the centre of the war service land settlement area, all the land being owned and controlled by the Minister of Lands. That township was surveyed and designed to develop as a township in that community but, as with towns in the Riverland, it is a ghost town. People there cannot obtain any satisfaction from the Minister. Severe restrictions apply to the blocks of land that become available from time to time.

The community was set up with about 170 settlers, all of whom are now approaching retirement. Most who are left are anxious to let their sons and families take over, but they are unable, because of the restrictions placed on the township land, to buy the land and hold it for the purposes of building a house in the future. The restrictions are so stringent that this is another town virtually under the control of the Lands Department whose development is totally controlled by the Minister. Will the Minister draw this matter to the attention of the Minister of Lands?

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

**Dr. EASTICK:** I would appreciate information from the Minister regarding the purchase of waterfront holiday home sites. I believe that a directive has gone out from the State Planning Office to the effect that certain sites may not be used in future for the purpose of building holiday houses. Each of the sites has an assessed value and is rated by the local council and recently councils have applied a minimum rate of increasing value. One then finds that people are holding a site of land which has no possible value for grazing or otherwise but which is enjoying a minimum rate value of between \$50 and \$60 a year. However, the owners are precluded by Government direction from selling the land or from developing a home on it. Is the \$40 000 allocated intended to enable the Government to buy back the land? Does this provision apply only to coastal land or to river land or does it apply to both? This problem is causing considerable distress to many people.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** This matter is also causing the Government much concern because it is difficult to resolve to the satisfaction of all those concerned. I do not think that I need go through the policy on shack sites, because we circulated it, I am sure, to members some time ago. I do not know what the \$40 000 is for specifically, but I do not think it would be for buy-back, because I think the Government gave an undertaking that in every case the minimum of a 10-year miscellaneous lease would be issued

and at least a five-year warning would be given to any shack owner whose lease was not to be renewed after that period. For that reason, I think that the sum does not involve buy-back. It probably involves areas of land suitable for this purpose that is being purchased from private landowners. However, I am only guessing. I will ascertain the exact detail and let the honourable member know.

**Mr. ARNOLD:** Last week I raised the matter of the new irrigation distribution systems being installed by the Lands Department in the irrigation areas along the Murray River. I said then that I thought it was unfortunate that the systems being installed and generally designed for the Riverland were no different from the system installed in the Loveday division of the Cobdogla irrigation area immediately after the First World War. The system now being installed does not incorporate the modern techniques in irrigation now available in Australia. This is an important factor in relation to the overall salinity problem and the ecology of the Murray. We should be moving away from the flood irrigation methods used previously towards the modern water-saving methods of irrigation that will substantially reduce drainage back into the Murray and, at the same time, reduce the damage of salinity which is causing considerable harm to the permanent plantings. It is vital that serious consideration be given to upgrading the design of the systems being installed, bearing in mind that almost \$2 800 000 has been allocated to Berri this year and the final sum of, I believe, \$1 009 000 has been allocated to complete the Waikerie scheme.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** As I promised the honourable member last week, I will obtain a report on this matter for him.

Line passed.

Woods and Forests, \$8 000 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** It would be appropriate at this point to refer to one matter in the Auditor-General's Report. At page 305, relating to an extract from the report of the auditor who looked after the department, the report states:

The matter of unsatisfactory budgeting procedures associated with Forestry Administrative and Service Operations was referred to the department—

I am quoting the Auditor-General's Report; I have had no contact with any other committee in relation to this—

in May, 1974. The position at June, 1977, was still unsatisfactory.

**Mr. Venning:** Three years later.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Yes. We are considering lines in relation to administration and miscellaneous expenditure. What action is the Government taking to see that the unsatisfactory budgeting procedures in the department are rectified?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I am not certain, but I think this matter is the subject of an inquiry by the Public Accounts Committee. I do not know whether or not that inquiry has been finalised. In defence of the department (and the honourable member would appreciate this, because I have had some experience of this problem within the Public Buildings Department, for one), I point out that it takes a tremendous amount of time and investigation to change from one system to another, whether for accounting purposes, management, or anything else. Whilst I am not aware of any of the details of this case, I ask the honourable member to bear in mind that it is not possible to change from one system to another overnight. It probably involves a computer, for example. It takes time. I shall obtain an up-to-date report on the situation

and the reasons, if any, for the delay the honourable member mentioned.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I do not know that the reference in the report deals with changing the system. The Auditor-General is saying that budgeting in the department was quite unsatisfactory in May, 1974, and that in June, 1977, the department still had not pulled up its socks. The Minister's comments are probably more pertinent to another reference at page 303 of the report, referring to an internal audit system within the department, as follows:

In the latter part of 1975 the procedures for establishing an internal audit section were completed. Although an officer was appointed in December, 1975, to take control of the section, it has not commenced operations because of retention of staff selected on other duties.

That is a damning statement to appear in the report. People have been appointed, but they cannot get on with the job because they have been used up in doing other things. It is high time the Woods and Forests Department did something about its obviously unsatisfactory budgeting procedures. If it goes through the motions of setting up a section, it must see that the officers appointed to do the job get on with it.

**Mr. VENNING:** I listened with interest to the Minister. I am beginning to form an opinion about Government departments and the way in which they operate. It is a matter of the attitude of the Government. When people see what is going on with golden handshakes, as we have seen in the past year or two, the attitude of the various Government departments and their accounting systems is understandable.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! The honourable member must try to link his remarks to the lines.

**Mr. VENNING:** We are talking about accounting, as mentioned in the Auditor-General's Report. We have heard about this time and time again. Until a stronger line is adopted by the Government, we will always have this sort of thing.

Line passed.

Marine and Harbors, \$10 830 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** At page 215, the Auditor-General's Report states, in referring to features of the year's operations, that there was a decrease of 3 707 000 tonnes in total cargo handled, of which 2 448 000 tonnes was in exports. That is a disturbing comment in the light of the Minister's repeated statements that serious attempts are being made to attract trade to South Australia and to attract traffic to our harbor facilities. I obtained some information in reply to a Question on Notice about the use being made of the container terminal. I was disturbed to note that weeks go by without one ship using those facilities. The trend is alarming in the light of the reference in the Auditor-General's Report. Has the Minister any further information in relation to the deteriorating situation at South Australian ports?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** If we do not produce the grain we cannot ship it, and that reduction in exports is based largely on grain shipments. It has no bearing on No. 6 berth at Outer Harbor.

**Mr. BLACKER:** I refer to the Port Lincoln wharf. Although it was referred to as an outport, I think that perhaps can be overlooked.

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** It is an outport in the terms—

**Mr. BLACKER:** I appreciate that. We have what are now termed super ports, and I think the Minister would be proud of his installation, as I am proud to be the member for the district. In relation to the replacement of the Kirton Point jetty, has the Government any intention of altering the construction or the use of the jetty or is it to be

just an oil unloading port? Although there is a line for minor works and sundries, there appears to be no specific line for dredging work at Franklin Harbor, nor is there any mention of fishing havens. Great concern is being expressed at Cowell, on the Franklin Harbor, for the sorting of the port itself. I know that an allocation is to be made for improvements to the jetty to a total value of \$50 000, but many fishing vessels can enter the harbor only at high tide. This is a matter of great concern, especially with our prawning vessels. Representations have been made to the department for the deepening of the channel.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Representations have been made in connection with the dredging. I have not got the breakdown of minor works and services, but I shall find out whether it includes work in connection with the dredging of Franklin Harbor. The Kirton Point jetty is to be replaced, as far as I am aware, but the extent of the use will not be changed.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I point out to the Minister that wheat is shipped all the year round, and it is still being shipped from the last harvest. The Minister does not seem to have accounted fully for the fact that there was a decrease in imports.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will get a detailed breakdown for the honourable member on where the reduction has taken place in relation to imports and exports.

**Mr. VENNING:** The sum of \$40 000 has been allocated to the construction of a causeway and development of the east side at Solomontown. At a meeting at Port Germein on Friday this matter was discussed. Can the Minister say what work is to be undertaken with this money?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I do not have specific details, but I understand that some dredging was to be undertaken to enable some land reclamation. Also, a person was to establish a boat-building factory, but there was a problem in relation to its design and he had some opposition from the council. However, I will find out what the \$40 000 will be used for, and let the honourable member know.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Has the Minister details of the \$80 000 allocated for land and property acquisition?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It is probably land required for some sort of reserve for harbor facilities, but I will find out for the honourable member.

**Mr. RODDA:** What is the Government's attitude to maintaining an access road on the James Corcoran breakwater at Port MacDonnell? This road enables people to fish, and the breakwater provides a wonderful refuge for the fishing fleet as well as being a boon to tourism. I understand that, when the breakwater is completed, this roadway is to be closed.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It has not been named the James Corcoran breakwater, although a request was made by the Port MacDonnell District Council for it to be named after me. I pointed out that the Government's policy did not allow anything to be named after a living politician. This is an excellent facility, and the haven contains the largest number of cray boats along the South-East coast. The department's advice to me is that we should let the facility be used in order to ascertain its performance for a couple of seasons in the worst possible weather conditions to ensure that it will be safe and, more importantly, to ascertain what type of construction is needed to survive. I doubt whether the Marine and Harbors Department would be involved in any expenditure from the pleasure point of view; the Coast Protection Board would have to provide money for this purpose. The department has to spend money for commercial shipping or fishing, and not for pleasure.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Where is the fishing haven to be constructed at Port Adelaide, for which \$400 000 has been allocated: in the inner or outer harbor?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It is in the North Arm: it is under construction now and has been for the past 18 months. The overall cost will be more than \$1 000 000, and this is part of a continuing expenditure.

Line passed.

Engineering and Water Supply, \$78 295 000.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** What progress has been made on constructing the Little Para dam, when will it be completed, and when will it be in use? Also, how much of the work is being done by private contract and how much by the department?

I have made the point previously that there has been an increasing tendency for the E. & W.S. Department to do its own work. The Kangaroo Creek dam was, I think, done wholly by contract. From information given to me it appears that much of the work on the Little Para dam is being done by the E. & W.S. Department. The same is true of the filtration works that are being built by the Government. I have made no apology for saying that work done by the private sector on contract is a cost that the Government can estimate accurately. Complaints have been made that private contractors make profits, but I consider that the Government can get more for the taxpayers' money by using contract labour than by the department building up its daily labour force and doing the major part of the construction. I would like any information the Minister can give me in relation to that line.

I also understand that the department builds its own storage tanks, which were previously built by contractors who had expertise in building them. There is a line for tanks showing an amount of \$817 000. Who is building those tanks and where are they being built? How far will the \$7 300 000 go towards the completion of construction of water treatment works? When will the Anstey Hill treatment works be completed and operative? Does that amount cover the completion of that scheme?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The Anstey Hill treatment works will be on stream in mid-1979. That amount includes only part of the payment towards that work. Some of that amount will be used for the commencement of the Barossa water treatment works. Anstey Hill is on schedule. Filtered water is coming from Hope Valley, but it is being controlled manually. A computer will come into operation in January. The plant can be operated both manually and by computer. That programme is on schedule, but because of the cutback in funds from the Federal Government the Barossa programme may have to be slowed. At the moment the programme has not been slowed.

The plug is in the Little Para dam but the season is not conducive to the dam's filling quickly. It will depend entirely on the seasons as to when it becomes operative. I am not certain when the work will be finished but I will find out for the honourable member. I am not sure where the tanks are to be located, or who is doing the work, but I will find out for the honourable member. The honourable member says there seems to be a tendency for the department to increase its day labour force. He will be pleased to know that there has been a reduction in the day labour force both in the construction area and in the water and sewerage area. I will find out the exact number for the honourable member. It is about 250 people in the sewerage branch. I will obtain that information for the honourable member.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** For country waterworks there is a proposed expenditure of \$14 385 000, and 31 water supply

projects are listed. The Minister is aware that on receipt of this document I looked through it to see whether any of the areas I have drawn to the Minister's attention (the Emu Bay project, the Seddon extension, the Haines-McGillivray extension, the American River project, and the Mount Compass project) were listed. Unfortunately they are not. These works have been asked for by myself for the past five years and by my predecessor, Mr. Brookman for about 13 or 14 years. The reply I received from the Minister on most, if not all, of the occasions I have requested that these projects be reconsidered has been that until they can return 10 per cent on the investment the department does not regard them as being economic. Will the Minister obtain a list of the expected percentage return for each of the 31 projects listed? My reason for seeking that information is obvious. If an area is listed this year that will not attract a 10 per cent return, I would like to know about it so that I may seek the basis on which that district has attracted the attention of the department.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will obtain the percentage returns for the honourable member. In many cases they will not be high, but they will be very much higher than those the honourable member has put forward. I have explained to the honourable member previously that it is not a matter of never providing these facilities but a matter of setting aside a sum of money for uneconomic schemes. I think there are about 33 in that category and they are being handled, depending on size, at the rate of about two or three a year. The honourable member would appreciate that to do anything else would inevitably force water rates to rise because the more money spent on uneconomic schemes the greater the cost. I become rather annoyed when we have to do this and, because we are providing these sorts of scheme and because of the great loss suffered on the operation of country areas, we are then criticised for doing it. I will get that information for the honourable member.

**Mr. RUSSACK:** For the Artherton summit storage, \$1 098 000 is provided. Will this provide better pressure or additional storage which would assist in water schemes further down the peninsula?

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

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** I do not want to labour the point of the percentage return that the Government requires from these projects, and I understand the point the Minister has made that the Government would be criticised if it continued to install schemes with returns as low as those he mentions, because that would have the effect of increasing water rates. I think it is time that each of the country areas where schemes are not able to return the 10 per cent required be called upon to make a capital contribution to their schemes.

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

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Does the Minister have any information regarding the water supply for Blanchetown? I made inquiries months ago of the Minister about this matter, and the response I received was that the department is now examining several alternative schemes for Blanchetown. I understand that various Government departments have from time to time developed a limited water scheme in Blanchetown to serve their own needs. It has been suggested to me by a sizable cross-section of townspeople that it would not be a difficult procedure to extend one of those schemes to serve the town properly. I have a considered reply from the Minister stating that alternative schemes are being considered for the town.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will get the latest information I can for the honourable member, and if I can speed it up, I will try to do so.

**Mr. BLACKER:** Is the East Coast main an extension or a repair project? What is the situation regarding the North Side Hill project for which an allocation of \$2 513 000 has been made? Does the Minister have information regarding projects in the hundreds of Moody, Travers, Butler and Stokes, and Cummins, which I believe are extensions?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will get a report on the schemes to which the honourable member has referred.

**Dr. EASTICK:** The Minister indicated that the day labour force had been reduced by about 250 workers in the Engineering and Water Supply Department and indicated that he would obtain a report about that matter. What is the philosophy behind this run down? The Minister would know that members on this side of the Chamber have promoted that sort of action for some time. Why has the Government now accepted that situation?

The allocation for the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline is a long-term project to overcome difficulties associated with possible electrolysis. I realise that it was necessary to replace the affected part of the pipeline. Has the project proceeded and has any other part of the pipeline been found to be wanting? Is this a project that, regrettably, will eventually require the replacement of the whole of the system? I believe I am correct in saying that originally about 45 km of the pipeline was involved in the replacement project.

At the same time the Minister could perhaps indicate the nature of the alteration to the Morgan control station. Recently I visited the No. 2 pumping station at Morgan and was amazed to ascertain that that station monitors the whole of the Swan Reach to Stockwell pipeline, and can service effectively any faults that occur along that additional pipeline. That checkpoint certainly reduces the number of staff required. By using sophisticated electrical equipment, it provides a service to many areas of the State that rely on both the Morgan-Whyalla and Swan Reach to Stockwell mains.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I do not have the information the honourable member seeks in that regard, but the department will be delighted to give it to him because it always appreciates members' interest in its operations. I am therefore certain that I will get a full report for the honourable member. Regarding replacement work, I believe that that is almost complete. A experiment was carried out, but I fail to understand why about 45 km had to be laid. It did not work and had to be replaced at great cost. The remainder of the system is working extremely well without any great problems, but I will obtain specialist comment on that aspect.

Regarding the reduction of the day labour force, the Government has consistently believed, as did the Playford Government and the Hall Government, that we need and can operate effectively a competent day labour force. However, that is an interminable argument that comes up from time to time. It was necessary to adopt this procedure because the effort in which the Government has been involved has run down. In addition I sought successfully a change of policy to give the departments involved far greater flexibility than they had to reduce the day labour force. This has given us room to employ contractors as well.

The honourable member could probably say that it is just as cruel to tell contractors who build up to do work in this area that they no longer have work as it is to say to the day labour force, "We can't work you; we must retrench you."

As the honourable member knows, the Government's policy is that we do not retrench but allow natural wastage to take care of the situation. I try, wherever possible, to avoid having to inconvenience contractors, for the same reason that I do not like to see people suddenly thrown out of work because of our activities, if such activities can be properly planned. Although it is probably not completely finalised, we have a reasonable balance and we are able to operate effectively and efficiently in that way. I do not want the honourable member to think that, because we have reduced the day-labour force, it is a change of heart on the Government's part and that we no longer believe in such a force. There is a very real place for day labour.

I have in discussions with the Engineer-in-Chief, in particular, said that there is a need, if not in the short term, certainly in the medium term, to move away from the practice of buying heavy and costly equipment that we cannot fully use. In other words, I do not believe that we should have equipment standing by that we would use effectively for six months of the year if we can hire such equipment. I have persistently adopted that attitude, and I hope that eventually we will not be carrying the large quantities of heavy equipment we are carrying now.

**Dr. EASTICK:** I am pleased to hear that eventually the penny has dropped, and the explanation the Minister has given, more particularly on the use of heavy equipment, augurs well for this State's finances, and for the eventual delivery of a dollar's worth of work for every dollar spent. Recently, at the Clare show I noticed that one of the exhibits that received the greatest amount of attention from the general public was a public relations exercise by the Engineering and Water Supply Department. On the pertinent part of the map of South Australia appeared a graphic display, together with flashing lights and other detail, setting out the water system from the Murray to Whyalla, with the various reservoir systems and distribution right down Yorke Peninsula. I believe that the availability of that exhibit to similar organisations and to other groups of people would allow them to have a far better appreciation of the work undertaken and of the many kilometres of main involved.

**Mr. RUSSACK:** For some time, particularly during the tourist season, the situation at Moonta, Wallaroo and some of the surrounding areas has left much to be desired as regards water for stock. I express gratitude for the progress that has been achieved in the Paskeville, Kadina, Wallaroo, and Moonta areas, where I know that much work is still going on. I believe that about three years ago it was estimated that about \$5 000 000 would have to be spent, but, with the escalation of costs, undoubtedly it would be even more than that nowadays. On behalf of the people in the Moonta area, I express gratitude for the installing of an emergency pump at short notice because of a serious shortage of water last Christmas. This saved the situation.

What progress has been made on this complete scheme in that district and when is it expected that it will be completed? Is Watervale one of the proposals where the return would be insufficient for the installation cost involved? Although that could be the situation at present, there is an indication that, by having a reticulated water system installed, there could be the potential for fairly good development, particularly in the grape-growing valley of Watervale where wineries are established. If there were some concrete evidence that there could be development, would the Government consider installing such a water system?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** That particular aspect has not been ignored. Naturally, if the assessment that is made by officers is that within a year, two years, or whatever,

there will be a much greater demand, they try to assess that, and it is taken into account. I am aware of the problem at Watervale, because the honourable member has raised it several times. However, I am uncertain whether it is in the \$500 000 category about which I talked and which the Government allocates each year for uneconomic services. I will find out where it lies at present and let the honourable member know. I am delighted to think that he has seen fit to make some commendation of the efforts of the departmental officers, who certainly appreciate such remarks. The end result of their work means that people benefit from it. Regarding Paskeville, I undertake to inform the member for Goyder and the member for Rocky River of the situation there.

**Mr. EVANS:** Does the \$4 062 000 allocation for extensions, services and minor works include the Upper Sturt and Manoah estate extensions? The Minister has had approaches to have the main extended past Pole Road by the Upper Sturt store to connect with the Hawthorndene tank near the Belair Recreation Park golf links. It would then pass Hilltop Drive and Olive Hill Road, and would be about two kilometres. The properties on the south side of the main Upper Sturt Road along which the main would pass are directly opposite the southern boundary of the Belair Recreation Park which is a fire menace and which in the past has claimed some houses because of the vulnerable circumstances in which the houses were situated along that road.

Many allotments have not yet been built on, but they would be built on more readily if the main extended past Pole Road, because the allotments are close to the metropolitan area. Whilst the department is extending the mains from the Mount Lofty railway station on Sturt Valley Road through the Manoah Estate, it seems only sensible to extend the main an extra two kilometres. In doing so, there would be an advantage to the department.

The department's pump supplies the Belair tank, and that tank supplies the Hawthorndene tank by the Belair Recreation Park; if it fails or is inadequate to meet the demand, as has happened in other summers, the main from Upper Sturt could be used to supplement the tank above Hawthorndene. If the Minister does not have the details, will he have the matter investigated to see whether his department will continue with the extension while work is being carried on in the area?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I have not got the information available for the honourable member, but I shall be happy to get the details and let him know as soon as possible. I had to close down one of the holes on the Belair Golf Course today because of the number of balls that were mishit into someone's property. We may have to redesign the course.

**Mr. WOTTON:** What is covered by the amount of \$49 000 for work at Murray Bridge? I presume that it is intended for ordinary works, and is not connected with a filtration plant or anything of the sort?

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** You're absolutely right.

**Mr. WOTTON:** I bring to the notice of the Minister (and no doubt he will be hearing more about this shortly) the necessity for a filtration plant, particularly for Murray Bridge. I am concerned that no reference appears in the document to a reticulated water scheme in the areas of Callington, Woodchester, and Hartley. Again, I remind the Minister of that situation. Will he consider the possibility of extending the present scheme, which has reached Callington, even though it must be done in small sections at a time, so that the desired result can be achieved in the area?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I think Callington has had its supply for some little while.

**Mr. Wotton:** But Callington was to supply water for the freeway, not for the people.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** That is not true. The Callington project was done recently under the State Unemployment Relief Scheme. I put the proposition to a deputation which came to me about Woodchester and Hartley and the Callington area. The members of that deputation thought I was trying to drive a wedge by saying that I was prepared to go as far as Callington at that stage. They were most emphatic that that should not happen. We did it because we were able to get funds at the time to employ people, and there was a desperate need for it, as there is in the Woodchester and Hartley region.

The honourable member knows the score full well. He has been told many times. The situation has not changed. If he can outline any circumstances which have changed since he last discussed the matter with me, I shall have to look at the matter again. Much as I would like to do something there and in 30 other places throughout the State, I cannot, and I would be irresponsible if I said otherwise.

The allocation in connection with Murray Bridge would be for normal short extensions or maintenance. It has nothing to do with filtration; I think the honourable member would appreciate that that is a much more expensive exercise. No-one appreciates more than I the problems people are facing with Murray River water. The other day, the member for Fisher presented me with a bottle of water which, I am sure, was drawn from a hot water system. It was from Coromandel Valley. I know that there is no exaggeration about this, because I had examples of it from Para Hills and such places when the situation was bad in those areas. At the moment, we are placing alum in the Happy Valley system to try to gain the same effect as we were able to get at Millbrook. It was almost a fluke that we arrived at that method of handling the problem, and it was a great relief to people that we were able to do it.

**Mr. Tonkin:** What happens to the mud that settles?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** That is the problem. We cannot continue to do it, or we would fill up the reservoir. The Darling River does not flood every year, although it has done so in the past couple of years, but that is unusual. We could not continue our present treatment for long periods. If the Leader looks at the filtration works, which I hope he will get an opportunity to see when they are opened—

**Mr. Tonkin:** I thought you opened it.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** No, we just said the water was on. I hope we will be able to do that when the computer is working, and honourable members would be amazed at the sludge that comes off the water and is pumped into the sewerage system from the treatment works at Hope Valley. When we open the project, the water may not be as bad as it is at the moment. The sludge must settle somewhere, and at the moment most of it is in the reservoirs.

**Mr. Tonkin:** Most of it seems to be in the main outside our house.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Perhaps that is as good a place as any, as long as it is not inside the house. The northern cities are in the same situation.

**Mr. Wotton:** No.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The honourable member is talking about salinity. I did not know the problem was even worse than the water drawn off at Morgan.

**Mr. WOTTON:** It is unfair that people living at Morgan, Mannum, or Murray Bridge are paying exactly the same rates for water that passes their front door as people are paying now in the metropolitan area. The water is worse in

that area. At least the mud has an opportunity to settle between the river and the metropolitan area.

Regarding the Hartley-Woodchester area, I wonder whether the Minister might take up the matter with the Minister of Labour and Industry, and look into the situation regarding unemployment in Mannum and the possibility of putting to work some of the people who are unemployed, so that a reticulated water scheme can be provided for the area. Perhaps the Minister could take it up with his colleague.

**Mr. VENNING:** I appreciate the gracious manner with which the previous member for the part of the district I now represent in that area handed information to me and told me of happenings there. The headquarters of the Northern Division of the Engineering and Water Supply Department is located at Crystal Brook. I have always said that this is one of the most efficient of Government departments. At present Mr. Ray Harvey is District Engineer, and before that it was Laurie Steele. Crystal Brook seems to be a stepping off place for promotion to Adelaide, and I put on record my appreciation of what this department has done.

**Mr. BLACKER:** Has the Government any plans for the future replacement of mains and, if it has, what will the criteria be?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Many mains throughout the State need replacing, some of them immediately. Recently, the Engineer-in-Chief has discussed this problem with me several times, but it is a question of money. It will become an increasing problem because of the vast system in the State, and I know that, in the District of Flinders and the District of Eyre, some mains should be replaced now. We are aware of the problem and are planning to cater for it, although it will probably take longer than we would want it to take because of the money situation. In fairness to the honourable member I shall ask the Engineer-in-Chief for a report on this matter in relation to the District of Flinders, and that will indicate to the honourable member what the replacement programme is likely to be.

**Dr. EASTICK:** Has the Government a policy in relation to sewerage facilities for country areas? It seems that the Gawler and Port Augusta schemes should be nearing completion, and that most towns to be connected to a sewerage scheme are well on the way to being sewered or that planning is well advanced. Also, many towns with a smaller population have been provided with a common effluent scheme. Will those schemes eventually be upgraded or, with the completion of sewerage schemes, the conclusion of effluent schemes and possibly the extension of such schemes to some smaller towns, will that be the total commitment? Has the Government altered its policy or changed the amount in relation to subsidising effluent schemes for the smaller but important country towns that are unable to sustain by rate revenue a scheme under the same terms as those that have applied to towns that now have effluent schemes?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** In response to the latter part of the question, I will seek information from the Minister of Local Government, who is responsible for providing subsidies to councils for common effluent drainage. I believe that the amount provided is limited in any one year: it is either \$1 000 000 or \$500 000, and therefore the number of projects to be subsidised must be limited.

Concerning sewerage reticulation, Gawler and Victor Harbor were to be the last country towns to be sewered, but a problem was encountered with the common effluent scheme installed at Port Augusta with the added development of Port Augusta West, and the only way to

solve it was to install a sewerage reticulation system. The amount shown on these Estimates is not the final amount, as we will continue with that programme for some time. I would not expect the department to be involved in further sewerage reticulation schemes in country towns outside those areas, as common effluent drainage schemes would cater for other places, and that scheme is cheaper and quite effective. However, I will have my comments checked by the department and, if there are any variations, I will inform the honourable member.

**Mr. EVANS:** Concerning the Belair golf course, the Minister should also consider the barbed wire fence. I am sure that he will soon receive a letter from a golfer who has suffered a personal injury because he tried to recover a golf ball after playing a bad shot. Will sewerage schemes at McDonald subdivision at Chandler Hill and the Aberfoyle Park subdivision, be installed, both by Ministerial approval, for sums of \$200 000 and \$220 000 respectively? These areas have been subdivided for a long time, but are now completely surrounded by Land Commission subdivisions and private developments that have been sewered. They are old subdivisions, and the council is not keen to seal the roads in Aberfoyle Park before the sewerage is installed.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Didn't the council have something to do with the priorities there?

**Mr. EVANS:** No, Meadows council did not. The people are pleased that the Government and the council were able to get together to fix the street drainage. In the Mitcham Hills, which is in the Mitcham Council area, the sewer mains operation has worked very well in the past 12 months, and because of soil types and because it has not been a wet winter more has been achieved than expected on stage 2. When will stage 3 be considered? Will Bellevue Height, Eden Hills, Blackwood, Hawthorndene West, and Coromandel Valley West be included in stage 3 or be handled as separate items with Ministerial approval for each and without having to be referred to the Public Works Standing Committee. What is the estimated programming for sewerage in those areas? I would prefer to see the Mitcham Hills sewerage completed before there is too much other development in the Stirling District Council area. There may be a need to start work in the Bridgewater area, because that is where the main problem of septic tank effluent is likely to be prominent first. I appreciate what has been achieved in the past 12 months and hope that the progress can be continued.

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

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Earlier I referred to the mode of construction of the Little Para dam and said that I believed much of the work had been done by weekly-paid employees. The figures supplied earlier show that the amount of contract work was small. The Minister made passing reference to what he alleged was my attitude to day labour and private contract work; I am happy to confirm what the Minister is thinking, if he is suggesting that I believe we get more for our money on private contract.

I think that if there was a proper system of accountability this could be proved. I heard the Minister's replies to the member for Light in part when he said that the department now saw the wisdom of not buying expensive machinery.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** There are certain types of machinery it has to buy.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** The Minister said he would supply me with figures indicating that there were no fewer daily-paid employees than previously.



**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** In the Engineering and Water Supply Department.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Does that indicate a change of policy and a recognition of the fact that the most economic way of doing things is not by day labour, or what has led the Minister and his officers consciously to decrease the number of daily-paid employees of the Engineering and Water Supply Department?

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** I have explained that in my reply to the member for Light, and I do not think I should have to go over it again.

**Dr. EASTICK:** It is indicated in the statement accompanying this document that the Commonwealth contribution to the Dartmouth dam expenditure is almost at its maximum and that much additional funding by the State will be required. I believe that the dam is approaching seven-eighths completion. It has been reported in the press that it is taking water. As the Minister was recently involved in discussions about the quality of Murray River water, which will be affected by the utilisation of water contained in the Dartmouth dam, I would appreciate a summation of what has taken place, what our further commitments are likely to be, whether the schedule is being maintained, and any other pertinent matters.

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** As there has been much industrial strife on this project, it is behind schedule. The Premier in his second reading speech said in relation to the River Murray Waters Agreement:

During 1976-77, South Australia made a contribution of \$8 626 000 towards capital works carried out under the River Murray Waters Agreement. Of that amount, \$6 751 000 was provided from State Loan funds and \$1 875 000 by way of a loan to the State from the Commonwealth Government. That loan brought the Commonwealth's financial assistance to the State for the Dartmouth dam project to its previously approved level of \$8 800 000. The Commonwealth has indicated that it will not go beyond that level.

I think the honourable member will recall that the Commonwealth said it would not take care of any escalation in price. The Premier's statement continued:

The State will have to provide \$8 000 000 from its own funds in 1977-78 so that this important project may proceed. The statement went on to state that the State was providing other money. The project will be completed; it is at a stage where we cannot just leave it in limbo, because it is important to this State, Victoria and New South Wales. I think \$80 000 000 was the amount to which we had to go back for agreement to be reached, but it is well in excess of that amount at the moment. The honourable member will appreciate that the factors that have affected that escalation were not apparent when the agreement was entered into.

**Mr. VENNING:** I listened with interest to the Minister's answers about deep drainage and common effluent drainage. We should not fool ourselves by comparing the two schemes, but, if it were not for the common effluent scheme and country towns had to wait for deep drainage, they would still be waiting. Clare was one town where I would have liked to see deep drainage installed.

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** That has a common effluent scheme now.

**Mr. VENNING:** Yes, and that scheme is serving well. Line passed.

Public Buildings, \$113 755 000.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** The Auditor-General's Report at page 163 states that the frozen food factory at Dudley Park will cost \$6 650 000. Are the amounts of \$67 000 for Enfield Hospital, \$151 000 for Glenside Hospital, and \$290 000 for Hillcrest Hospital, which have been set aside

for frozen food facilities, charges against the Dudley Park factory or additional charges for setting up facilities in those hospitals to process the food once it arrives?

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran (Minister of Works):** I feel certain that they would be additional charges to provide facilities at those hospitals to receive frozen foods, and the frozen food factory would be a separate item. However, if that is not the case, I will let the honourable member know.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** That would bring the total cost of the project to more than \$7 000 000.

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** I do not think they would be the only hospitals.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** I realise that. Will the Minister indicate the kinds of facility and say what will happen to the existing kitchens that until now have prepared meals on the spot? Further, will he say how many meals are involved and what is the cost differential between preparation of meals from the factory and preparation under the previous circumstances?

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

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I raise again the matter of Flinders Medical Centre, to which I referred at Question Time today. A serious matter had prominence in a report in the Melbourne Age yesterday as a result of a seminar on fire safety in relation to buildings.

**The Hon. R. G. Payne:** Was it identified by name at the seminar?

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** It was not identified at the symposium, but I have no doubt that Dr. Pressley was referring to Flinders Medical Centre.

**The Hon. J. D. Corcoran:** Who is he?

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** He is a scientist at Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Melbourne, but I forget which branch. I understand that this was a reference on one page of a long paper comprising about 19 pages, and he described what appeared to be extremely bad planning in relation to a public building. The theme was planning for public safety in relation to buildings. It surprised me when I saw the terms in which he referred to the building. I think he said that, if a fire started there (and I am convinced from inquiries that he was referring to Flinders Medical Centre: he said it was not a building in Victoria but one the capacity of Flinders), it would create world headlines. To do that, it would have to be a major fire and claim lives.

**The Hon. R. G. Payne:** In newspapers, fire reports are the standard fillers for columns.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** Fires that have had headlines around the world have usually been hotel or school fires. I cannot remember a hospital fire, but I remember a school fire in New York and a serious hotel fire in Hong Kong. The first thing the doctor mentioned was that acrylic-type carpet of the worst kind as far as fire hazard was concerned had been put in. If one picked the worst kind of carpet that one could get, one would get that. I think he also cast doubt on the advisability of having carpets in hospitals anyway but, if they were there, they should not be acrylic.

Another point he made was that there were no sprinkler systems. The Age report indicated that there was a thermal alarm system but that there was no sprinkler system. I also believe that he was highly critical of the use of cotton blankets, as evidence suggests that they are highly flammable compared to wool and that there is evidence that these blankets should be the subject of further examination and there should be standard practice in relation to their use in hospitals.

Another point he made was that there were only single entrances to flats at the centre for staff and other people and that there were no fire escapes from the flats. He also

said that the flats were poorly furnished in regard to fire hazard. I do not know what kind of material was used for curtains in those flats, but it was about the best one could get if one wanted to get a good fire going. It seems a fairly dangerous situation, and I hope that the Government will take this matter seriously and that it will not be swept under the carpet. I hope that, if the situation is dangerous, action will be taken immediately to remedy it. I also give notice that I intend to move for a reduction of this line for reasons other than those that I have mentioned in these remarks.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will see to it personally that a copy of the paper that this man has given in Melbourne is obtained. I will establish, if we can contact the man, whether he was referring to Flinders Medical Centre, not just whether he might have been.

*Member interjecting:*

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Did he say it?

**Mr. Tonkin:** I think he may have.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It is not good enough to think so. This hospital has cost the State tens of millions of dollars. So, let us check out the man first; that is what we will do. I am pleased that the honourable member has raised the matter. We will check how authentic the man's remarks are and, if the man is scaremongering or seeking headlines, I hope the honourable member will bear with us if we show that what he has talked about is unrealistic. I would appreciate the honourable member's being a little more responsible. People in the hospital may get the impression that they are sitting on a tinderbox, but it is not as bad as that, and the honourable member knows it. I would have given him credit for having sufficient sense of responsibility not to plant fear in the minds of people in the hospital. I would want to allay their fears as quickly as possible.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I refute entirely the Minister's allegations that I am scaremongering. I am stating facts. I will be completely open with the Minister. After a report appeared in yesterday's *Age* I telephoned the reporter and asked "Where does the gentleman mentioned in the report work?" The reporter gave me the information, and I telephoned the gentleman personally. I checked out that, in fact, it was the Flinders Medical Centre. In defence of the gentleman, I say that he was not scaremongering. If the Minister thinks I am doing something wrong by raising in South Australia something mentioned in Victoria concerning poor planning of the building as regards fire safety, he should think again. I make no apology for raising matters of this importance in this place, and I will continue to do so, despite the Minister's insults.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** No insult is intended. The honourable member could have handled this matter more responsibly, and I do not retract from that at all.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** Will the allocation of \$950 000 for alterations and additions at Queen Elizabeth Hospital include additional car-parking facilities there?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I think that item covers the car park, but I will check on it.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** Will the whole of the property known as "The Pines" be used for the care of totally dependent persons, or will parts of the extensive grounds be available to other organisations? When will the accommodation be occupied?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Some of the accommodation is occupied now, but I will seek a report from the Minister of Health, who was involved in the purchase of the property.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** Will the Minister direct that report to the member for Hanson, on whose behalf I asked the questions in the honourable member's absence?

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

**Mr. ALLISON:** Can the Minister state the precise nature of the proposed additions to Mount Gambier Hospital, for which \$314 000 has been allocated?

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

**Mr. EVANS:** What will be the capacity of any new car-parking developments for Flinders Medical Centre?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** This matter is under review by the Government. The Minister for Planning and the Minister of Transport have consulted several times about it. The need is recognised, and I will get a report for the honourable member.

**Mr. EVANS:** Bellevue Heights is mentioned under the heading "New schools". I take it that it is only the new extension, because Bellevue Heights is also mentioned under the heading "Major additions and upgrading". That seems to be a duplication, because Bellevue Heights school is operating. When will the second stage be constructed, and will it be Demac construction? Further, when will the project planned for Coromandel Valley school be completed? What progress is being made on the project planned for Crafers Primary School, and what facilities will be built there? When will the additional classrooms planned for Hawthorndene Primary School be completed? The Stirling East school project is nearly completed.

If there is any more work to be done other than on those buildings now being constructed in that area, I should like to know; and also what is the position about Happy Valley Primary School, for which planning and design is proposed during 1977-78? Happy Valley Primary School is only a small school. It has poor toilet facilities and no playing fields, and its students are disadvantaged compared with those attending Flagstaff Hill Primary School and neighbouring schools in Reynella and adjacent areas. I refer also to Belair Primary School, in which the member for Davenport and I have a joint interest. There is planning and design for that school in 1977-78; I thought an election promise was that it would be well on the way to construction before the end of the 1977-78 fiscal year. It disappoints me and the member for Davenport if it is still in the planning stages in the whole of this fiscal year and has not moved to the stage of at least being commenced as a building, because that school is on a main road and a small site. Buildings are scattered all over that site, the playing field is small and the hard area for playing is small. The new plan for a two-storey building will improve the school not only in schoolroom facilities but also in playing fields.

I hope Aldgate Primary School is well on the way to being constructed before the end of this fiscal year and not still in the planning and design stage. There is also an activity room for Eden Hills Primary School, which has under some form of promise by both political Parties when in Government since 1963, over a period of 14 years. It is only a little school but it deserves the same consideration as other schools. When will the activity room be provided for that school? Also, there is a new wing for Heathfield High School, a project that has been promised and is now being pushed ahead to cater for the extra number of pupils that live in the Stirling District Council area and some of the neighbouring council areas. Will the Minister comment on these schools?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD (Minister of Education):** Obviously, it is necessary for me to get more detailed information for the honourable member, but I should give him whatever information I can, consistent with my ability to either write quickly or have instant recall. Bellevue Heights Primary School, stage 2 (stage 1 has been

completed) should be available in February, 1978. It would appear at this stage that that will be adhered to. Any dates I give in relation to projects a little further down the road could be subject to some variation, knowing the vagaries of the building industry. Anyhow, so far as I am aware, that will be available at the beginning of the 1978 school year. The same is true of the Coromandel Valley school, which should be ready in January, 1978. Crafers Primary School is an upgrading and should be available in December of this year. The Hawthorndene school is a four-teacher unit and should be available in March of next year. The Stirling East school is a seven-teacher unit, as I understand it, and should be available in April of next year.

Happy Valley Primary School is a complete relocation across the road, as the honourable member knows. I understand the target date for that is in the 1979-80 financial year—probably the beginning of the 1980 calendar year, but I shall endeavour to get more detailed information, such as is available, on that. I am not aware of any election promise about Belair Primary School but I will get more information for the honourable member. I visited the school over 12 months ago and am well aware of the problems that the junior primary school faces where space is really at a premium. It seemed to me at the time that, first, there was space only for one additional small unit to go in and, if we had to go further than that, we would have to go up, because it is almost completely surrounded by roadways, and unfortunately is separated from the primary school by roadways.

Aldgate would not appear on this programme because, as the honourable member has pointed out to the Committee, it had not been passed by the Public Works Committee at the time these documents were put together by the Treasury officials and it is not possible, of course, to put anything on this programme until approval has been given. For the benefit of the rest of the Committee and perhaps to save other questions being asked, I may say that since the collation of these documents not only Aldgate but also Hackham West Primary School, Ceduna Area School, and the Two Wells school have been approved by the Public Works Committee. In relation to Eden Hills and Heathfield, I will get more specific information for the honourable member.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I should be grateful for any information the Minister can give on progress as regards Lobethal and Nuriootpa Primary Schools. The Minister recalls opening Nuriootpa Primary School. The new school has been completed. It is obviously not the school dental clinic: there is another line in the Loan Estimates concerned with the school dental clinic. What is the Loan programme for Nuriootpa? I have been disappointed with the progress in upgrading Lobethal Primary School.

Just over 12 months ago, I remember asking questions about Lobethal Primary School and I then received a letter from the Minister (it may have been from the Minister of Works, not the Minister of Education) pointing out that \$170 000 was voted for the financial year just completed for major upgrading facilities, including a new resource centre and extensive alterations to Lobethal Primary School. A fair bit of inquiry has taken place from month to month over the whole of that 12-month period, and the \$170 000 voted last year was not spent at Lobethal.

As people at Lobethal have been concerned and frustrated to some degree by the lack of activity in relation to this matter, I ask the Minister whether things are rolling a bit more quickly and smoothly in relation to Lobethal Primary School. I am also curious and interested about what is intended for Nuriootpa.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I can only assume that the

reference to the Nuriootpa Primary School would be a carry-over payment into this financial year of work that was completed last financial year. I will check with the department to ensure that I have not misled the Committee on that matter. I know of no specific major capital works involving Nuriootpa Primary School.

Lobethal is an upgrading programme. According to my departmental advice, it is to be programmed, but as to what that means in terms of when work will start, I will get further information.

**Mrs. BYRNE:** Will the Minister say what is proposed in connection with Dernancourt and Highbury Primary Schools?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** A seven-teacher open unit will be available in August, 1978, for Dernancourt. Highbury is a four-teacher unit that will be available in June, 1978. I would warn the honourable member, however, that those dates could slip or come forward depending on how the projects proceed.

**Mr. RUSSACK:** I understand that \$100 000 is to be spent on a Demac building to assist accommodation at Minlaton Primary School. I am a little hesitant to hinder any progress that might be made, but is the Minister aware of the situation at Minlaton? Last Friday morning, at the invitation of the school council, I visited the school. The request for a new school in the area has been under consideration since 1958. In 1963 a site of about 4 hectares was acquired, and I understand it is still held by the Education Department. The new Demac building is to be sited on an existing basketball court, which I understand must be re-established.

In the interest of supervision and security, because playing fields are across the road from the school on two different sides of it, will the Minister consider whether it is advisable for buildings to be established on the new site? I have raised the matter this evening because of its urgency, bearing in mind that the transportable building could be moved to the existing site soon.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Is the honourable member altogether certain that it is a Demac project, because that is not clear to me from the documents I have in front of me? Those documents indicate that it is an administration area for the school and that the tender target is this month for availability in June, 1978. A tender target would not be required for a Demac project.

**Mr. Russack:** Demac is referred to on page 23.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The more specific information I have does not quite square with that document, perhaps because of the time that has elapsed since the document was first prepared. I will take up the matter with the department as a matter of urgency. Because of the dates I have quoted and the urgency of the matter I would ask the honourable member to write to me about it.

**Mr. WOTTON:** I am disappointed that the possibility of building a new school at Mannum is not referred to on this line. I believe that the Minister has been aware for some time of the need for a new school to be built in that area. This is an extremely serious matter. A site is available for the new school. The existing primary school is extremely cramped. Several deputations, including one only last month or the month before have waited on the Minister. Negotiations to build a new school at Mannum have been occurring ever since the Hon. Mrs. Steele was Minister of Education some time ago.

Work carried out at Woodside Primary School has been appreciated by people in that area, but I believe that it would have been more economic instead of renovating an old building, to investigate the possibility of building a new school there. I have been somewhat amazed and rather

concerned about the cost involved in renovating some sections of the old building.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** I think that the Minister of Community Welfare would be disappointed if I did not ask him a question on the \$60 000 allocation for security upgrading at McNally Training Centre. Is the idea to make the block more secure? Certainly some upgrading needs to be done there, as three security risk inmates escaped from the block last year. Is it rather to make the area more secure in order to separate the first offenders from the habitual offenders?

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE (Minister of Community Welfare):** The sum is for general security, rather than for specific security in the area of the block, and represents the amount due, in effect, on contracts already in progress for upgrading the general security in the area, other than in the block, which is sometimes called the old security block.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** The Minister of Education said that the programme for the Lobethal Primary School was going to be staged. I have received the following letter, dated August 2, 1976, from the Minister of Works, sent to me, through my electoral office, as follows:

I refer to my letter of July 12 concerning the Lobethal Primary School. I am now able to advise that an amount of \$170 000 has been included in the Loan works allocation for 1976-77 for general upgrading of the Lobethal school buildings.

We published the letter in the local press, and the local headmaster was delighted. Although the letter says that the money has been allocated, the next news was that the programme was going to be staged.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** It will be injected into the programme.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I understood the Minister to say that it would be staged, but *Hansard* will contain his actual remarks. Later in the year, I realised that the \$170 000 would not be spent during the year for which it had been voted and it seemed to me to be a mammoth task to get some plans drawn up. This is a blatant case of a public announcement having been made, and a promise having been given to the people of the district, that the money would be spent during that year for the upgrading of the school, whereas the matter still seems to be very much up in the air. I am disturbed that the Minister could not give a more definite answer. The Minister is welcome to the correspondence.

**Mr. NANKIVELL:** My question to the Minister relates to the present planning for the Meningie Area School, which originally was to have been completed for occupation in 1978. I think it is now possibly scheduled for commencement in the 1980 scholastic year, and it is still scheduled in the appendix as a major project for planning and design. The other school on which I seek information is the Kingston Area School, which is also scheduled for planning and design in 1977-78. What is the future planning for that school and what type of school will it be? I understand that the Meningie school is to be of Demac construction. I take it that the Kingston improvements referred to in the lines relate to the Demac resource centre that has been established there. However, a new school on a totally new site has been the subject of discussion for some time. What information, if any, does the Minister have? If he does not have any, I should appreciate his providing it to me at his convenience.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I shall get the information about the Kingston school for the honourable member. The target date for availability at Meningie is mid-way through the 1979 calendar year.

**Mr. WOTTON:** Will the Minister of Community

Welfare say whether the upgrading process at Ru Rua Nursing Home and at the Pines will improve the situation regarding the need for beds for totally dependent people? The Minister would be aware of concern in that area. Whilst I realise that the position is not as bad as it was, I wonder whether the sum of \$120 000 to be spent on the Pines and \$78 000 at Ru Rua will assist in that situation?

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I think the honourable member was absent from the Chamber when a similar query was raised in respect of the Pines by the member for Coles, who explained that the query was on behalf of the member for Hanson, near whose district the establishment is located. The Minister of Works undertook to get details of the matter for the member for Hanson. I shall extend that undertaking to the honourable member who has raised this matter. I understand that some upgrading has occurred at the Pines and that it is in effect a continuation of the Government's programme to make maximum use of these facilities. I do not have any direct information on Ru Rua, but I shall make sure I get it for the honourable member.

**Mr. WOTTON:** The sum of \$5 000 is to be allocated for upgrading the Museum. Will the Minister of Education say what stage has been reached in regard to the building of a new museum? Much publicity was given to the need for new premises for the Museum. What stage has that programme reached?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I have not yet had an opportunity to discuss with my new set of officers in any detail the proposition for a new museum. As far as I am aware, it is still some years off. I shall endeavour to get more specific information on this and on the other aspect of the matter which the honourable member raised.

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Will the Minister of Education confirm the situation regarding the replacement of the Kingscote Area School? A sum of \$1 034 000 is included to cover the cost of major additions at Karoonda, Kingscote, Kingston, Maitland, Oakbank, and Pinnaroo. It was my understanding from the Public Works Standing Committee meeting held at Kingscote earlier this year that at least that sum (or maybe a little more) was approved for the Kingscote school alone. When is the project likely to commence? At the meeting, Education Department officers indicated that the project would commence during October, 1977. Until a few days ago, the local school council had not been informed, nor were its members aware of when the first stage of the project would commence.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** The tender target was September of this year for an estimated availability of the school for the beginning of the 1979 calendar year. I shall check, through my officers, with the Public Buildings Department to determine whether the project has gone to tender. The estimated escalated cost of the project as of this month was \$1 541 000, so the figure the honourable member mentioned is very close to the exact figure on which we are working.

**Mr. Chapman:** The figure includes five other schools.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I shall have to get further information on that.

**Mrs. BYRNE:** What work is to be carried out at the Modbury Special School?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** It is a modest project, because we are talking about only \$28 000. I shall have to get more information for the Committee.

**Mr. BECKER:** Will the Minister of Education obtain for me a report on the progress of major additions and upgrading at Plympton Primary School? I am pleased to see that this school at last has been included. The Minister and the previous Minister understand fully the problems

associated with the redevelopment. The school is situated on three different sites. Some road closure will be necessary if the original plans have been accepted. I do not expect the Minister to have all the necessary information, but perhaps he will obtain a report for me.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** At this stage I shall content myself with saying that there is both a solid and a Demac programme for the school. Target availability for both programmes is July next year. I shall get specific details for the honourable member.

**Mr. VENNING:** I note that the Jamestown school is included in the list of high schools due for major additions and upgrading. What stage has the Jamestown Community School reached? Has the Government taken any action to bring the primary school and the Jamestown school together as a community school? This matter was discussed two or three years ago. What is to be done at Jamestown?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I understand some discussions have taken place with the school and that the Regional Director has been involved in those discussions. No finality has been reached. Jamestown is an appropriate locus for a community school in the same way that the Burra project was first initiated. As I understand it, no finality has been reached in these matters.

**Mr. EVANS:** The sum of \$320 000 is proposed for office accommodation for the Environment Department in Gateway Building. This is a significant sum of money, which would cover only fittings and general alterations to an existing building. The Gateway Building belongs to a major company, and this sum would cover modifications for departmental purposes. The Housing and Urban Affairs Department is to have \$95 000 for its accommodation in the G.R.E. Building, the Transport Department is allocated \$529 000, and the Public Health Department in the Savings Bank Building is to receive \$80 000. For the Flinders Street office block, \$347 000 is to be allocated and the Government Information Centre is to be allocated \$1 000.

A sum that I challenge strongly is allocated to the Premier's Department for accommodation for a Publicity Branch. To be spending \$210 000 on accommodation for the Publicity Branch is unbelievable, when we consider the facilities that are available now to the Premier and his Ministers for publicity. That is not a sign of the Government's suffering from monetary restraint, as has often been suggested. There is no shortage of money if we can spend this sum on a service that is already over-supplied with personnel and money. By contrast, \$2 000 is to be spent on office accommodation for the Tourism, Recreation and Sport Department. What is that for? However, \$304 000 is to be spent to upgrade the Tourist Bureau in Melbourne.

I compare the spending of these large sums with what would be required to purchase the Pioneer Village. It would require only \$235 000 to purchase that venture, or at least the Government could pay a deposit on it and acquire it next fiscal year, because the owner would agree to that arrangement. Pioneer Village is an asset that this State cannot afford to lose, for then its contents would be spread throughout Australia. Money would be better spent on this venture than on a Publicity Branch of the Premier's Department. The sum of \$3 555 000 is allocated for the Parks Community Centre and a further \$450 000 for this centre is provided through the Community Welfare Department. I am not saying that this centre is not worth while; compared to money being spent on a Publicity Branch, the allocation to this centre would be justified.

**The Hon. R. G. Payne:** Do you support the Parks Community Centre?

**Mr. EVANS:** I said that it could be justified, although much money is involved. The Minister can be sure that, if planning and design of this centre eventually goes wrong, the Opposition will be justified in pointing to any faults. I do not attack the project but merely suggest that it is a large sum being spent. What I am attacking is the provision of money for a Publicity Branch as against expenditure on the Pioneer Village, which will gain in value and cannot be replaced if it is sold. If it is lost, it is lost for ever. I ask the two Ministers to take these points back to the Premier and emphasise how important it is that the serious consideration it deserves should be given to this project.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** The honourable member suggested that the Minister of Education and I should go back: neither he nor I go back, we go forward, and that is the policy of the Government. No doubt that is what is wrong with the thinking that the honourable member is applying to the circumstances. I have been a member for a few years and have had to endure the criticism of Opposition members that the Government does not do enough to sell South Australia and publicise what this State has to offer. Funds are required for the Tourist Bureau project in Melbourne, as it will advance tourism in this State, create employment, and bring money to South Australia. It is an investment in the future of the State, yet we are still criticised.

The member for Fisher referred to expenditure for accommodation and suggested that large sums were involved. The Minister of Works has explained that, in order to provide accommodation for Government employees, it is not just a matter of signing a lease and then moving in. Offices have to be organised, and this cannot be done without spending money: the Estimates show the amounts allocated for this purpose. I do not have detailed information about this spending, but I undertake to obtain it from the relevant departments.

The member for Fisher would be one of the few Opposition members who would understand what alterations would need to be done in a building, because he has a knowledge of the building industry that is not possessed by other Opposition members. However, is the honourable member suggesting that, because people work for the Government, they should not have decent accommodation? I invite the honourable member to list which departments should be penalised because he has listed a range of departmental people. Is it environment he wants to give a kick and say is not entitled to accommodation. Nothing of that kind was put forward at all.

**Mr. Tonkin:** It was a request for information.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I do not object to the request for information, but I object to what accompanied the request—the suggestion that there is something underhand about providing accommodation for Government employees. There is not, and the honourable member knows that, but he chose to adopt that line. The information he desires will be provided.

**Mr. EVANS:** First, my statement referred in the main to the Minister of Education, who I believe has made representations on behalf of the people of Pioneer Village. I ask that he make representations about that village. The Minister made some cynical remarks about the tourism, recreation and sport line of \$2 000. I did not see that; I went straight down the page and it happened that the larger amount was below the smaller one. If the Minister wants me to pick a line for my main attack, I will pick the Publicity Branch of the Premier's Department, for which

\$210 000 is provided for accommodation. I believe that is unwarranted, unnecessary and could have been done without for some time. The other project to which I referred, the Pioneer Village, requires urgent consideration in the present fiscal year. I am disappointed that the Premier is not here, but I am sympathetic regarding his reasons, and I understand his problem. If he was here he could answer my question. The Publicity Branch of his department is strong, well staffed and well enough accommodated to operate; nobody can deny that. If they do, I believe they are being politically dishonest.

The Minister asked me which other projects I think should not go ahead or receive priority. I brought this matter to the notice of the Committee because substantial sums are involved and they need to be justified. I think that if I went to many of the public servants and asked them whether they would wait for 12 months for their office accommodation to be updated so that the Pioneer Village could be purchased, many of them would say that the Pioneer Village should be bought. That is the basis of my argument, and I stick by it.

**Dr. EASTICK:** It has become obvious from questions asked this evening that all honourable members believe that the educational facilities in their own electorates are more urgent than are those in the electorates of other members. Indeed, they may well be. I appreciate that a member who is interested in his electorate wants works promised over a period to be concluded on schedule, or he wants a good reason to be given if they are not completed.

I am concerned that a number of the projects that have been discussed this evening relate to the upgrading or replacement of existing schools. The Minister is aware, from representations which I have made to him and which are pertinent to his own area, that there are areas of South Australia that are developing where it is not the replacement of an existing facility but the placement of the first facility that is required. I am concerned, having regard to representations that have been made, that not even in the planning stages is programmed action relative to the next primary school for the Gawler-Evanston area. I am also concerned that there is no plan for the next high school in that area.

The Minister knows that it is only because of zoning in the past two years and because of an arrangement entered into for students from Williamstown to go to Birdwood and students from Freeling to go to Kapunda that Gawler High School has been prevented from being in a more desperate position than it is in at the moment. Representations have been made to the Minister by a group of people who were former constituents of mine and are now constituents of the member for Kavel that the next high school for the area be situated somewhere in the Sandy Creek area. Frankly and honestly, I do not support that. I believe that any member who has a close look at the reality of the matter will come to the same conclusion.

The centre of growth will be based in the Gawler-Evanston area. Therefore, the next high school facility should be in that area, the minimal number of students who will come from the Sandy Creek and Kalbeeba area being brought by bus into the Gawler-Evanston facility. I purposely refer to the area as "Gawler-Evanston", because one recognises that development is taking place in two directions at Gawler: to the east and in the Evanston area. The determination of the site will require a consideration of all factors.

What arrangement exists in the Education Department, and what is Government policy regarding priorities between the upgrading of existing facilities as opposed to the urgent consideration for a needed facility that has not previously been provided? This position is highlighted by

Evanston Primary School, which opened 12 years ago and had an expected growth pattern which would have meant that later this year it would have 600 or 620 students, but the figure is already running at about 700. That school last year built up from 560 to 645. While these figures may not be as high as in a number of areas in the old Mawson and Tea Tree Gully areas, they are still a matter of concern because they are placing undue stress on facilities that were not constructed to take these sorts of pressures. Being mindful of the requirements of other members' districts and the requirements for an overall upgrading programme, I would appreciate it if the Minister could indicate that the Government has considered giving major priority to the area of first provision rather than to an upgrading programme.

Many people believe that some facilities provided are too advanced or that they have too many frills and that a facility with fewer frills would better serve immediate needs, additional benefits being provided later.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I think I made the point several times in the Loan Estimates debate last year that, where it is necessary to make a choice between a new school and upgrading an old one, we would have to build the new school. The heavy expenditures in this programme show that this priority has been maintained. When one has a school with not so much an explosive growth as a gradual growth, the problem arises of deciding whether to duplicate a few miles down the road or whether to build up the facilities at the existing school.

There are problems about where a new high school to serve the Gawler, Evanston, and Sandy Creek area (generally, the overall catchment area centred on Gawler) should be built. That has not been resolved. The meeting to which the honourable member has referred took place on the way to the official opening of the Nuriootpa Primary School, and my officers are still evaluating the information I got then, along with other information.

At this stage, it has been decided to continue to expend the facilities at Gawler High School. For example, the type "A" unit there should be available for the beginning of the new school year. We are trying to take care of the school as well as we can. Obviously, a further high school will have to be built. It is in the interests of the overall programme that this should not occur too soon, but we must protect Gawler High School and not allow it to get too big.

**Dr. Eastick:** What is "too big" in current thinking?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** One high school has a little more than 1 700 students, and that is too big. I believe that Norwood High School has a little fewer than 1 600 students, and that is too big. Depending on other circumstances, I would tolerate a school of about 1 300 or 1 400 students. Other matters involved may include accessibility to the school, but I would not be disturbed where a school goes above 1 000 students, as long as it does not go too much above that figure.

**Mr. RODDA:** I refer to the provision of \$45 000 for stage 2 of the Struan Research Centre and to the provision of \$45 000 for the Naracoorte Caves. Tourism comes to mind when we think of the Naracoorte Caves. The Struan Research is the base headquarters in the South-East for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department and it is centred on a grand old home constructed by the Robertson family, an early family in the South-East. The centre is near the Victorian border, and much interest is shown in it by tourists. I commend the Government for what it has done in the past but I am surprised that only \$45 000 has been provided for stage 2. In addition to being the departmental headquarters it has also been the scene of historic balls and civic occasions. The portion of the building that for many

years has been a boys' home has fallen into disrepair. Is it proposed that the \$45 000 will complete the dressing up of this famous old building?

Regarding Naracoorte Caves, I was under the impression that a larger appropriation was made for this work about two years ago. The Naracoorte Caves are included in the wonders of this country. The deposits there contain age-old extinct animals. One of the famous ones is the diprotodon, a massive animal of about 30 tonnes, and another is the cave lion known as *Thylacaleo*. I have seen groups patiently unearthing *Thya*. He is lying in a big deposit of alluvial gravel. A museum will be provided at the caves, depicting these age-old animals, and it will be a worthwhile tourist attraction. I ask the Minister what is contemplated in the provision made for the two items to which I have referred.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I have not the information with me, but I will try to obtain it. I was interested to hear the honourable member refer to Naracoorte Caves, because he will remember that when I visited there and was told that my meeting was the largest public meeting that had been held in Naracoorte for many years, he was absent on duties elsewhere. It would be foolish to try to postulate about what the provisions for these two items are about, and I will get the information.

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** The present Minister of Education of his immediate predecessor has stated that the Hills schools have been relatively neglected. I am concerned about arrangements for the Gumeracha and Birdwood schools. A committee has been established at Birdwood comprising the Principals of the primary school and the secondary school (they take it in turns to chair meetings), representatives of the Gumeracha council, the community council, and Birdwood Mill, a social worker who serves the district, a staff representative from the high school, and the local member of Parliament. The committee has discussion about rebuilding school facilities in Birdwood.

A departmental officer with architectural qualifications has been seconded to the committee. The aim is to arrive at a proposition for a community school at Birdwood. The accommodation at both schools at Birdwood is fully taxed. Children from Sandy Creek and Williamstown go to school at Birdwood, but Birdwood High School is no longer looking for additional enrolments. The same sort of situation applies at Birdwood Primary School. Can the Minister give a report on these matters?

There is also considerable overcrowding at Gumeracha Primary School, and negotiations are taking place with the Gumeracha District Council in relation to securing another site for rebuilding the school. The school council and the parents are concerned about the transitional arrangements that may be made if a decision is made to build a new school. Last year some children were accommodated in a tin shed for a period, and during hot weather the children had to move from the shed to the shade of a large tree. Only recently the children have been placed in other accommodation.

The Secretary of the school council stated in correspondence that the parents refused to accept that their youngsters would be accommodated in the tin shed again next year. I hope the department will act with a sense of urgency if enrolments at Gumeracha school continue to impose great strains on the accommodation there. What was the school library is now used for another purpose. Can the Minister explain what will happen in the lead-up to providing a new school?

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

## ADJOURNMENT

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD (Minister of Education)** moved:

That the House do now adjourn.

**Mr. MATHWIN (Glenelg):** I refer to the need to provide more pedestrian crossings on Brighton Road, particularly at Somerton. I do not know what progress has been made on plans for a pedestrian crossing at Hove, but I hope such a crossing will soon be provided there, particularly for members of the senior citizens club at Brighton, the Brighton Aged and Invalid Pensioners Association who attend the Brighton Returned Services League clubrooms, and the students attending Mawson High School. Of course, the Hove railway crossing must be taken into consideration.

In regard to the Somerton area, the Government is putting more traffic on to roads that were not built for the current traffic volume. Once roads are made clearways the situation becomes even more acute for pedestrians, particularly old people and the very young. I understand that Somerton is not even on the priority list, but it ought to be on that list. The whole problem regarding roads and clearways will confront the Government even more acutely in the next few years.

The harm done is that the Government provides clearways before it provides fully for the pedestrians. I think the provision for pedestrians should come first; the Government should provide the crossings so that people can cross in relative safety from one side of the road to the other, but this it has failed to do. The Government creates the priority road and then it looks at the big problem it has caused, it then decides, slowly, to alleviate the problem to the best of its ability, with the excuse, "We cannot do very much because it is a matter of finance."

I stress the danger is with the Government and its planning. It should have planned a crossing in the shopping area at Somerton, because people find it impossible at times to cross the road at Somerton in the Whyte Street or Oaklands Road area. The other area that needs urgent attention is the provision of traffic lights at the junction of Jetty Road, Brighton, and Brighton Road. The problem is that the traffic must have access on to Brighton Road and, as it has been made a clearway with the right of way for people on it, it is often difficult, in fact almost impossible, for anybody to drive a car across Brighton Road. So what people are now doing in the Brighton area proper is using Beach Road, which is very narrow. The Government recently after many years of dodging about, has provided traffic lights at the corner of Beach Road, Sturt Road, and Brighton Road.

The Government had another problem there with the Brighton Hotel, which it failed to deal with properly because of its weakness in dealing with the brewery or whoever owned the hotel. It got rid of its responsibility and pushed it on to the Brighton council at the time in regard to the removal of the verandah there to enable trucks and cars to get around the corner. But having farmed that off on to the local council and having the Brighton council serve the hotel with a notice, the Government was still faced with the problem of the Brighton Hotel being near the edge of the road. It was asked many times to narrow the kerb along there, but this again it refused to do because of its weakness; it did not want to upset anybody, and again it was left to the Brighton council to do. It remained a problem because buses and larger vehicles could not make a left-hand turn from Brighton Road into Sturt Road. When the Minister planned a bus to go from the Brighton area to Flinders University, he made sure that it came down Brighton

Road and did a right-hand turn because the Minister knew it would be impossible for it to make a left-hand turn.

**The Hon. J. D. Wright:** They are not bad drivers, are they?

**Mr. MATHWIN:** The Minister could not drive a nail in, let alone a bus; he would not have my confidence if he wanted to drive me around.

Beach Road is now faced with great problems. Indeed, the traffic banks up along this very narrow road, which has a bottleneck at the top that is even narrower at Brighton Road. A further bottleneck is created at this intersection by people who leave their cars in the railway car park. These people can cross Brighton Road only by coming along the narrow section of Beach Road, through the bottleneck and over Brighton road. The provision of traffic lights at the corner of Jetty and Brighton Roads is of paramount importance, and should be on the Government's urgent list.

In the short time available to me I wished to deal with several matters but, unless the Minister of Labour and Industry moves that I have extra time—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member now has the opportunity to speak.

**Mr. MATHWIN:** The Glenelg trams that are now running are about 50 years old, and I am wondering whether the Government will introduce any hullabaloo because of that fact. Although the tram wheels are a little square now, they are still running. Back in 1973 the Minister of Transport said that the substantial aid that the Whitlam Government was going to give this State, was a breakthrough and that we would upgrade the Glenelg trams. We all know the Minister's sad story about the colour that the Glenelg trams were painted, because he happened to have several hundred litres of dark brown paint left over that he had to get rid of.

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

**Mr. KLUNDER (Newland):** Before I start on the topic I wish to talk about this evening, I should like to bleach the colour out of some of the red herrings that have been trailed through the House by the Opposition. The first red herring is the way the Leader of the Opposition has been dealing with past Auditor-General's Reports and their comments about departmental auditing procedures. He has been trying to use those reports as a stick with which to beat the Government. One of his favourite comments has been "ever since 1970". In fact, on October 12, 1977, at page 167 of *Hansard*, the Leader actually quoted the Auditor-General's Report of 1970. It is a pity that no-one told him in time that the Auditor-General's Report is for the financial year that ends on June 30, and that the first sitting of the Fortieth Parliament did not begin until July 14 of that year. In fact, the Leader had been reading the Auditor-General's criticism of his own Party's Government. If it is any consolation the 1969 report was no better.

The second red herring is the so-called waste in education expenditure brought to our attention by the member for Light. Several times he referred to unwanted microscopes having arrived at a school in his district. I do not wish to criticise the honourable member's handling of this matter in a political sense; he obviously believed that there was political advantage to be gained and used the information as he saw fit.

However, from an educational viewpoint, his handling of the entire matter was a pure disaster. He should have instructed his informant in no uncertain terms that it is a teacher's job to open new horizons for the children under his control, that a microscope is a superb educational tool to open up such horizons and that the school should have

requisitioned one year ago. A school microscope is not a difficult instrument to use. One puts what one wants to examine at one end of the microscope, looks through the other end and fiddles one or two knobs, depending on whether it is a one-knob or two-knob microscope.

If a person does not know how to use it, there is a Department of Educational Technology. However, the local high school can use it and tell him how to use it, and even the local chemist can use it. If one wanted information about that, one could ask the member for—

**The Hon. J. D. Wright:** Alexandra.

**Mr. KLUNDER:** Let us not push things too far.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Minister is out of order.

**Mr. KLUNDER:** Instead, the honourable member compounded his own ignorance with that of his informant who complained about wastage. The only wastage that occurred in that instance was inside the skulls of those people who could not see the educational opportunities.

I would now like to discuss the topic I wish to raise this evening. I am not a member of a trade union, although I have been a member of the South Australian Institute of Teachers for nearly 19 years and have held some minor offices in that organisation, but it is stretching semantics to consider that body a union. I think I can therefore speak with some degree of impartiality on the current debate regarding preference to unionists, certainly without being regarded as merely defending my own status. I will approach the subject by means of a heuristic analogy and postulate the existence of a hypothetical group that runs a tennis club and whose members have worked long and hard for the present well-being of the club, in terms of having built decent back stops and change-rooms and provided a proper surface area. Let us further assume that another group approaches the club and asks whether it can play there. One can almost hear the Secretary rubbing his hands with glee and saying, "Of course you can play here. The joining fee is so much and the subscriptions are so much a year. Welcome to the club." Imagine his consternation when he is informed by the group that it does not want to pay fees or dues or take part in the working bees of the club. All they want to do is to play there.

**Mr. Whitten:** They'd be freeloaders.

**Mr. KLUNDER:** Yes, that is not a bad term for them, but I have a different term for them, and I will come to it in a moment. One can imagine the vote at the next committee meeting on whether that group should be allowed to join the club. The interesting thing is that at that meeting the "No" vote would have the full backing of the law of the State.

Unionists have also struggled to establish and maintain decent conditions, and it has often been more than just the occasional working bee and the payment of dues. Unionists have gone without pay, have been fired, gaoled, beaten up, and occasionally murdered. It is therefore probably not too difficult to imagine that unionists tend to look askance, as our tennis club members, did, at those who wish to share in the rights, privileges and conditions, but who do not wish to assume the associated burden.

*Mr. Mathwin interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Glenelg is out of order.

**Mr. Mathwin:** It's not his maiden speech.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the honourable member for Glenelg. The honourable member for Newland.

**Mr. KLUNDER:** I am not really terribly worried about hot air from the Opposition benches.

**Mr. Chapman:** What's good for the goose is good for the gander.



**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the honourable member for Alexandra, and I hope that the member for Newland will stick to the matter he is debating.

**Mr. Mathwin:** He's doing very well!

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I will not warn the honourable member for Glenelg again. I assure him of that. The honourable member for Newland.

**Mr. KLUNDER:** Those people who do not want to take up the associated burden are parasites: that is my word for them, because they take what they can get and contribute absolutely nothing. On top of that, they demand, under the heading of freedom of the individual, of all things, the right to choose whether or not to join a union, while maintaining it as their undoubted right to claim the benefits. They become hypocritical parasites, dependent on others to do the work, yet first in line to claim the benefits. It seems to me that those who oppose unions belong to one of three groups, and it will be interesting to see where the Opposition stands. The first group is the one that does not want unions at all. They assume that a twentieth century employer is a different animal from his nineteenth century counterpart, and will willingly provide all that is required.

If one looks at some of the things that employers got up to in the last century, I think almost everyone would be horrified. Some of the Acts indicated that employers had to be restrained from forcing kids under 14 years of age to work more than 16 hours a day. Members opposite, of course, dissociate themselves from that sort of thing. But the modern record is no better in intent; it is only better in practice, and only better in practice because the intent has not been allowed to be realised.

**Mr. Chapman:** You should—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Alexandra is walking around the House and interjecting. He knows better. I have warned him on several occasions. I do not intend to warn the honourable member for Alexandra again on any day this week.

**Mr. KLUNDER:** The modern record is no better in intent. I shall try to give two examples, but I am running out of time, so I may be able to give only one of the intent and the degree to which it is being realised. Multi-national companies transfer manufacturing interests from countries where workers enjoy relatively good wages and conditions to countries where they do not, such as the Philippines, where unions are not allowed. They are interested not in the quality of life of the people who work for them but only in the profits. The Leader of the Opposition indicated that "profits" was not a dirty word. I wonder how he will feel when more and more industry is being shifted from Australia because labour is cheaper elsewhere.

These examples should show that unions are necessary, but I do not suppose that reason alone will convince those myopic troglodytes on the far right of the political spectrum. Then there are those who believe that unions, although necessary earlier, are not necessary now. They tend not to include people who died of asbestos poisoning, and various similar cases. There is a third group, which admits that unions are necessary, but claims that they overstep the boundaries of their legitimate interests. There are two answers to that claim. One is that the world has grown more complicated in the past 200 years and that today's strike against uranium may mean birth without genetic defect in the next century. The second answer is that employer groups have always considered it their right to influence people through their control of the media, through lobbying, and even through less legal means. I can see no valid reason why the countervailing powers to employers should remain silent on issues which affect all of us, as the employers themselves are allowed to speak out.

Finally, let me attempt to nail again that rather inane foolishness that we hear: there is no such thing as compulsory unionism proposed by this Government.

**Mr. Mathwin:** Oh!

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I can assure the honourable member for Glenelg, as I have just assured the honourable member for Alexandra, that if he interjects during the rest of this week I shall name him. The honourable member for Murray.

**Mr. WOTTON (Murray):** I wish to get away from Party politics and to bring to the notice of this House—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I hope honourable members on the Government benches will refrain from interjecting and give the honourable member for Murray his just dues.

**Mr. WOTTON:** I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the urgent situation facing one of the State's most valuable heritages. I refer to the situation facing the town of Hahndorf, in the Adelaide Hills. Within the next couple of days, much publicity will be given to the situation in which that town finds itself. Hahndorf is the oldest surviving German settlement in Australia. The earlier settlements of Port Adelaide, Klemzig, and Glen Osmond have been replaced by suburbs, making Hahndorf a rather special and unique part of our national heritage, requiring great care if it is to survive for future generations.

**Mr. Abbott:** They can thank the Government for that.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Spence is out of order.

**Mr. WOTTON:** Vast numbers of tourists now visit Hahndorf and take advantage of the beauty and character of the town. They go there to observe the buildings which not long ago were in danger of demolition. Unfortunately, making the community aware of the historical worth of those buildings and properties has also brought with it an awareness of their commercial worth, involving an enormous increase in rates and taxes, which is a great burden on the people and on the town itself.

I believe that the people of Hahndorf have much to be proud of in their long history. The future of Hahndorf will largely depend on the attitude of our governing bodies both local and State, and that is why I bring the matter to the Government's attention now. It will depend on those attitudes and the wisdom shown towards the preservation and the beautification of Hahndorf. A survey conducted in September, 1975, by the South Australian Division of Tourism showed that 60.6 per cent of Hahndorf residents favoured tourism. It also showed that Hahndorf was the most concentrated area of tourist activity in the State, with an annual turnover of tourist-oriented businesses of more than \$1 000 000.

However, a recent survey undertaken in the town gave the opportunity to local residents to voice their opinions, and more than 90 per cent of them responded. The questions asked and the answers given described the situation perfectly in relation to feelings the local people have for the town and the need to preserve it. To one question asked: "Do you feel that the historic buildings in Hahndorf need to be preserved?", a total of 91.5 per cent of the people of Hahndorf replied in the affirmative. To another question asked "Would you like to see the historic German character of Hahndorf and district emphasised?", 69.5 per cent said, "Yes". A third question was, "Do you think that Hahndorf has become too commercial?", and 64.7 per cent said "Yes". The fourth question was "Would you like to see large commercial development?", and three sections were listed: to the first, a shopping complex, 58.4 per cent said "No"; to the second, motels, 78.9 per

cent said "No"; and to the third, more shops for catering for the tourist trade, 91.5 per cent said "No".

I commend those responsible for undertaking that survey. What plan does the Government have to respect the wishes of the people of Hahndorf concerning the preservation of historic buildings in Hahndorf and, indeed, the town itself? The major problem is that no-one seems prepared to put the brakes on to stop development. At this stage the council states that it has no authority, because it is under interim development control until June of next year, and the Government states that it has no authority. In a recent example one of two gum trees in Hahndorf, which were of particular historical significance because of their association with the artist Sir Hans Heysen, has been lopped. This incident was regarded with much significance by the people of Hahndorf. Assistance was sought from the Government to stop such a move, but none was available, because the Government stated that it did not have power to enter into such a matter.

At present suggestions have been made and are before council to construct a shopping complex in the main street of Hahndorf. The building of that complex will mean the demolition of four most important and significant houses, because of their typical German character. I am in favour of a comprehensive plan being prepared for Hahndorf which will clearly emphasise aims and objectives and which will provide as little opportunity as possible for any big business to destroy those aims. The plan can be implemented by regulations that could be incorporated into the plan as it is prepared.

I believe the decision-making power should be left with the district council, with adequate professional planning

advice being made available to it to assist in its deliberations. The preservation of Hahndorf and many of the hills towns will not depend solely on planning control. Rather, it will depend on a good plan that is acceptable to the residents of Hahndorf and the developers who wish to finance that plan. Legislative procedures can be used to ensure that what the community wants has statutory backing. The residents of Hahndorf have already taken up with the National Heritage Committee, which has taken much interest in the town, the urgent matter of the preservation of Hahndorf.

Many historical reports have been written about the need for preservation of the town. The National Trust is particularly interested and has appealed to the Government for assistance in this matter. Both the previous Minister for the Environment and the present Minister have indicated the urgent need to do something about this situation, but neither has been able to provide the means of doing something at the present time. Hahndorf is one of the State's most precious possessions. It has a great historic and aesthetic importance and an overall plan should be evolved to bring about its proper conservation, restoration, recreation and growth. Hahndorf is an inheritance from the past and every effort should be made to pass it on as a heritage for future generations. I ask the Government to consider seriously the urgency of this matter.

Motion carried.

At 10.27 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday, October 27, at 2 p.m.