

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, November 3, 1977

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

### QUESTIONS

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

#### McNALLY TRAINING CENTRE

In reply to **Mr. MATHWIN** (October 27).

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

1. Two.
2. One in a modified form.

#### AIRLINE ADVERTISEMENT

In reply to **Mr. DEAN BROWN** (October 12).

The **Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN**: As far as can be established, it appears that the honourable member has referred to an advertisement displayed in December, 1976, in the window of the office of the Agent-General in London. Clayton Travel Pty. Ltd. is no longer listed in the Adelaide telephone directory, and Mr. A. D. Clayton is understood to be no longer active in the promotion of migration of U.K. settlers to South Australia or air travel. It is the policy of the Agent-General to give preference and publicity to South Australian firms and a number of South Australian firms have made use of this facility. Incidentally, Clayton publicity for Malaysian Airlines was preceded by a Qantas advertisement. The Malaysian advertisement material promoted a stop-over en route to Australia. The former Agent-General reports that he never refused a request from a South Australian company for a window display although an agency would usually "make up" the window.

#### EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

In reply to **Mr. ALLISON** (Appropriation Bill, October 19).

The **Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD**: The honourable member has asked, "I would like some information on accounting methods used to ascertain whether a course is being operated economically." The decision to run an educational programme is not merely based on economic grounds but involves consideration of a number of factors including a detailed analysis of educational need. However, it is designed within an overall financial parameter which involves a priority determination for the allocation of specific budgets. Means of determining efficiencies on economic grounds, such as the measurement of student hour costs, although not formally built into the accounting system in operation, are available. The cost of any course and other meaningful information can be computed from these figures.

The adult literacy programme was instituted following an initial grant of \$2 000 to two colleges during 1976 to pilot the approach. As the teaching method and student benefit proved successful, the programme was extended to all colleges that consider it a necessary part of their

community programme. Each institution is subject to a delegated budget, which is monitored by central office, but the decision of running courses is left mainly to principals who are required to work within their overall financial framework. Hence he has both:

1. an overall educational framework, and
2. an overall financial constraint,

in which to determine his priorities and offer a programme most suited to his student catchment.

The honourable member also asked, "How can we effectively prune courses knowing that we are knocking off the uneconomic or unnecessary ones?" Again it is emphasised that the major factor in deciding on courses to be offered must be that they are viewed in a total educational concept but governed by overall budget constraints. Any reduction in courses in both the adult literacy and migrant education programmes would be based on:

1. educational priorities related to student needs;
2. the limitations of Commonwealth grants in relation to migrant education courses;
3. maximum student coverage for lowest possible outlay;
4. restriction in hours offered rather than total course elimination;
5. a reduction in the more advanced courses in an attempt to gain maximum coverage of basic needs.

As can be seen there are a number of important and variable factors which must be considered when determining priorities within an educational programme. The economics of the situation in relation to the overall financial constraints is one of these factors but the student needs are also of paramount importance in determining educational priorities.

#### EQUIPMENT RECORDS

In reply to **Mr. ALLISON** (Appropriation Bill, October 19).

The **Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD**: As a result of inquiries made from the departmental auditor, it is understood that the section of the Auditor-General's Report referring to college equipment records related to such articles as transmissions and engine parts. It has been the practice for colleges to receive donations of or "scrounge" wrecked parts and incorporate the rebuilding of such into the apprentice education programme. The auditor contends that, at the completion of the course, a valuable teaching aid exists, and these should be regarded as equipment items. However, these items are considered departmentally as training tools as they are subject to continual dismantling and reassembly and hence it would be difficult to determine at what point in time they could be recorded as a "finished" article. Apart from this situation, it is common practice to record all items of equipment in the normal way, and this includes "complete" items of equipment received by way of donation.

The question raised by the honourable member in regard to a specific purchase would appear to refer to a recent equipment acquisition made for the South-East Community College. The item was a press recently purchased for the timber technology programme and Seimplekamp (a West German company) donated ancillary equipment to the value of approximately \$40 000 to \$45 000. At this stage, only about 50 per cent of the equipment has been received and a complete manifesto has been kept. The equipment has been subject to an extensive check and held under lock and key. As a member of the South-East Community College council,

the honourable member would be aware of this situation and would realise that his criticism was completely unjustified. The honourable member can be well assured that an adequate equipment record is maintained by this particular college and will include this item when it is available for use.

#### FILM LIBRARY

In reply to **Mr. ALLISON** (Appropriation Bill, October 19).

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

1. The South Australian Film Corporation has decided to concentrate its activities in Adelaide to ensure an improved service. Consequently, the South-Eastern Regional Film Library will be disbanded.

2. The provision of video tapes in lieu of films would clearly be of advantage to some schools, as they could then be located in country distribution points. Before this can be done the matter of copyright must be resolved. The Education Department is negotiating with the Encyclopaedia Britannica Corporation regarding the right to make video copies of that corporation's films. It is initiating discussions with the South Australian Film Corporation on copies of a few others made by the corporation under the sponsorship of the Education Department. In general, it is not possible to acquire the right to make video copies; even when they are available, purchase can be very expensive. But even if video copies were made available they could be used only in schools which have a video tape recorder. In November, 1976, there were 28 recorders among the 72 schools in the district.

#### OVERSEA TRAVEL

In reply to **Mr. MATHWIN** (Appropriation Bill, October 19).

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Requirements for officers to travel overseas on business are difficult to predict and it is usual to include a notional amount in the departmental estimates. A proposal for an overseas study tour by the department's Director of Planning and Resources (Mr. G. M. Smith) is being put before the Overseas Travel Committee and is expected to cost in the order of \$6 500. An added factor in this financial year is the fact that the Australian Education Council will be meeting in New Zealand in January, 1978, and this will require an expenditure of about \$1 000. The notional amount in the estimates thus falls short of expected expenditure by about \$2 500. The shortfall will be covered by a transfer from the Further Education Department's contingency line.

#### LANGUAGE COURSES

In reply to **Mr. EVANS** (Appropriation Bill, October 19).

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** I am unsure of the particular language courses to which the honourable member referred but, from his comment that "... some people from other lands are interested in attending these classes", it appears that classes in English were his concern. However, I have also included some details concerning foreign language classes which operate in the southern suburbs of Adelaide. The modern language classes run by the Department of Further Education at Panorama and Brighton Colleges of Further Education are

extensive and will remain so. Due to decreased Commonwealth funds for migrant education there was a reduction in hours in English classes for migrants in suburban areas: for example, a class at Goodwood Primary School was reduced from four to three hours a week, and two advanced classes at the department's Training and Development Centre, Greenhill Road, were terminated earlier than planned. However, in view of the recently announced increase in the Commonwealth allocation to South Australia for migrant education, the reduction of hours will be rectified and attempts will be made to reform classes which were closed wherever possible. Further English classes for migrants will be offered in response to the community's needs as far as additional funds permit. It is indeed fortunate that a Federal election has been called, which has stimulated the Commonwealth Government to change its mind regarding the cut-back in the funds they had given for migrant education.

#### PLANNING APPEAL BOARD

In reply to **Dr. EASTICK** (Appropriation Bill, October 18).

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The staff of the Planning Appeal Board administers the following jurisdictions:

1. Planning Appeal Board,
2. Air Pollution Appeal Board,
3. Land Price Tribunal,
4. Builders Appellate and Disciplinary Tribunal,
5. Warden's Court,
6. Water Resources Appeal Tribunal,
7. City of Adelaide Planning Appeal Tribunal,
8. Superannuation Tribunal, and in addition the
9. Local Government Advisory Commission.

The following events explain the reason for the increases in estimated salaries for 1977-78 over actual salaries for 1976-77:

(a) Two mining wardens and one office assistant attached to those wardens were not transferred to the staff of the Premier's Department until September 27, 1976, although the administration of the Warden's Court had been conducted by the staff of the Premier's Department, Planning Appeal Board division, since January, 1976.

(b) The Water Resources Appeal Tribunal came into operation on July 1, 1976, but a Chairman for that tribunal was not appointed until January 24, 1977.

(c) A fourth judge, His Honour Judge David Hugh Taylor, was appointed to serve on the Planning Appeal Board on July 8, 1976. A steno-secretary Grade II was appointed on November 29, 1976, to provide a secretarial service for that Judge.

(d) A clerk CO2 who was provided for on the manpower budget for 1976-77 did not take up appointment until November 29, 1976.

(e) Two office assistants were employed during the course of 1976-77 as temporary assistance. Those persons were subsequently appointed to permanent positions created in the manpower budget for 1977-78.

(f) Two existing positions were reclassified to clerk CO2.

As a consequence of the above events, the additional cost for salaries for 1977-78 over and above the actual expenditure for 1976-77 would be as follows:

|   | \$     |
|---|--------|
| Difference in salaries for two mining wardens and an office assistant for a full year . . . . . | 11 600 |
| Difference in salary for a magistrate for a full year . . . . .                                 | 13 000 |
| Difference in salary for a steno-secretary for a full year . . . . .                            | 4 500  |
| Difference in salary for a clerk CO2 for a full year . . . . .                                  | 4 500  |
| Difference in salary for two office assistants for a full year . . . . .                        | 6 000  |
| Difference in salary for two clerks CO2 reclassified during 1976-77 for a full year . . . . .   | 1 500  |

In addition there is an allowance of \$15 000 for cost of living increases, and a further allowance of \$600 for an increase in leave loading.

The salary line shown on the estimates provides funds for five full-time and three part-time Commissioners of the Planning Appeal Board, one magistrate (Chairman of the Water Resources Appeal Tribunal), two mining wardens and twenty administrative staff who provide services to the tribunals/court mentioned in the first paragraph. As these tribunals/court are all administered as one entity, it is not possible to give a breakdown of salary costs between those bodies.

#### ENTERTAINMENT EXPENSES

In reply to **Mr. TONKIN** (Appropriation Bill, October 18).

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** In regard to the sum of \$16 000 spent last year on entertainment, purchase of liquor and working luncheons, I advise that, whilst many officers are required to entertain visitors and others on occasion, in the main, expenditure has been incurred by me and by my personal staff (frequently on my behalf), and by my Director-General. The expenditure includes entertainment and working luncheons in my offices and at restaurants. Working luncheons are not held in the Education Centre entertainment area. The amount of work involved in obtaining details as to how much has been spent at various restaurants, etc., is not warranted.

#### PUBLICITY AND DESIGN SERVICES

In reply to **Mrs. ADAMSON** (Appropriation Bill, October 18).

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** From April this year the Publicity and Design Services Branch of the Premier's Department has had an allocation of funds allotted to it to enable a more effective system of payments to contractors to be achieved. As one can appreciate, the design and printing of a major publication is usually spread over a period of some months, and many private elements are utilised, e.g., conceptual design, layout, typesetting, etc. This fund is used to pay the contractors as they perform their various tasks and, at the completion of the project, an account to recoup the total amount spent is then levied on the client department.

Although the line is an addition to the Premier's Department expenses, I would point out that it does not result in a net increase of funds because whatever amount is spent there is balanced by an equal amount coming into the department through reimbursement from the client departments. In this way departments are presented with a single account itemising the elements that make up the cost of their job.

A responsibility of the Publicity and Design Services Branch is to assist departments to achieve an upgrading of

all their publicity requirements, and it follows that, as more departments take advantage of the expertise offered, then there will be complementary increases in both expenditure and income. It is not possible to anticipate the extent of any possible increase, because this would be dependent on the number and nature of projects coming into the branch for any given period of time.

#### ARTS DEVELOPMENT

In reply to **Mr. GOLDSWORTHY** (Appropriation Bill, October 18).

**The Hon. D. A. DUNSTAN:** The Arts Development Division has a current staff of nine officers (eight permanent, one supernumerary), of whom three are office assistant/typists, and one is in charge of files, records and similar matters. Of the five other officers, Mr. Amadio is Director, and another is the Administrative Officer. Two others are senior clerical staff, and another is a research officer.

Because of the rapid growth of the arts in this State, it is proposed to increase present staff by the addition of one senior project officer, two project officers, plus one office assistant/typist (to replace the existing supernumerary) during 1977-78. The addition of senior staff will enable the division to service a scheme of grants for upgrading the arts facilities in country regions, and to undertake other research, policy and project studies, and also to expand activities generally referred to as "community arts".

It should be remembered that the equivalent Victorian body has 21 staff and New South Wales has over 50 officers engaged in similar duties at this time. The Federal body employs over 120 staff.

#### TOURISM DEVELOPMENT STUDY

**Mr. TONKIN:** Will the Minister of Works say why the report of the South Australian Tourism Development Study, which was completed in February, 1976, has only now been released by the Government, and what has been the effect, if any, of this delay on the development of the projects outlined in the report? It is 21 months since the report was completed, and yet it has only just been released by the Government this week.

Many of the projects examined were also contained in a paper entitled "Tourist Development in South Australia" given by the Premier soon after his election to office in 1970, and I use as examples the Goolwa resort development, the Paxton Cottage proposals at Burra, the Moseley Square redevelopment, and the international hotel in Victoria Square. The ambitious and detailed plans for a restaurant at Windy Point are not referred to in this latest report.

It is a matter of record that the Victoria Square international hotel has been the subject of media announcements on well over a dozen occasions since 1970, and it is also generally accepted that an international hotel is needed in Adelaide. Redevelopment of Moseley Square has also been mentioned before, but very little has actually happened. This applies to many other projects, too. Experts in the tourist industry inform me that the reason for the repetition of many of the same 1970 proposals in the most recent report has been the dismally poor record of the Government in forwarding these projects.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Leader is starting to comment.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I am simply quoting the facts that have been quoted to me. What, therefore, is the reason for this most damaging delay, and what effect has it had?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I am not aware of the reasons for the delay to which the honourable member has referred. I will confer with the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Sport and let the Leader have the details as soon as possible.

**The SPEAKER:** Before calling for the next question, I advise the House that any questions for the Attorney-General today will be taken by the Deputy Premier.

### OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

**Mr. KENEALLY:** Can the Minister for the Environment say when the off-road vehicle legislation will be introduced? As this legislation is sought most eagerly in South Australia by councils as well as others, I think it would be of interest to the House to know whether it will be introduced soon.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** A draft Bill has been prepared—

**Mr. Millhouse:** It has been drawn up about six times.

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

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It is nice to see the honourable member here so early this afternoon.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** It is nice to see him here at all.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** He was most concerned yesterday about the absence of the Premier.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I hope the Minister will answer the question.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** A draft Bill has been prepared and that, together with a letter of explanation, has been circulated widely throughout the State to the organisations concerned. This is to enable those people, such as four-wheel-drive clubs, that will be most directly affected by the legislation, to peruse it and comment on it to the department if necessary. Many submissions have been made, and I personally have received one by way of a deputation. I intend to examine those submissions and ensure that before any legislation is introduced in this House we can cater for any matters that may arise as a result, such as setting areas aside for use by the people concerned. I am therefore unable to assure the honourable member that this legislation will be introduced during this present session.

**Mr. Millhouse:** Good heavens! He told me it would be within the next week.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Whether the honourable member likes it or not, I just want to tell him that, when we are introducing legislation of this kind that can affect the activities of so many people, we have to be doubly sure that every effort is made to meet the needs of those people. If the honourable member is alarmed by that I make no apology at all.

**Mr. Millhouse:** Wasn't your predecessor doing that?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I happen to be the Minister for the Environment at present.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mitcham is out of order. I hope he will cease interjecting

### PENSIONER CONCESSIONS

**Mr. GOLDSWORTHY:** I direct a question on Government policy to the Minister of Local Government, who I am sure is competent to answer it. Will the Government extend to pensioners living in homes for

which they do not have a separate title the concessions in relation to council rates otherwise available to pensioners? Some pensioners who live in separate units have made an initial donation to live in those units, and I suppose they could be regarded as owners. Thereafter, they pay a weekly maintenance charge that is levied to cover the cost of rates and taxes. The Engineering and Water Supply Department makes a concession covering these homes which is not the concession made in accordance with Government policy. However, no concession is available for council rates. I point out to the Minister that each of these units is separately identifiable as, indeed, are all of the pensioners living in them, because it would be an easy matter to check to ensure that they hold a pensioner concession card. Complaints are coming from these pensioners to the effect that they are paying a maintenance charge for the running of the home in which they live which reflects the level of the rates and taxes charged.

One case brought to my attention recently indicated a steep increase in council rates, followed by an immediate increase in the maintenance charge levied on these pensioners. The rates and taxes are directly reflected in this maintenance charge. Such pensioners are at a disadvantage compared to pensioners who happen to be in a home with a separate title in their name.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** Where pensioners have a title, as such, they are entitled to the concession, but I strongly suspect from the honourable member's explanation that the people to whom he has referred are occupying elderly citizen's cottages and similar accommodation provided by churches and at least one local government authority, the Marion council, as well as the R.S.L. and such bodies. Those people do not hold title to the properties, although they receive the rental subsidy from the Federal Government, and that is the criterion. In this case (and the matter has previously been raised with us), people are, on the one hand, getting the rental subsidy in their pension from the Commonwealth Government and are seeking the remission at the same time, but they cannot have their cake and eat it too.

Where they hold title, obviously they do not get the additional rental allowance with their pension. That is the general application but, if the honourable member gives me the specific details of the case to which he has referred, I shall be pleased to have it investigated and obtain an answer, which I think will provide a general guideline.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable Minister has answered the question to the best of his ability, and I assure honourable members from the Chair that it has been difficult to hear him.

### NORTH-EAST AREA TRANSPORT

**Mr. WILSON:** Will the Minister of Transport immediately institute a system of feeder buses centred on the Northfield railway station, and covering the suburbs of Pooraka, Ingle Farm, Para Hills, Para Vista, and Valley View? In a debate recently, the member for Gilles said that North-East Road was the second busiest road in the State. I think he is right and that it must be close to being the second busiest road in the State. One of the reasons for that is the enormous volume of traffic from the areas I have named which travels down Hampstead Road where it joins up with North-East Road. If bus services were provided to the Northfield railway station and adequate parking was available and rolling stock increased, the residents of these suburbs who travelled to the city could use the railway instead of coming down the road, thus alleviating the problem on North-East Road.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** I am sure the member for Playford, the member for Gilles, the member for Todd, and the member for Newland will appreciate the new-found interest of the member for Torrens in this problem. I am sure that he will get great satisfaction from the knowledge that this suggestion, which was put forward a considerable time ago, has been and still is the subject of investigation in relation to transport problems in the area.

**Mr. Mathwin:** Not another committee.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** We will ignore the little boy from Britain at this stage.

**Mr. Mathwin:** You're not big enough to call me a little boy.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** Come over here, and I will punch your nose and then you will find out.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! When the Speaker is on his feet, he expects decorum in the House. I hope that interjections will cease. The honourable Minister.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** If the member for Torrens recalls his briefing (and, if my memory serves me right, he did avail himself of an opportunity for discussion with the NEAPTR team), he would have learned from them that this is one of the options NEAPTR is studying. Presumably he has forgotten that.

**Mr. Wilson:** No.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** They didn't tell the honourable member?

**Mr. Wilson:** Yes, they did, but they—

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** But he has forgotten about it. Fair enough. That is still part of the NEAPTR study for a number of reasons, principally, as I have indicated, because of the representations made by members with constituents in those areas, and also because of the public input into the NEAPTR study. I think the real problem to which the honourable member refers in talking of congestion on the North-East Road will be solved shortly when, as he would have read in press reports, we will be introducing, I hope, an exclusive bus lane. When that operates, the difficulties of the delay to buses will be minimised. I have made the point previously, and I repeat it, that this will not provide a long-term solution to the problem, but certainly it will greatly reduce the problem that exists. The question of feeder buses is being looked at, as indeed is the extension of the railway through the gully up to the Valley View area.

**Mr. Wilson:** You've precluded that on the grounds—

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** At this stage no finality has been reached in relation to it. I expect that the Government will receive the NEAPTR report, hopefully before the end of the year or certainly early in the new year, when determinations will be made public on it.

#### WHYALLA WORKERS

**Mr. MAX BROWN:** Will the Minister of Works obtain a full breakdown on how many State Government and semi-government employees are employed in the city of Whyalla, and how many Government employees have been transferred to Whyalla by their departments and have been employed in the work force at Whyalla? It has been reported to me that, at a fortnightly meeting last Monday evening, the Whyalla City Council and especially an officer of B.H.P. who is a city councillor were critical of this Government and me on the question of the possible regionalisation in Port Augusta of the Public Health Department. It is strange, because the Public Health Department has had an office in Port Augusta for two years, to my knowledge. I add that the Premier has recently set up a task force to study this question, and it is

ironical that the Whyalla City Council and a B.H.P. official have failed to recognise the importance that this Government has placed on the needs in major country areas, including Whyalla. I question seriously the credibility of the B.H.P. officer-cum-councillor who outwardly has shown no concern—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member is now commenting.

**Mr. MAX BROWN:** I point out that there has been no concern by the Whyalla City Council about redundancy of workers in Whyalla, and it is amazing to me that it should suddenly worry about a few people who may be transferred to Port Augusta.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I assume that the honourable member means information about those people employed by State Government departments who are likely to be affected by any regionalisation moves, and that he would not want details of every teacher in Whyalla who will remain there. I shall be pleased to obtain the information for the honourable member.

#### EVACUATION PLAN

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** Will the Deputy Premier ask the Minister of Agriculture whether the Government has considered a contingency plan for the evacuation, in the event of a bush fire, of residents who live in suburbs on the slopes of the Adelaide Hills particularly in those areas in which the street layout makes a rapid evacuation difficult, and, if there are no such plans, will the Minister as a matter of urgency ensure that such plans are drawn up in consultation with councils and other appropriate bodies in order to protect life and property?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Probably, this question would be better directed to the Premier's Department because the State Emergency Committee which has existed for some time and which has many plans for any catastrophe that may occur would be able to say whether such a plan exists and, if it did not, to state whether or not it could do something about it. I imagine this would be one aspect that it would have considered at some time, but I shall be pleased to refer the matter to the committee in order to obtain a report for the honourable member.

#### CIRCLE LINE BUS

**Mr. WHITTEN:** Can the Minister of Transport say whether the circle line bus service is receiving the patronage that was envisaged, and can he say what is the maximum distance that can be travelled on a transfer ticket on the circle line bus and rail transport? What is the maximum fare that has to be paid for transfer tickets? From my observation it seems that this service is being well patronised, but I understand that some members of the public are confused about what they have to pay and how far they can travel on a transfer ticket from bus to rail.

**The Hon. G. T. VIRGO:** The circle line bus service operates on a three-vehicle transfer ticket arrangement. People can travel in a normal bus, tram or train, transfer to the circle line service, and then complete the trip in a further normal service bus, tram, or train. The limits of these transfers are basically Salisbury and Marino.

For example, a person can catch a train at Salisbury, travel to Islington, get off the train and transfer to the circle line bus, travel around the circle line bus route, get off the bus at the South Road and Cross Road intersection, board the train, and travel to Marino for 40 cents. I think that would be the cheapest trip in the world.

There is, of course, a reduction for pensioners, who can do all that for 15 cents.

The trip is not restricted to that direction. One could travel from the area of the member for Morphett at the Bay, up to Marion Road on the tram, get off the tram and catch the circle line bus, perhaps to the Main North-East Road, and then catch another bus to the area of the member for Todd or of the member for Newland around Tea Tree Gully, all for 40 cents.

The patronage at this stage appears to be beyond expectation. It is gratifying to see this, although at this time we do not have any statistics available. The service is being monitored, and it seems that when those statistics are available they will show that it is being greatly appreciated by the travelling public.

### ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

**Mr. VENNING:** Can the Minister of Education say what is the position regarding the elective system that is in use in some schools? Is it the Government's policy to have this system, or does it lie with the Education Department or the headmaster of the school to decide whether the elective subjects system will be used? I have received many complaints about the elective system. Most parents believe that after six weekly electives, with their children changing subjects for another six-weekly period, the children learn very little about each elective subject. Many parents are also blaming the elective system for their children's failures in employment. Many school leavers find they cannot meet the requirements of their jobs, because they are slow to learn and lack comprehension. Parents also believe that not enough time is put into subjects which are vital for employment, or into essential areas.

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** One does not want to sound pedantic, although a certain amount of pedantry occurs in education, but it depends on what one means by "electives". It is a requirement of the Education Department that a basic core of subjects be offered to every student in a secondary school. That basic core of subjects extends from year 8 to year 12, and at year 12 is very much dictated by the requirements of either the matriculation examination or the internal matric (as it is sometimes called), the internal year 12 examination. Let nobody think that there are not certain basic core subjects taught at all levels in secondary school and that, in fact, everything is on an elective basis; that certainly is not the case.

Beyond that basic requirement, this remains largely the responsibility of the individual school, guided always by the curriculum committees of the Education Department, and by the requirements of the local school determined as a result of discussion between the teachers of that school and the school council. I share some concern about very brief elective courses. However, I would not want that remark to be interpreted as meaning that there should be no elective courses, that there should not be an opportunity for students at various levels to try out a subject with the possibility always that that student could return to that subject on a more substantial basis later in his schooling.

For example, I would imagine that my own education is deficient, since I went to a high school which, except for the first-year level and for few students, offered no craft courses. However, given the sort of ambitions that I had, and given what sort of outcome has occurred from those ambitions, I do not believe that following a craft course

right through to what we called leaving honours in those days would have been of much use to me.

**Mr. Venning:** Right now?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Right now.

**Mr. Goldsworthy:** What about a few trumpet lessons?

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** That is another point; I did not have them. There was little outlet for whatever musical talent people did or did not have in those days at high school level. To cut a long story short, because I guess I could go on with this one for a couple of hours, I point out that, if there is a specific problem in relation to electives in the first instance, the matter should be raised at the local school. The Education Department and the Government recognise their responsibility here. If the problem cannot be ironed out at the local level, perhaps it should be brought to the attention of the Regional Director so that perhaps people from the curriculum area of the department could take the matter further.

### WALLAROO ACCIDENT REPAIRS

**Mr. RUSSACK:** Will the Minister of Marine consider seriously the employment of local unemployed tradesmen in repairing wharf and grain conveyor installation damage at Wallaroo? As this accident occurred only recently, possibly no decision has been made about how the repairs will be effected. I have been approached by a major employer from Maitland, Yorke Peninsula—Maitland Engineers—which has found it necessary this week to dismiss 22 of its 38 employees. That action is a blow to the town and the district. Most of the people who had been dismissed are welders or, in one or two cases, fitters and turners. Work has been found for three of these people. In the main, the company has been manufacturing agricultural machinery. During the construction of Engineering and Water Supply Department water tanks at Arthurton, some of these men were employed under subcontract and were passed as tradesmen by the department for that work. The proprietor of the company has no doubt that his tradesmen have the necessary knowledge and skill to carry out the repair work necessary on this project. Will the Minister consider this matter?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The Mayor of Wallaroo has convened a public meeting at Wallaroo to be held this evening. The member for Rocky River has approached me about this matter, and I am sending the Director and the Chief Engineer of the Marine and Harbors Department to that meeting. They will report back to me, I hope tomorrow, or certainly early next week, about exactly how we will go about renovating the damaged equipment and repairing the wharf at Wallaroo.

The member for Rocky River expressed concern to me about people who unfortunately as a result of this accident will be put out of work, although probably some of them would not have the qualifications to do certain jobs of work that may be required. I shall be pleased to put the question to the Chief Engineer (Mr. Kinnane) to see whether or not any arrangements can be made. I do not want this to be taken as an undertaking or promise that we can do anything for these people, but we will do the best we can for the people in Wallaroo who have been put out of work as a result of that unfortunate accident.

### PENSIONER HOUSING

**Mr. BLACKER:** Can the Deputy Premier, representing the Minister in charge of housing, say whether the Government has a policy on the building of pensioner

units that will accommodate two single aged pensioners? The Housing Trust has for many years undertaken a building programme of houses, and in later years, of pensioner units for married couples; in some cases it has built single units. There appears to be a need for two-bedroom or twin units for pensioners. In some cases pensioner sisters or a brother and sister live together. The Minister would appreciate that elderly citizens often require company and, if accommodation of this kind could be provided, an additional requirement would be met. I point out that it is more economical to build twin units (or, for that matter, multiple units) than it is to build single self-contained cottages.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will refer the matter to the Minister in charge of housing and obtain a reply for the honourable member.

### DISABLED WORKERS

**Mr. BECKER:** Can the Minister of Labour and Industry say what were the recommendations of the working party on the rehabilitation and employment of disabled persons? This question is supplementary to my question of October 26 (page 479 of *Hansard*). A report in the *Advertiser* of June 8, 1976, under the bold heading "Firms must employ disabled quota in Wright plan" stated:

Legislation to force South Australian employers to hire a percentage of handicapped people was foreshadowed by the Minister of Labour and Industry (Mr. Wright) yesterday. He said he expected the legislation, which could be ready for Parliament next year, would cover road accident casualties as well as industrial accident victims and other disabled people. Mr. Wright said he would recommend the legislation to Cabinet within the next few weeks . . .

Mr. Wright said South Australia could become Australia's pioneer in this field . . . The administrator of the Phoenix Society Sheltered Workshops (Mr. G. M. Reid) said he conservatively estimated there were 20 000 handicapped people needing jobs in South Australia.

When I asked my question on October 26, the Minister was good enough to deliver within the hour a copy of the working party's report, but there were no recommendations in that report. As I understand that recommendations were made to the Minister, I would be grateful if he would give them to the House.

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** The working party on the rehabilitation scheme was not asked to make any recommendations, nor did the terms of reference include such a request. The working party was simply asked to find out the factual situation as it existed in South Australia. It had access to all departments and facilities that it requested to see. It took it upon itself, without any relevant term of reference or rights in this regard, to make recommendations to the Government which were not in accordance with what we had asked the party to do. For that reason the Government has not released, and does not intend to release, the recommendations that were made quite wrongly.

### LAND ZONING

**Mr. CHAPMAN:** Can the Minister of Works say whether the land use zoning of portion of the hundred of Kuitpo and adjacent areas is permanent and, if it is, what are the purposes of such zoning? Also, can he say whether it relates to the watershed area of the proposed reservoir in the upper reaches of the Onkaparinga River known locally as Bakers Gully? Since acquiring that portion of the district of Heysen South, I have had numerous inquiries

from residents there on the subject of zoning in that area and, accordingly, have contacted the department's Property Officer and other officers in the Minister's department recommended to me by him in order to try to become a little better informed about both the apparent restricted use and future land use policy in that area. It is clear from those inquiries that the people in the community are known to be disturbed and, indeed, want to know what the Government had in mind in relation to the future land use if the area has been acquired or whether it is to be acquired for the purposes I have outlined even at all.

Indeed, without going into great detail about this matter, it would be appreciated if the Minister could explain what the Government proposes in relation to that reservoir or to any other reservoirs that might be proposed, because the best use of the land referred to is not being gained by its occupiers. In the meantime, on offering that land for sale, they find that, because of the uncertainty about its future use or the Government's possible acquisition of that land, sales are not forthcoming. Any information the Minister can provide on this subject would be appreciated by me, to become better informed, and, indeed, by those people who occupy the land at present.

It has also been drawn to my attention in this instance that the Bakers Gully reservoir, for example, may be 20 years or even 40 years away, if required at all, and that, in particular (and this recent information has come to my attention), a reservoir in that area will only ever be required if there is a substantial growth in South Australia's population. I ask the Minister, with great respect, whether he would, if not immediately, as soon as possible provide me with answers to the questions I have asked.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I will obtain a considered reply for the honourable member.

### McNALLY TRAINING CENTRE

**Mr. MATHWIN:** Can the Minister of Community Welfare say what disciplinary action, if any, has been taken over the removal of pages from the McNally log-book and what steps have been taken to ensure that such a practice will not recur? According to the transcript of evidence taken by the Royal Commission, at pages 1187 and 1204 Mr. Meldrum stated in evidence that the notice pages were not numbered in the log-books, and a night officer complained that some of the pages had been removed from the Sturt log on July 17, 1976. Obviously, several pages were removed. Mr. Meldrum admitted in evidence before the Royal Commission that they had gone.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** In relation to what disciplinary action has been taken, the answer is "None". The reason why no disciplinary action was taken was that the inquiry I instituted showed that the pages removed were not removed from a log-book. It was one of those things that could happen almost anywhere. The unit concerned ran out of a log-book at that time and a note-book was being used as a log-book; it also contained some notes which had nothing to do with the normal logging requirements. Those pages were torn out.

**Mr. Mathwin:** That is not in the evidence.

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

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I have been asked the question and I am informing the House and the honourable member of the circumstances. If he does not like that, I



cannot help it. I am pointing out what occurred. One other action that has been taken, although not of a disciplinary nature (although I am sure the honourable member would agree with it), has been to see that an adequate reserve supply of log-books is kept on hand so that, if one book is full, there is no recourse to using an ordinary note-book again.

**Mr. Mathwin:** But the pages were missing.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Glenelg is out of order. He has asked a question and the Minister has answered it.

**Mr. Mathwin:** He's not answering it very well.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member for Glenelg is out of order. I hope he will cease interjecting.

#### ENTERTAINMENT EXPENSES

**Mr. TONKIN:** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier and is supplementary to an answer I received this afternoon in relation to a matter I raised on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) regarding entertainment expenses in the Premier's Department. Why does not the system of accounting for entertainment, purchase of liquor, and working luncheons expenditure in the Premier's Department include details of each specific occasion when these expenses are incurred, so that funds can be adequately controlled and accounted for, and are there occasions, as implied in the answer we received earlier, when the expenditure is incurred by personal staff, but not on the Premier's behalf? I refer to the specific items in the answer which was given to me. The reply states:

In the main, expenditure has been incurred by me and by my personal staff, frequently on my behalf, and by my Director-General.

It goes on to say that working luncheons are not held in the Education Centre entertainment area and that the amount of work involved in obtaining details as to how much has been spent at various restaurants, and so on, is not warranted.

**Mr. Nankivell:** Who said that?

**Mr. TONKIN:** That was the Premier's reply to a question I asked during the debate on the Appropriation Bill. Obviously, the Opposition does not have any entertainment fund of this sort and therefore members on this side are not experienced in these matters. Nevertheless, normal business practice requires that full details of any such expenditure be kept and charged against the appropriate fund. The answer, in saying that it is impossible, without a great deal of work, to obtain the details, quite clearly indicates that this is not being done at present, and the situation which is revealed, therefore, is quite appalling. I think it needs to be answered, and, if the situation is as I have pointed out, it must be remedied.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** The conclusions that the Leader draws from that reply are quite ludicrous.

**Mr. Tonkin:** Why?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Because the statement has been made that there is too much work involved in giving the details that he requires, the honourable member thinks it means that no proper procedure is available in the department to account for that cost or payment.

**Mr. Tonkin:** That's exactly right.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I am sorry, but I can disabuse the Leader's mind immediately. The reply means what it says. I can assure the Leader that every account presented for payment for this purpose requires the approval of the Premier himself, or my approval as Acting Premier. Indeed, any Minister who permits any of his staff

to entertain on his behalf is required to do the same; the Audit Act provides for that, and it is done. What the Premier and his department have said in reply to the Leader is that they consider there is too much work involved in getting the details the Leader has requested—simply that.

#### STATE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

**Mr. ALLISON:** Can the Deputy Premier say whether it is now Government policy to decentralise operations of the State Supply Department and, if it is, which country centres or outer metropolitan areas have been selected as distribution centres, and what range of goods will be available for these centres?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** As details can be obtained from the Chief Secretary, who is responsible for the State Supply Department, I will ask him to supply the information for the honourable member.

#### VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT

**Mr. WOTTON:** Can the Deputy Premier say whether the Government has considered, even to the point of introducing legislation if necessary, actively encouraging voluntary retirement at 60 years of age or earlier? Has the subject been discussed between the Public Service Association, the Public Service Board, and the Government and, if it has been, what is the outcome of those discussions? This matter is probably a subject of world-wide interest at present, as it is being considered in many countries, and I am interested in ascertaining the Government's attitude to this matter.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** As far as I am aware, the Government has not considered introducing legislation on this matter. However, some time ago the Government introduced probably the best superannuation scheme in Australia for public servants (or for any other person, for that matter), and that provided a great incentive for people to retire early, indeed, earlier than 60 years of age. I do not believe that the Government would need to do more than it has already done, because I think that the honourable member will find that the practice in future will be for people to retire at 60 years or earlier because of the benefits they can now receive around that age under the present superannuation scheme. I think that clearly demonstrates the Government's belief that people should retire earlier than they have been retiring in the past. I know of no moves that have been made, but I will check with the Public Service Board and other departments to ascertain whether any have been made, and will let the honourable member know the result.

#### DROUGHT RELIEF

**Mr. RODDA:** Will the Minister of Works ask the Minister of Agriculture for details of the criteria for the spending of \$1 500 000 of State funds in order to obtain a flow-on of Federal money for drought relief for primary producers? At present, there seems to be much confusion amongst primary producers and others with regard to the allocations of relief money, and a report clarifying this matter would be appreciated by all concerned.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I happen to have with me, by coincidence, a copy of a statement made by the Minister of Agriculture which should clarify the point and which states:



Last week I answered a number of questions from honourable members in relation to drought relief. On receiving the *Hansard* reports, I find that those separate statements, when placed together, could be confusing. Therefore, I believe I should place on record some of the background to the arrangements to clarify the position.

First, it should be understood that drought assistance arrangements with the Commonwealth are made under an arrangement dealing with natural disasters generally. When a natural disaster occurs, the relief measures contemplated by the State are communicated to the Commonwealth, which either accepts or rejects the individual measures. Those accepted by the Commonwealth are eligible for inclusion in the base figure expenditure which the State must meet before calling on Commonwealth assistance.

Honourable members will appreciate that drought has somewhat different characteristics from most other natural disasters in that it extends over a lengthy period. In the case of a cyclone or earthquake, on the other hand, the incident itself is over within a few minutes or, at the most, hours. Thus, in the case of drought, it is necessary for the purposes of the Commonwealth arrangements, and in particular the seeking of Commonwealth agreement to approved relief measures, to establish whether drought conditions which extend across more than one season represent one drought or separate droughts. The Commonwealth has agreed that the current drought in South Australia has extended from October 1, 1976, and its effects will be felt at least until December 31 this year. Therefore, the relief measures established last year remain eligible for Commonwealth assistance this year.

There is one possible exception to this. On May 30, 1977, the Commonwealth advised that in its opinion no expenditure should be incurred on the stock slaughter subsidy scheme in South Australia after June 30, 1977. We have now asked that this scheme be continued as an approved relief measure in view of the situation in pastoral areas of the State. This request is presently under consideration by the Commonwealth. The financial arrangements in relation to these physical measures follow financial years rather than disaster periods.

The following is the point I think the honourable member is concerned about:

The State must spend its base figure (South Australia's is \$1 500 000) in each financial year on measures approved by the Commonwealth before it receives any Commonwealth assistance. The arrangements are further complicated in that local government rehabilitation measures are related, as to both physical and financial programmes, to disaster periods. These arrangements are complex and unwieldy. Negotiations have been taking place for some time in an attempt to simplify and improve them.

I will not read the rest of the statement, but I think that clarifies the situation.

#### CHILD CARE CENTRES

**Dr. EASTICK:** Can the Minister of Community Welfare say whether the Government is satisfied that all child care centres operating in this State are providing a satisfactory service? If any are not, what types of irregularity have been detected by the department, and what action does the Government contemplate taking to correct any such deficiency?

Members would appreciate that children going into such centres are of an impressionable age and if, in fact, a deficiency is associated with their care whilst in those facilities it is likely to have an effect on those children for the rest of their lives. I believe that the department would

be keen to make certain that any experience gained in such facilities will enhance the future of those children and not cause them any problems.

**The Hon. R. G. PAYNE:** I take it, from the impact of the question, that the honourable member is referring to the commercial child care centres. The department has an involvement in this area with respect to the licensing of centres. About 18 months ago there was concern in the department about the quality of care being provided at one or two of the child care centres, and some action was taken at that time. My understanding is that recently we have not had the same sort of problem.

The department tries to act in a co-operative role with the care centres rather than adopting a watchdog, standover type of role. While this may have added to the time taken to improve the standards of care in some of the centres, I think the overall result has been of benefit to the children in the State who are in such centres, because of the interchange of information and the acceptance by the commercial child care centres of the requirements of regulations. The honourable member would realise, I think, that a committee was set up some years ago that had representatives of the commercial child care centres on it to produce a new set of regulations.

Since they were involved from the beginning, considerable support came from the centres themselves. I am anxious to stress to the honourable member that, in the main, to my knowledge, child care centres have tried to provide a good standard of care and have co-operated with Phyl Bassett, a departmental officer, and other concerned people to effect a good standard of care.

Perhaps the honourable member is not aware that we also use small inspectorial groups at child care centres, sometimes involving the Principal of the local junior primary school, and so on. It is a fairly involved area. To ensure that the honourable member is perfectly satisfied, I will check within the department and bring down any information that might assuage his fears in this area.

#### OVERSEA LOANS

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier in the absence of the Premier and the Minister of Mines and Energy. Can the Minister say whether the South Australian Government has guaranteed any loans raised overseas for private development in this State and, if it has, could the Minister give full details of any such guarantees? In addition, have there been any major investments by Norwegian companies in South Australia and, if there have, what are the details? I ask the question because of statements made by the Minister of Mines and Energy on his return to Australia last year from overseas. At no stage has the Minister denied the following report that appeared in the *Australian Financial Review* of July 29, 1976:

Guarantees may be offered by the South Australian Government for loans raised overseas for private development in that State . . . If such guarantees were offered, they would be for projects such as growth centres and projects where community interest was involved . . . Government guarantees of loans raised by private industry for development projects in the State would enable South Australia, or any other State, to circumvent the ceiling placed on State Government loan raising by the Loan Council agreement . . . Direct investment by Norwegian companies was a prospect in those fields in which the companies were already operating in Norway.

I presume that the sort of project to which the Minister was referring as "urban development" would be projects such as Monarto or similar urban developments.

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** I know of no guarantee. Any guarantee given in any circumstances, whether from funds raised from overseas or not, would be subject to an inquiry by the Industries Development Committee, a committee of this House. I know of none, but I will refer the matter to the Minister of Mines and Energy, because the honourable member has involved him in the question, and ascertain whether or not he wishes to add to what I have said. I will check that, but I am sure there are none.

**Mr. Dean Brown:** Could the Minister also indicate how these guarantees were to be arranged?

**The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN:** Yes, I will ask the Minister whether he would care to give information about how it is to be arranged.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION: SHOP TRADING HOURS BILL

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT (Minister of Labour and Industry):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation. Leave granted.

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** Yesterday afternoon, during the debate in Committee on the Shop Trading Hours Bill, the member for Davenport challenged me to admit that I had never seen a letter forwarded to me by the Managing Director of Central Provision Stores.

Just before the honourable member challenged me, the member for Hanson had quoted from my letter to the Managing Director of Central Provision Stores of October 31, 1977, which letter was written in reply to the one that the member for Davenport said I had not seen. It is obvious that members of the Opposition had not caucused together before making their impassioned speeches of yesterday. I did not say that I had not seen Mr. Ritchie's letter. I did say that I could not remember whether or not there was an attachment to that letter. On checking the file this morning I ascertained that there is attached to that letter a copy of a press release issued by the previous Minister of Labour and Industry in 1973.

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

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

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

(Continued from October 11. Page 77.)

**Mr. BANNON (Ross Smith):** I move:

That the Address in Reply as read be adopted.

In moving this motion, I formally congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, and, with your concurrence, address you in terms that are perhaps more familiar to you in your former field of eminence than in your present job. I congratulate you on your successful transition from a player in this Parliament to umpire. You have already demonstrated your deep knowledge of the Parliamentary game. Your decisions have been just, and your signalling has been quite clear to the scorers, particularly so when you raised your index finger to give the member for Mitcham out when he was a bit reluctant to leave his crease, having made a duck a week or so ago.

I have at times been inclined to draw your attention to the law regarding unfair play, particularly when members

opposite, such as the member for Davenport and the member for Eyre, have been over-using the bouncer and spraying their deliveries in all directions. However, as they have not yet taken a wicket and their efforts to intimidate have been constantly hit to the boundary by our lower order batsmen on the front bench, I can understand why it is that you, Sir, have not warned them. Their Captain, the Leader of the Opposition, is rather foolish to keep them on so long.

This debate is in response to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor, who is another fine example of a new tradition of Governors in this State—the eminent civilian Australian citizens who have replaced the old tradition of retired and retiring military gentlemen from overseas. The first in what I have called the "new tradition" was Sir Mark Oliphant, who managed to transform the role of Governor by being prepared to speak out on issues of personal concern and interest as well as performing his constitutional and ceremonial functions.

Sir Mark was followed by Sir Douglas Nicholls who, in his regrettably short term, showed great promise also of focussing public attention on vital community issues, particularly race relations and the plight of Aborigines.

His Excellency Mr. Seaman comes to the office of Governor with a great record of action and achievement in the area of social welfare in our community. Unlike those Governors of the old tradition to whom I just referred, his business has been not war but peace. His tools have been not weapons but words and deeds of humanity and understanding. His role was not to destroy but to improve the human condition. These positive qualities should make his term of office a memorable one.

In his Speech, His Excellency referred to the services of the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. W. R. Crocker. I certainly join in his appreciation of Mr. Crocker's discharge of the duties of Governor following Sir Douglas Nicholls's untimely retirement. The Lieutenant-Governor is also one of this fine new tradition in South Australia. I am not sure whether honourable members are fully aware of the extent of experience in world affairs that he has brought to the job. His career in public life has not been sufficiently recognised, so I will just say one or two words about it.

Mr. Crocker is South Australian born, bred and educated. He attended Oxford University and joined the British Civil Service. It is interesting to note, in his life history, that immediately before the Second World War he served as a full-time officer of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. Following his war service, he was full-time with the United Nations Secretariat as Under Secretary covering African affairs. He was Foundation Professor of International Relations at the Australian National University following its foundation by the Chifley Labor Government in 1949.

Up to that stage of his career he had been a diplomat, scholar and also author of several books and treatises. He rejoined diplomatic life in the Australian Diplomatic Service and subsequently served as Ambassador to India, Indonesia, Canada, Belgium, Kenya and other African countries, and Italy. All of these key posts have indicated the wide range of knowledge and interests of this man.

On his retirement he wrote an extremely useful and important book on Australian diplomatic history called *Australian Ambassador*, which was most notable for its trenchant criticism of the role played by Australia and some other countries in the Vietnam war. Since leaving public life in the civil service and the international diplomatic corps, Mr. Crocker has been active in bodies such as the Adelaide University Council, and we have recently been treated to his incisive prose style in a couple of articles in the *Advertiser*, on his retirement as a member

of that council, in which he has turned his critical gaze on the university and its organisation. I can only say that whether or not all he has said has been correct it has certainly been a healthy exercise to debate such issues, and I imagine the university will emerge stronger for it. That is the sort of man our Lieutenant-Governor is and I pay a tribute to him.

These comments on South Australia's vice-regal representatives prompt me to make the point that, while they are men of distinction and opinion, they have all clearly demonstrated an understanding of their constitutional function, regrettably unlike the present national vice-regal representative who apparently further distinguished himself at the racecourse on Tuesday. The role of State Governors and the Governor-General is to perform ceremonial and constitutional tasks and in all matters of policy to accept and act on the advice of their Ministers. This position was arrived at in Britain only after considerable turmoil and centuries of argument and constitutional history dating back even before *Magna Carta* in 1215, and continuing with men such as Simon de Montfort, who perished on the battlefield later that century, fighting for the rights of Parliament over the Crown, and Peter Wentworth in the Elizabethan Parliament (possibly a relation to that rather eccentric and unusual gentleman in the Parliament in Canberra at present).

That history has encompassed a bloody civil war in Britain, and many of the traditions and rights of this House of Assembly derived from that period. It culminated in the execution of the King, and 40 years later another King was deposed, all on this same point—the assertion of Parliament's rights over those of the monarch, the assertion of democracy over despotism. We are inheritors of that tradition. George III, who died insane in 1820, was the last British monarch to exercise unilateral power of the type usurped by the present incumbent of Yarralumla. At the time of the foundation of South Australia in 1836 the supremacy of the Parliament and its laws and the Ministry's ascendancy over the Crown was fully established and has never been re-asserted in Britain. The British monarchs have above all been constitutional, unlike some colonial Governors and more recent vice-regal representatives.

Resolutions of this House, which acknowledged the tradition we inherited from Britain, were passed in the aftermath of events in Canberra, and they reaffirmed our stand in relation to it.

Many proposals have been made to reform the Constitution and the role of Governors and Governors-General following those events in Canberra in 1975, including a proposal that there should be an elected Governor-General, a Governor-General elected by democratic vote of the people. The same argument could of course be applied to Governors of the States. I personally reject that proposal. I strongly support a separation of the ceremonial head of State function from the Executive and political head of State function, whether that head of State is the Queen's representative or a republican president. But I believe he must be appointed by the Government of the day. To elect him would imply some kind of independent mandate to act against the wishes of an elected majority Government, and I believe that that is the antithesis of popular democracy. It would in fact translate the role into a political one and thus destroy the very basis for separating the ceremonial and political functions to which I have referred.

The Governor's Speech was mercifully and appropriately brief, in view of the short time that had elapsed since the previous Speech. His Excellency referred to the

election, the results of which are well known, although their significance has not apparently sunk in as far as the Opposition is concerned. Labor was re-elected with a convincing vote (well over 50 per cent), and a convincing majority. Labor got a massive return of support in country areas, as well as maintaining its general high level of vote in urban areas. I hope the other place takes note of this. Its 125 years of frustrating the will of the people in South Australia are nearly over, and the next election should see the end of it for good.

I would like to congratulate all members who have entered this House for the first time, particularly my colleagues on this side of the House. Although I congratulate the members for Torrens and Coles on their election, I hope their stay here will be fairly brief.

I now turn to the results in my own District of Ross Smith. In an earlier speech in the Budget debate, I referred to the contribution made to that seat over many years by my predecessor, Mr. J. J. Jennings, who retired at this election after serving this Parliament since 1953. I will not repeat what I said then. The result in the District of Ross Smith was extremely gratifying and encouraging. It reflected the general trend of support for the Dunstan Government. There was a swing of 7.2 per cent in the vote towards Labor, and the overall vote in my district shows a 72 per cent support for the Australian Labor Party candidate. It could therefore be deemed to be one of the safest and strongest Dunstan Government supporting seats in the State.

The district is old, covering some of the very old sections of the Adelaide metropolitan area, as well as some of the newer suburbs. I would like briefly to talk about its composition because in a sense the people I represent will influence the sorts of issue and interest which I have in this Parliament and which I will speak about in future debates. I think the district can be looked at in four sections. Closest to the city, there is the older and poorer part of Prospect, although several streets contain substantial houses and mansions (part of the old village of Prospect). However, as one goes north, the houses that were erected mainly at the turn of the century are less opulent. This area has been populated mainly by artisans, tradesmen, skilled technicians and others. The general age of the population of the area is older than the average in South Australia, but many young families are moving back to the district. I think that is a situation being experienced not only in near suburbs of the city but also in the city square mile itself. That trend will continue and in time will lead to a constant renewal of the area. This trend, which is being encouraged by this Government's policy, should be helped on its way because it is healthy for the city and its facilities.

Moving farther north, I come to Kilburn and Blair Athol which are predominantly Housing Trust estates, being amongst the oldest of those estates. Kilburn was built specifically to service those industries close to it such as the Islington railways workshop and the tube mills which have supplied employment in the area. The Housing Trust, under its pre-war and post-war policy of encouraging industrial development by providing housing for the workmen required in those factories, has developed and maintained the area over many years. However, it is an old stock of housing, requiring constant maintenance and renovation.

The district then doglegs towards the west, moving from the Federal Division of Adelaide to the Port Adelaide area. As it goes over the railway line, although it remains in the Enfield Council area, there is a quite different community, a third community, that occupies the area known generally as the Parks, of which Angle Park and Mansfield Park are the suburbs in my district. This area

has not been regarded as the most salubrious of places in Adelaide in which to live, and that has been so over many years.

It has been the place of first embarkation at different times by migrant families and, because it was cheap and easy to put up housing on an emergency basis after the war, it was a place to which many people with problems and difficulties were moved in an emergency situation. The stigma, if one could call it that, which seemed to attach to that kind of operation and which, I suggest, is wrong in any case, has tended to remain. It is only recently that the Parks has been recognised as possibly one of the most vital communities potentially in this State. It was only by unleashing the community potential by putting money and resources into that area that we could really see some major change in what has been regarded as an underprivileged and underdeveloped part of the city. However, that is happening, and its centrepiece is the major project of the Parks Community Centre, about which I will have more to say later.

The fourth area is also regarded as unsalubrious (in this sense, I suggest, justly); I refer to Wingfield and, to a lesser extent, Dry Creek. That is an area where much industry has been developed, where the major city dumps are situated, and where the noxious trades area has been declared. The unfortunate residents of Mansfield Park, Angle Park, and Kilburn are the victims of the fumes that come drifting across that area on certain days, not only causing atmospheric pollution affecting clothes and material but also resulting in physical discomfort, too.

It is a pity that that noxious trades area is situated where it is, but it must be situated somewhere, and, as with airports, etc., if one suggests that they should be closed, one immediately has to find somewhere else to put them, somewhere that does not prejudice an entirely new area or neighbourhood. However, I hope that that area, that moonscape-like area, the noxious trade section of Wingfield, will not be further expanded and, at the very least, the most tight controls should be levied on those who wish to operate there, namely, stringent health and safety controls.

Connected with Wingfield is another very old area called Dry Creek, still preserving some of the characteristics of some of the closer country towns to Adelaide but, unfortunately, that atmosphere of peace and calm is being destroyed by the industrial development happening all around it. It must happen; it provides work for the people living in those areas, and it is not to be decried, but I hope that it will be controlled and that the Government will ensure that such development that takes place does not destroy the environment of those nearby.

I have talked thus far about the nature of the electorate and by doing that I hope that I have indicated some of the interests of my constituents, but I make one important point regarding them and my constituency. I was elected not in my personal capacity so much as a member and representative of the Australian Labor Party. The confidence of the people of Ross Smith in me rests less on my particular abilities and more on the abilities, programme and policy of the Party I represent. I make no apology for that. I think it important to remember that the Labor Party campaigns as a Party with ideals, with a policy and with a programme, and we who represent specific individual electorates are the standard bearers of that Party. Therefore, if the Party's views or policies conflict with ours, we have only one alternative—if we cannot accept it, we must get out and cease to represent that district which supports the Labor Party or we must be willing to accept that policy.

We have our democratic opportunities to argue and take

part in the Party's decision-making process itself and the opportunity to explain the views and attitudes of our constituents but, when the time comes, I am pleased to go out to my constituents and say, "I know you did not support this, but your Party supports it, the Party that endorsed me there and, therefore, I am supporting it in the Parliament." Most people will accept it, because they understand the principle on which we must govern. Just as unity is strength in the trade union movement and, if individual members split into small factions, they will be picked off and become useless, so unity is strength in a mass organisation representing workers and others in the community. Unity is paramount and must be preserved.

I will now look at the history of the Party which I am proud to represent, because I believe that it is standing on the correct side of trends in history. It has consistently supported the future, and what it will bring, and has consistently acted to improve the lot of people in the community. That is what makes it worth supporting. But it is a Party with a long past. The history of politics and institutions in Australia, when we see it written up, is always in terms of what the Labor Party was doing and what the non-Labor forces, not "the Liberals", were doing.

There have been thousands of Parties, factions and different combinations and groupings on the other side, but there has been one strong consistent Labor Party throughout history. Certainly it has had its splits. Perhaps rather than "splits" I should describe them, on looking back, as chips off the solid block of the Labor Party. Everyone who has left this Party and has launched himself in the wilderness to form a new Party or has joined some other Party or tried to play the game on the right of politics has become a cipher in history and has been finished regarding his productive public work. The Party has survived as an integrated whole. The Party should be proud of its past, and I am proud to be a member. It is a Party with a future, too. It is a democratic socialist Party and I do not think that any Government member feels any shame or embarrassment about those two words or about that plank. It is democratic, because it is a mass Party and because it believes that the people's will should prevail. If the Party moves too fast for the people, it must educate them or wait for them to catch up before it goes ahead. It does not preach revolution, and that means that its policies are pragmatic. They are geared to the hour and to what the people understand. It is reformist in trying to push people on and educate them. It is advancing all the time, but not too quickly. Occasionally, mistakes are made; this is bound to happen, but that democratic thread is the basis of this mass Party.

It is a socialist Party, too; it has an ideology and ideals, together with long-term views, and they temper the pragmatic approach. Again, that is something about which Government members are not ashamed but will support, because we see the socialist solution to the problems of our community and our society as being the right solution, and, provided it is tempered with the democratic pace to which I have referred, we will achieve progress and security for all.

The Labor Party itself is only part of the broader Labor movement: it was formed as the political wing of that movement. Its base is still the trade union industrial movement, and again that is something which, while we are criticised as if there were something vaguely odious or wrong about the organised forces on the industrial front and our relations with them, it is something we are not ashamed of. The Party is based on the trade unions, and will continue to be based on them.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many interjections. The honourable member for Davenport is out of order.

**Mr. BANNON:** In that broad-ranging Labor movement, which represents probably about 80 per cent of the people, although not 80 per cent of people support us in elections, we represent the political, the governing, and the Executive wing. The trade unions represent the industrial wing, and they are intimately bound up in our process and decision making. An odd thing about the Labor Party is that, while it has internationalist and long-term ideological aims, it is based in its organisational sense on the States, and this is important to remember. When the Labor Party is accused of being over-centralist or of wanting to place too much power in Canberra, that should be balanced against the extreme importance given to the role of the Labor Party in the various Australian States. In fact, Labor has been in office in the States far more often and productively than it has been at the national level.

That is something that is not overlooked by people in the Labor Party, and that is the reason why most of us on this side of the House are in this place believing there is an important job to be done at State level and that that job will assist not only the people of South Australia but, by our example, those in other States, and ultimately will reflect and have impact at the Federal level.

I turn now to the policy speech of the Premier. I think in the context of this debate it is important to look at it, because in his Speech His Excellency the Governor referred to the programme of the Government being based on the endorsement received at the election for policies put to the people of the State at that election. His Excellency went on to say:

Accordingly, Bills giving effect to those policies will, in due course, be presented to you along with measures foreshadowed in the earlier legislative programme . . .

I do not wish to go into all the policies in detail. I simply wish to point to what I believe to be certain key areas in which this Government has played an important role and has important and vital plans for the future.

The Premier's policy speech began, I thought, significantly enough in detailing areas of endeavour by talking about the success of the State Government Insurance Commission, and the role it had been able to play through its enormous commercial success in pumping money back into the State's economy, and in aiding people, particularly in relation to housing. It is important, when we consider that second strand of the Labor Party philosophy, the socialist strand, that we focus on organisations such as S.G.I.C. They are not monopolist or universalist. In fact, the private insurance industry, as the member for Napier mentioned last night, quickly got out of all those areas it felt it could decently get out of, the areas in which it was not making sufficient profit, and left the S.G.I.C. holding the baby.

I do not believe that State enterprises should be the repository of capitalism's failure. The State enterprise has a role in those burgeoning and booming sectors of the economy as well, and the S.G.I.C. is a prime example of the vital role in the development of the State which that commercial enterprise can play.

The Premier referred to activities such as a clothing factory, the role of the Land Commission, the community banking institutions, the State Bank and the Savings Bank. Thank goodness we have those organisations keeping money in South Australia and using it productively within the State instead of creaming it off, as many interstate and international banking and other organisations would wish to do. We are fortunate in this State to have a mixed economy which embodies a healthy public commercial

sector. I hope that that will remain and be strengthened and developed.

I turn to a second important area of Government activity, probably one of the key areas for which a State Government is responsible: education. Education is the key to the development of equality within the community, and we are fortunate in South Australia in the past few years in having seen a tremendous development of our education system, aided and pushed along quite considerably by the priority accorded to it in those three brief years of the Whitlam Government, a priority which, regrettably, has been cancelled in subsequent years.

I referred, when speaking of my district, to the development of the Parks Community Centre. I think that that community centre, which is based on the schools in the district, is a prime example of how, where resources are deployed into areas which lack privileges and lack resources from within that community, great results can take place. The concept of the Parks and the activity that has taken place is already transforming the educational opportunity of people in that district, and it reflects the priorities of this Government: the needs concept in respect of education, not plumping the rich and handing out further privileges to those who are already extremely well catered for or, if they are not well catered for in a district, can afford to send their children elsewhere or pay for something special; they are not the people the Government should be concerned with. They can look after themselves. The Government's resources must be deployed in areas of need. That is why we live as a community and have an elected Government to represent the interests of the community overall. If we allowed the elite to have control of all sources of power and resources, there would be no equality and no improvement of the overall community.

Areas of particular interest bearing on this development of the community through education are the recurrent and post-secondary education sectors. The technical and further education area has been the Cinderella of post-secondary education funding. Sir Robert Menzies did a fine job in pumping enormous sums of money into the universities, and perhaps it was timely that large sums of money went to the universities. The technical skills and professional expertise that those institutions developed were much needed at the time, but that was done, to an extent, at the cost of sacrificing the technical apprenticeship and trade area represented by technical and further education.

When the Whitlam Government came to power, it was encouraging to see a turning-around of those priorities to a certain extent, with the development of the colleges of advanced education. The Technical and Further Education Commission reported but, unfortunately, before its recommendations could be implemented, before in fact technical and further education could be raised to the No. 1 priority in the post-secondary sphere, the Government was out of office, and the massive injection of funds into education ceased.

It is true, and I acknowledge, that the current Federal Government has maintained some priority in this area of technical and further education and where it has savagely slashed universities, colleges of advanced education, and other sectors, it has tried to maintain at least some real growth in spending in the technical and further education area, but it is still quite inadequate. We have led the way in this State by proclaiming a separate department, developing the specialised community colleges throughout the State, and generally putting a lot of our resources into this sector, which looks after those who are seeking to acquire specialised skills, in order to make them more

employable, and has a role in providing enrichment and development courses for people who find that life is not satisfying, that they have come to a dead stop. The alternative can be despair, social disruption, even problems of crime, and so on, unless some sort of outlet and constructive development of those energies is encouraged. That is what the technical and further education sector has to offer.

I have one caution of the developments in technical and further education, that it should not go overboard on what is known in the D.F.E. field as the stream 6 or enrichment courses. The primary role of the Government institution is to develop technical, apprentice, and vocational and remedial skills. Those are things which require resources from the State and which require tremendous expertise. The enrichment courses in that context can represent a soft option. It is too easy to plump up numbers in classes, to develop a range of interesting courses which in themselves do not have this vocational component. If the D.F.E. concentrates too much on this sort of course, I think it will be at the expense of its primary and important role which is the reason for State funding.

It is not as though enrichment will be neglected. There are organisations such as the Workers Education Association, which, last year, had 15 000 students in its courses, which can take up any slack because they are self-financing to a large extent and able to move more quickly and more flexibly in this enrichment area, leaving the harder vocational work to the D.F.E.

The only other concern I have in relation to education in South Australia is that there is still some lack of access to all levels of education. We find that in South Australia correspondence and external studies courses are probably less developed than those just about anywhere else in Australia, and that is a pity. Partly it is a factor of our having our population so heavily concentrated into Adelaide itself and perhaps one or two urban centres in country areas; nonetheless, there could be greater facility and greater access, particularly to technical and further education, than there is in South Australia. That is something that I hope the Government will take up in future years as a priority.

Housing is another important major matter referred to by the Premier in his policy speech. I refer especially to the role of the Housing Trust, which is of great significance in my district. In rough figures, the proportion of private house owners in South Australia generally is about 74 per cent, with about 10 per cent being public housing tenants. In the District of Ross Smith only 57 per cent privately own their house, and 34 per cent (over one-third of the people) are trust tenants. That means that the trust is one of the most significant institutions in the District of Ross Smith and has an enormous responsibility, as it has in other outlying suburbs. Its estates in Ross Smith are some of its oldest and I have referred earlier in my speech to the need to upgrade, maintain and renovate as much as possible. In future I hope that the trust will place that as a high priority, alongside its important work of developing new areas and meeting the needs there.

The Housing Trust has a unique record in public housing authorities. For what I am saying I am indebted in part to an address by the Manager of Estates in the Housing Trust, Mr. Crichton, who was a trust tenant in his youth and who knows the game from the bottom up. The trust in its concept, unlike public housing authorities in other States, was not seen primarily as a welfare agency, as an agency aimed at housing the unfortunate or the social casualties of our society, nor was it seen primarily as a slum-clearing operation, as they were in countries like Britain that cleared old housing and rebuilt new ones.

The concept of the trust in the 1930's was based more on the need to provide housing for the work force that was to service new industries to be attracted to the State. It was found in those days (and this is as true today) that house ownership, certainly in early years, was beyond the financial capacity of most persons earning about the average weekly wage, minimum wage, or living wage, as it was then. Private housing rentals were well above the capacity of, and took too great a part of the income of, workmen on those rates, and the only way to maintain the work force in some sort of stability, comfort, and security was to provide through public housing a large stock of houses near the work place that would benefit the industries that the workmen were servicing. That was the concept of the trust, and it is still an extremely important part of its function.

It has a role in welfare that is an increasingly important one, because the private rental market now is open only to people with considerable financial resources. The problem in recent years of rapidly increasing interest rates has put house ownership beyond the reach of most young couples who have deferred their expectations. That means that where there is hardship it has to be picked up somehow by the State, and that is where the trust comes in. It is doing a good and progressive job in regard to those aspects. Much of that success depends on its access to finance in order to continue development, and this is where the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, which dates from the immediate post-war period, becomes enormously significant, in that the Commonwealth through that agreement provides cheap money on which State public housing authorities can operate.

If these interest rates are increased to what is loosely called market interest rates, and if the housing authorities were forced to charge what again is loosely termed market rentals, the whole public housing system would collapse. It depends on the financial subsidy and on the ability to charge rents that are below what one may find in the private market. The effect of the trust's moving up to what it would see as market rents in future would be immediately to raise the private rental section, too. Private rents are controlled to an extent, indirectly, through the level of rents charged by the trust.

There are other areas of importance to which the Premier referred in his policy speech about which I do not intend to comment in detail: for example, consumer affairs, about which we have a considerable amount of legislation before us this session. In districts like mine it is equally as important to have legislation on the Statutes as it is to publicise that legislation and make clear to people what their rights are, what access they have, and whom they can consult. Too often the law provides remedies, and departments offer advice, but they are used by people who are well able to search out, by their abilities and efforts, solutions to their problems.

One can instance things like home garden advisory services and other facilities that the State Government has provided. Arts festival theatres to a certain extent are used by people in the community who start from the basis of knowing what they are about, knowing where they are, and how to use them. These people tend to be more privileged than are most other people in the community, and it is therefore vital that any programme, whether it be consumer protection, community welfare facilities, or the arts, be community based and community publicised. I commend the Public and Consumer Affairs Department for the wide range of pamphlets and booklets that it publishes. More of that sort of activity is to be commended, because it means that more people who need the services will make use of them.



What I have said would apply equally to another important matter referred to by the Premier in his policy speech, that of transport. We heard today of the circle line service that has been introduced. There has also been considerable discussion on the development of railways, the NEAPTR corridor, and so on. Transport problems facing this State are grave, and remedies are expensive if we are to preserve this city and the relatively mobile transport system that we have. We have to have more people travelling on public transport, and we must encourage more people to use it, even if we have to subsidise it heavily. This has been the experience, and we have to face up to the reality. However, for health cheapness, and convenience I commend the homely bicycle: I hope that it is making a comeback, which I am personally encouraging it to do.

The question of industrial relations is also an extremely important one. It is the matter that tends to send Opposition members into a frenzy when we refer to industrial legislation and the Labor Party's approach to that very thorny problem, which tends to be one of consultation rather than of confrontation. That concept cannot be stressed enough. Industrial strikes are fairly spectacular and newsworthy, but they are usually symptomatic of something that has occurred a long time before. They are symptomatic also of a basic conflict situation at the work face: all the brandishing of clubs and the exhorting of workers, employers, and others will not do away with that. That conflict exists, it has to be recognised, and it has to be treated coolly and calmly in any situation.

What is recognised by the Labor Party in its legislation and in its approach to industrial relations is that the trade unions represent one of the institutions whereby industrial relations problems can be solved. Far from being the promoters of anarchy in the system, I contend that trade unions are, in fact, the promoters of order, that the only possibility of an orderly resolution of the basic conflict between labour and capital rests in having organisations such as trade unions properly represented, properly established and properly recognised—not just recognised by Acts of Parliament, but recognised in practice as negotiating bodies.

It follows from that, of course, that they must be viable bodies. If they are to be effective, they have to have strength, strength on the job and strength of resources so that the case that they present and their analyses of events will be realistic and will not mislead or lead to situations of unnecessary conflict. Now, all that means that the trade union resources are vital to the promotion of industrial relations stability. I am not saying that this will abolish strikes. There are various reasons why strikes will never be abolished. There are probably some good reasons why strikes should occur; I can think of a number, but I do not wish to go into them on this occasion.

What I am arguing for at this time is recognition of the trade unions as a problem-solving institution in industrial relations, and a representative institution that must be confirmed by the law and by the Government. That is why this Government supports such things as preference; that is why it consults with the Trades and Labor Council; and that is why it claims in this State a unique record of success in industrial relations. All the legislation in the world of the prescriptive and aggressive type, all the criminal prosecutions that might go on, and all the rigour of the common law and the civil law will not solve one industrial dispute: it will only serve to exacerbate the conflict.

Examples abound daily. I think it is fair to say that the Victorian State Electricity Commission strike was probably prolonged by about two weeks because of the

action of the Victorian Government in having dramatic emergency sittings and introducing emergency power legislation, which of course (as always happens in the end) was not even used. The problem was solved by other means, but was prolonged by the action of the Government. There is far too much wielding of the verbal big stick on the other side of the House in industrial relations matters, all of which tends to create a climate of instability and makes those problems harder to solve.

When the Parliament deals with industrial relations legislation, as it will later in this session and when it deals with things such as preference, and the importance of putting industrial matters into the industrial tribunal set up by the State to look after them instead of leaving them to the civil courts, I hope there will be less hysteria from the other side of the House and a more sensible assessment of the realities of industrial relations, realities that are recognised by every major employer in this country, even the most reactionary of those employers. If employers have a large labour force and have had experience in dealing with workers and trade unions, one finds that their approach differs quite markedly from the public posturing adopted by the Opposition when we come to talk about industrial relations matters.

The Premier, in his policy Speech, and the Government, as it comes to this House with the numerous Bills enacting that policy, have laid down a blueprint for the remainder of its term in office, that I think will leave this State better off, with a higher standard of facilities, a better standard of living and greater community involvement than it had at the beginning of this period. The State is facing a productive period that relies on the co-operation of all sections of the community. The Labor Party and its Government is a party of consultation, and democracy, and it is soundly based in the trade unions, in the numerous sub-branches and in the community organisations with which it deals. Therefore, I believe that the trust that the people of South Australia have reposed in it will continue for many years yet. I hope that, as a member of that Government, I will be here to represent the people of Ross Smith in putting that programme into effect.

**Mr. KLUNDER (Newland):** In seconding the motion I associate myself with the comments made by the member for Ross Smith about His Excellency the Governor. I wish His Excellency a successful and satisfying stay in office. I would also pay a tribute to the way in which Mr. Crocker discharged his duties, especially during the arduous past 12 months.

I intend to cover several areas during this debate. I first wish to mention some facts about the District of Newland. Newland is, of course, the northern half of the old seat of Tea Tree Gully and, at the last election, contained about 19 000 voters. The two-Party system gave a 59.8 per cent vote to the A.L.P. and a 40.2 per cent vote to the Liberal Party. Of the many reasons for this pleasing result I should like to isolate just three.

I think that, first, there was an overall satisfaction with the policies and leadership of the A.L.P., and that was a State-wide situation. Secondly, I was staggered by the number of people who came forward and offered to help during the election campaign. Those people spent many hours helping the A.L.P. effort in Newland. I felt quite humble to be the focal point of so much goodwill and effort, and it paid off handsomely. Thirdly, I mention the favourable atmosphere created in the seat of Newland by the previous member for that area, and I pay a tribute to the hard work and capable service given in the north-east by the present member for Todd. I am sure that the citizens of the old seat of Tea Tree Gully would want that remark recorded in *Hansard*.



I now turn to some of the problems that are faced by educators in this State, especially those who are concerned with secondary education. I will confine my remarks largely to the actual problems that the existing system faces, rather than try to deal with problems of basically a sub-structural nature, those dealing with expenditure, buildings, staffing, teacher training, and so on. For the purpose of this discussion I will accept the education system virtually as it is at the moment and deal with the problems that it faces soon, if not now. It is necessary to make some definitions. In talking about the intent and achievement of primary and secondary schools, I will give a very brief, thumbnail sketch of what I believe they try to achieve. Many books have been written about this subject and I hope that members will appreciate that this will be only a very rough outline, and that there will not be too much scholastic nit-picking afterwards.

In a sense, the primary school provides the child with the minimum equipment necessary to survive in this very complex world of ours. If one can use the analogy, it teaches them to tread water. The skills of writing, reading and arithmetic are provided at a basic level. History and geography (social studies), and many other subjects are taught mainly at a factual level, although there have been some very pleasing developments in, for instance, the MACOSS course in social studies. Many other subjects and things are taught in primary schools. I certainly do not wish to denigrate my ex-colleagues in the primary schools, but basically they train the child to be able to survive as a consumer.

The secondary school builds on this. Its task is more complex and far less easily defined. The subjects themselves are usually fairly clear in their content, but what the intended result is in the child is very often not nearly as clear. It is perhaps most easily explained as providing for an increasingly sophisticated conceptual framework in the individual with an increasingly able analytical scrutiny of the inputs into that framework. The child learns skills of discrimination, information, as well as facts, and develops both the intellectual and emotional side of himself, thus becoming more certain of himself as an individual in this complex society. I could bore the House silly by retreating into professional jargon at this stage.

Instead, let me short circuit all of that by extending the analogy I used earlier. At the end of secondary education, a youngster should be able not merely to tread water but to swim a variety of strokes in a sensible direction of his or her own choice. Immediately, that leads to the first problem that is faced by educators. In arch-conservative terms (and I hope that members opposite will not believe that they are included, as, indeed, I hope they are not included), it is not necessary to have secondary education except for an elite. In fact, it is quite dangerous to the conservative faction for two separate reasons. First, too much education helps people think for themselves. Once people think for themselves they become more impervious to propaganda of various kinds.

*Mr. Allison interjecting:*

**Mr. KLUNDER:** I hear a comment from the Shadow Minister of Education. Perhaps when he runs education, he will teach people to think for themselves.

**Mr. Whitten:** It is contrary to Liberal policy.

**Mr. KLUNDER:** I stand corrected by the member for Price. The argument is that too much education teaches people to be more independent. I am well aware that people used to leave school at the end of grade 7 when they were 14 years old and still managed to develop some sort of independence. However, I believe that that was certainly helped by secondary education. Some of the

difficulties that people faced when they left school at 14 years of age are smoothed by a reasonable secondary education.

Secondly, arch-conservatives consider education dangerous because it creates too much competition for the upper echelon jobs. Let us make no bones about that. In the past, upper echelon jobs were strongly protected. They were protected because the standard of living was so low that most people could not afford to send their children for secondary education. Those jobs were protected almost by a tradition, which I am afraid grew up, that people in lower-paid jobs never thought of sending their children to, say, university. Those jobs were also protected because universities charged prohibitive fees and made it almost impossible for a youngster, even if he had ability, to get that far. In this regard it is rather sad that, after so many of these entrenched privileges of the wealthy have been worn down, we now face an attack by the Federal Government through the Schools Commission in again trying to make it easier for the rich and harder for the poor.

The second problem facing education is the accusation of its declining standard. Again, this is a complex problem and proof is not easy to obtain in this regard. I should like to give some examples of how even well-meaning people can make assertions that are not based on fact. It is possible for an employer to be accurate in saying that a youngster with year 11 standard 20 years ago had a more comprehensive knowledge or education than a student with a year 11 standard today. The reason is that he is likely to have been a more able student rather than that the education offered to him was of a lesser quality. This is because 20 years ago only the very capable or the very wealthy proceeded in their secondary education as far as year 11. Today the equivalent student still exists, but he goes on to do a degree.

A further example is that parents who were aware in their day that a year 10 or year 11 standard gave one an excellent job opportunity scrimped and saved to ensure that their children received that amount of secondary education at school. They were aided by a rising standard of living. By that very act, the situation was created whereby so many people held the qualifications that job opportunities were fewer than the applicants. Hence could come disappointment with the education system and the rather fertile ground for the facile claim that it was the education system that was at fault.

A third example is that educators have, in the past, been inundated with requests for action on specific problems by specific pressure groups in relation to problems that apparently could not be handled by society. The education system has reluctantly accepted some responsibility for dealing with some of those problems, purely because most children would otherwise have suffered. The education system has taken on such extra duties as the teaching of courses in swimming, road safety, driver education, health education (including both sex and drug education), consumer education, and in some States (and about to be introduced in South Australia) legal education.

All those courses have placed extra strain on educational resources. Schools have been forced to act as social agencies to pick up whatever the rest of society has discarded. The rest of society has then been in the rather pleasant situation of being able to accuse schools or the education system or not having done better. Education is at fault when the prestige jobs are not available, children drown, the road toll does not decrease, sex and drug abuses occur, and children are not as religious or as narrowly moral as they may or may not have been years ago.

It is therefore impossible to make objective comparisons between the past and present regarding standards. It is impossible because isomorphic bases for comparison just do not exist. Unfortunately, this does not stop uninformed comparisons: retired colonels, aging matrons and Opposition members have a field day.

Another problem is the charge that school is not relevant to work. We can disregard the bleatings of those members of the Australian Government who imply that if only schools taught students properly there would be no unemployment. That is so absurd that it does not warrant a reply. Similarly, we can disregard the lunatic fringe that does not want people educated beyond the ability to form docile assembly line fodder. The remaining group, consisting of those who sense a discontinuity between the subjects they are taught at school and the requirements of a full adult working and recreational life, need to be answered. The overall criticism of schools in this area can, I believe, be subdivided into two categories: those who would be satisfied if schools introduced a bridging course between school work and work requirements, and those who believe that school studies should be so closely related to work experience that a bridging course is an insufficient stop-gap measure.

A major stumbling block to rational debate on this entire question is the existence of the matriculation examination. I am continually amazed that people who are critical of developments of secondary education are often also the very same people who wish to retain the matriculation examination, purely because it is a common yardstick. The fact that, in most cases, it is also an irrelevant yardstick apparently does not seem to worry them.

The matriculation examination is an assessment tool that is designed to rank applicants for entrance to universities. It is not a particularly good assessment tool. Its only justification is that other methods seem to produce results that are not noticeably better. Its use by other institutions and employers, however, leads to absolutely ridiculous excesses. For instance, at one stage students in boys' craft or home economics who wished to continue in their courses and become teachers in those subjects were told that they could not continue in year 12 of their secondary schooling with those subjects because, if they did, they would then damage their chances of getting into what were then teachers colleges. That situation is utterly ridiculous, and I am sure that members on both sides could think of many other examples: for instance, banks requiring double mathematics at matriculation for intending bank tellers.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** You could throw in physics and chemistry as well.

**Mr. KLUNDER:** Yes. When one considers that maths I and II at matriculation level requires a knowledge of integration, differentiation, matrix theory and imaginary numbers, one shudders about why banks require young bank clerks to have knowledge of imaginary numbers. However, that is beside the point. I have even heard of air hostesses being required to have matriculation mathematics. The only reason I can think why they should have such a qualification is that when the plane is falling they can calculate how long it will take the plane to reach the ground.

The tragic side effect of this situation is that schools are forced to keep a matriculation option open for all secondary school students until such time as the parents of that student agree that such an option is not desirable for that student. The effect of this has been the virtual freezing of a large part of the school curriculum into a position which is subservient to the requirements of the

Public Examinations Board. I am quite sure that the Public Examinations Board neither intended that nor wanted it. Solutions do exist to this problem. Probably as many solutions exist, if not more, than there are people interested. I intend to canvass two possible solutions here, while stressing that they are personal solutions and should in no way be taken to represent any official opinion of any kind whatsoever.

The intent of both of my solutions is to restrict the matriculation examination to being what it was intended to be, purely a university entrance examination and little else. The first solution is the simpler one. It is not to publish the results of the matriculation examination and not to provide certificates. Instead, a student who had sat for the examination would at a given time, accompanied by a parent if necessary, go to the place where he presented himself for the examination and there be able to see in an appropriate record that he had either passed the matriculation or had not, and that he had either succeeded in making the quota for a particular faculty of a university or had not. He would then sign that record and that would finish the matter. He would not be able to use the certificate to get a job, and employers would be deprived of this ridiculous yardstick for choosing future employees. This would need to be accompanied by a restructuring of the year 12 situation in schools, and members will know of my concern that this work needs to be proceeded with in any case. I am pleased that the Minister of Education was able to announce in answer to my question last week that a committee was being set up to consider matters relating to year 12 certification by the Education Department.

The second solution is prompted by the fact that the matriculation examination is not a good discriminatory instrument even for entry to university faculties. With passes in economics, mathematics I and II, physics and chemistry, one could enter into the chemical engineering faculty at a university where at least four out of the five subjects are virtual prerequisites for entry to the course. Alternatively, one can take an arts degree in philosophy, anthropology and politics, or a degree in law, when none of the matriculation subjects passed has even the slightest bearing on the work that needs to be studied in the course. It seems odd that the same course can qualify one for entry to a degree and be a prerequisite for it, when the course has nothing to do with the material that will be studied in that degree.

The second solution would accept that schools bring capable students to a certain level of excellence in a well-rounded general education and that the university itself would use the intervening period between December, when the school examinations finished, and early March when the university would begin to, first, check whether the student had the necessary ability to take on a course and, secondly, give the student a bridging course into either the specific field or to the general area of his interest. In that way any student who undertook to do that and was unsuccessful would waste four months instead of a year, and if he were successful he would be able to enter the faculty of his choice. I do not wish to stress these solutions too much. There are dozens of others but the present situation is not, to my mind, satisfactory.

Another major problem in providing reasonable work experience courses at secondary level is that many students have little idea of the work they wish to pursue when they leave school. My experience over many years leads me to think that up to half of the 16-year-old students do not really know what work they wish to do. I do not think the percentage of these students has changed remarkably, despite the vastly increased and superior information and help that is available to them now, since I

took a survey on this and related matters in 1971 of over 1 300 secondary students. This of course makes the provision of adequate bridging courses vastly more difficult. There are many other difficulties. To what extent can employers be relied on not to attempt to use these students as a source of cheap labour; to what extent are such students covered by adequate insurance in the event of accidents; to what extent can they be allowed to use machinery; and what are the legal implications if they cause damage or injury? All these things need to be considered.

The answer to those who believe that bridging courses are not the solution and schools should themselves prepare students for work is relatively simple. There are many reasons against it. Secondary schools are general educational institutions; they are not trade schools. The facilities for teaching a variety of occupational choices are not cheap and cannot be provided in schools. A large majority of jobs can be learned rapidly in the job situation. Training for a clerical job in the Public Service is likely to be sufficiently different from a similar job in a bank to mean that pre-job training could be self-defeating. Many children do not know early enough what type of occupation they wish to pursue. Many more change their minds. Schools should anyway provide them with the mental equipment to be sufficiently flexible to take on the wide variety of jobs they may have in the future, including several jobs that do not as yet exist.

The next problem is that of accountability in education. I believe there are two different types of accountability. I have already referred to the fact that, to some extent, teachers are, or the education system is, already held accountable for the lack of success of programmes which educationists have believed they needed to introduce because society as a whole refused to undertake. Willard Wirtz in "Education and Work" (*Carnegie Quarterly* Vol. No. 2, 23, Spring, 1975, page 6) sums it up perfectly, as follows:

The schools steadily accumulate the discarded tasks of the larger society, everything from emotional guidance to sex education and driver training.

I have referred to those sorts of course earlier but I have not really referred to the catch 22 situation that applies. Anyone who takes on such a course, no matter how necessary it is (and teachers often do so out of concern for students rather than that they want to take them on), especially if taken on with public money, becomes in a sense accountable for the lack of success, even if success were never possible. There is a real sense of grievance amongst teachers. They feel they are taking on thankless tasks no-one else wants and receive abuse in the process.

The other accountability is the direct cost-effectiveness question. The community provides money and requires a given minimum return. This is difficult in education. It is difficult for instance to estimate how much year 3 arithmetic is worth. The usual accountability procedures in the United States have required schools to budget for and assess attainment. In some cases this has meant attainment tests at the end only, but in other cases it has meant a detailed matching of budget with school results in various subjects. It misses the point on two important counts: first, attainment in many areas is difficult to measure. As an extreme example, one can try to measure the attainment of having learned to enjoy classical music, let alone measure the cost effectiveness of it. Again, what is the cost effectiveness of having become interested in a hobby like rock collecting through the study of geology? The other point is the danger that the attainment test rather than the attainment itself becomes the goal. The classical case is the Chinese Public Service of previous centuries, and I do not suppose members are needed to be reminded about that.

The statistics of accountability in the United States are interesting. Roy Adams of Western Australia did a count of the articles on accountability that appeared in the *American Education Index* each year. In 1968 there were none; in 1969 there were 16; in 1970 there were 62; in 1971 there were 73; and in 1972 there was a high water mark of 80; in 1973, a drop to 59; and in 1974, 53. Although Mr. Adams stopped counting in that year I have found that in 1975 the number dropped to 32. There seems to have been a crest in the United States, but that is now passed. Similarly, in 1973-74, 32 American States passed laws introducing accountability procedures in education. Since then several of those States have rescinded those laws and a cynic might well argue that, since accountability as an American idea has died down, it will not be long before it becomes important in Australia.

I think that an attack on education is coming in Australia, basically to entrench privilege, but hiding behind the twin smoke screens of accountability and irrelevance. It has already started with the charge that unemployment is the fault of the education system.

One way that educators in South Australia and in other States can deal with such attacks is to identify clearly the direction from which the attacks come and deal with them on that basis. For example, such attacks have already started in this House with rather inane charges of wastage, and I have already dealt with one such attack. Wastage needs to be stamped on where it can be proven that it exists. Accountability is important, but it needs to be dealt with in such a way that it does not become a force for a more restrictive type of education. My comments are only a Cooks tour of the problem faced by educators. These are all problems to which there are no simple solutions but the solutions groped for, fought over, and finally adopted by our educators and politicians will, to some extent, determine the quality of our future generations.

**Mrs. ADAMSON (Coles):** I support the motion and, in doing so, I endorse the remarks of the mover and seconder in congratulating His Excellency the Governor on his appointment and in expressing pride and pleasure of all South Australians in the service that both Mr. Seaman and Mr. Crocker, the Lieutenant-Governor, have given. In my maiden speech, I referred to the strongly felt wish of people in modern societies to have a greater say in the decision-making which affects them. There is a particular aspect of this widespread attitude which I would like to explore in some depth in this Address in Reply debate by referring to a range of issues that have been largely ignored, or at least dealt with by Governments in a way that lacks both foresight and perception. The fact that some of these matters might be described as "women's issues" is an indication of the superficial attitude which prevails on deeply important subjects that affect the whole community and every individual in it.

The very fact that politicians, interest groups and the media are willing to describe specific matters as "women's issues" is in itself an indication that somehow women are not seen as members of society in the fullest sense. The nature of this Parliament, with one woman represented on either side of the House in both Chambers, is another indication that the job of decision-making at the highest level and the job of legislating for all people is regarded as being almost exclusively the province of men. One of the great ironies of this lopsided Parliamentary representation is that I believe that members on both sides will acknowledge that the greater proportion of people who have worked hard to help members to become elected are women and that women in all political Parties have an enormous spirit of service, which enables them to contribute towards the election of other people, mainly

men, and not to consider their own rewards in doing so. They seem not to be interested in their own political advancement.

It has been a matter of some surprise to me that so many women from all walks of life, from both major political persuasions have expressed pleasure in my election. It is not from any personal feeling for me but because they believe that another point of view will now be brought into the deliberations of this House.

**Mr. Groom:** Do you represent women's views?

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** No, I represent the views of my electors, but I believe that, in expressing my own point of view, I shall reflect the view of many South Australians, whose point of view is presently not expressed forcibly in this Parliament. I hope to demonstrate that with what I am about to say.

In the belief that a society's attitude to children is characteristic of its basic values, I intend to examine some of our current attitudes to children, as exemplified by legislation, administration and community standards. In doing so, I question whether we can honestly claim to be the civilised and compassionate society that many of us would like to believe that we are.

Last Wednesday was designated as Universal Children's Day in Australia, in accordance with a decision made in 1973 by the United Nations Children's Fund Committee of Australia, that this day should be observed annually on the fourth Wednesday of October on an Australia-wide basis. I hope it is not indicative of the sense of values of this Parliament that no mention was made in this House of the significance of that day and to my knowledge, no action was taken by the Government to mark the day in any way. I hope that what I have to say this afternoon will in some measure compensate for the oversight in ignoring the request of UNICEF to regard Universal Children's Day as an occasion when the public and Governments are asked to focus attention on the needs and rights of children. That the occasion passed without comment reinforces my belief that it is time that the notice of this Parliament was brought to the needs of children and that the conscience of the Government was alerted to those areas in which we fall short of satisfying those needs.

I am glad that the Commonwealth Government has announced that it will provide funds to assist voluntary organisations in Australia to participate in the International Year of the Child, which will be celebrated in 1979. This assistance will go to a special subcommittee of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Australia. Up to \$30 000 a year will be made available.

The subcommittee has been chosen to service a national committee of non-government organisations interested in Australia's involvement with the International Year of the Child. The Commonwealth Government has set up a committee of Ministers to supervise Commonwealth involvement in the International Year of the Child. This committee will comprise the Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs, Education, Foreign Affairs, and Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Women's Affairs and Minister for Social Security. Government involvement in International Year of the Child will be co-ordinated between the Commonwealth and the States at Ministerial level. I hope that the appropriate Ministers in this Parliament will do all they possibly can to ensure that the International Year of the Child accomplishes much that will be of benefit to children in South Australia.

On November 20, 1959, the General Assembly of the United Nations, with representatives of 78 countries meeting in plenary sessions, adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child unanimously. The declaration

states that the child, because of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, both before and after birth, and that individuals and groups should strive to achieve children's rights by legislative and other means. The declaration states that mankind owes the child the best it has to give, and no member of this Parliament would disagree with that statement. Where we would differ, perhaps, is in our assessment of what is best for children.

In a book published in 1956, which surveyed the development of laws in South Australia relating to children, the author, Dr. Constance Davey, states:

It may be that the forming of the State's policy in relation to children is no longer so much a matter of immediate concern.

She says (in 1956):

Today the child is pre-eminent; there is no longer the need to create a public conscience concerning his welfare, or to convince the public of his importance as a future citizen. The radio keeps the public in touch with new knowledge about child development, or child behaviour; the films show how he is educated, how courts deal with him, how he is rehabilitated.

Dr. Davey then wisely adds:

But there is still the need for a critical outlook and an occasional stocktaking. Only when an official inquiry is held does the public learn the facts about departmental management, or the defects in the State system controlling children. To such inquiries much progressive legislation is often due.

Those words were written in 1956. Twenty years later, I believe it is indeed time for a critical outlook and a new stocktaking. The stocktaking should be taking place right here in this Parliament. There was sufficient evidence of public conscience, as expressed through the media, to indicate that a reform of the juvenile court system and of the administration of the Community Welfare Department in relation to juvenile offenders is an extremely urgent priority. There is sufficient evidence, as expressed to the Royal Commission into the non-medical use of drugs and by the Senate Report of the Standing Committee on Social Welfare, that children's health is suffering dreadfully as a result of drug abuse. There is sufficient evidence, for those who are willing to look with a clear-eyed view, that the problems of both juvenile offenders and young drug takers are symptomatic of deep-seated wrongs in our society, some of which are undoubtedly the result of so-called social legislation. There is sufficient evidence that, unless action is taken to implement forceful educational programmes based on sound research, the standards of nutrition in Australia will continue to have adverse effects on infant, child and adult health.

There is sufficient evidence contained in the annual reports of the Mallen committee to warrant this Parliament acting on its recommendations in respect of notification of abortions yet, despite repeated requests, nothing has been done.

If we are to examine the current attitudes towards children which prevail in South Australia, a good place to begin is the Mallen reports. We cannot overlook the abortion statistics and the recommendations of the Mallen committee. What I have to say is not based on the premise that there is never a case for abortion. When human beings are placed in intolerable situations, they must be given legal room in which to reconcile impossible personal stresses without committing criminal acts. They need to be allowed a limited freedom which enables them to survive in situations of crisis and tragedy which may not be of their own making. Human society has always recognised this need by providing, for example, for the termination of

marriage. The legal provision is in no way intended to supersede the religious and ethical ideal that marriage is indissoluble.

But strong and stable societies never allow this limited freedom to be abused to the extent that it threatens the well-being of the total community, for the protection of which these provisions are designed. To many thinking people, it appears that the abortion law in South Australia is resulting in the abuse of human life and the removal of all rights from unborn children who would otherwise have the opportunity to develop into normal, healthy people. The figures for 1976 of 3 085 abortions, with an increase of 4.38 per cent in the under-20 age group and a steady increase in the percentage of abortions for psychiatric reasons, represent an alarming situation. The most alarming aspect is that these figures may well be far from being accurate.

The Mallen committee makes clear that the present procedures for reporting are deficient, and its view is endorsed by the Nicholson committee's report on the Development of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Related Resources in South Australia. Both committees have recommended to the Government that hospitals should be obliged to report to the Director-General of Medical Services abortions carried out in each hospital, that notification of complications should be compared, and that these recommendations should be implemented by regulation. Is the Government failing to act because it is frightened of feminist groups who call for abortion on demand and who maintain that women should have what they describe as control over their own bodies?

If that is so, the Government is sadly failing to face up to its responsibilities in respect of the rights of children and it is confusing the issue of women's rights by evading the overriding issue of human rights. How many more years must pass and how high must these figures go before the Government will act on the recommendations of its own committees? How much longer must we go before the Government acknowledges it has an obligation to do this? How much courage does it require simply to set up an administrative system which enables us to get to the facts, or is the Government so fearful of what the facts may prove that it prefers to hide behind a screen of clearly imperfect statistics?

From the protection of children after conception, we turn to the quality of general care after birth and in infancy. South Australia has always been fortunate in the quality of its maternity hospitals and its standard of infant care. It is a matter of great concern, therefore, to note that the Queen Victoria Hospital is suffering from lack of funds that would enable it to maintain its standards as a teaching hospital. The difficulty lies also with a falling birth rate and a consequent lack of patients, and both of these factors should give the Government cause for concern. When we look at the lines of the Budget and consider the millions that are spent on a vast diversity of projects in comparison with the small amounts that are directed to maternal, infant, child and family care, one wonders where this State's priorities lie.

It is grotesque that we should be spending upwards of \$7 000 000 on a frozen foods factory and yet a maternity hospital in South Australia has to run a lottery in order to achieve decent accommodation for obstetric care. I refer to the comments of Dr. Roger Wurm in remarking that the Queen Victoria Hospital in South Australia has become a Cinderella, has become overlooked in the attention that has been concentrated on the Flinders Medical Centre and that, in order to maintain its accreditation to the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists as a teaching establishment, the hospital has to offer a wide

range of cases and experience for doctors in training but, of course, if the facilities are not there the patients will not come.

There is an urgent and rapidly developing need for resources to be directed to this area. There is nothing more important to the future than that babies should have a happy, healthy start in life. It is equally important that parents should be given every opportunity to share the knowledge and expertise that others may be able to give them in the upbringing of their families. Yet preparation for parenthood, which was once the natural function of the extended family, has virtually vanished along with the extended family and there is now little or no provision to fill this need. Few young women realise that they should be taking a responsible attitude to health, diet and exercise, not only during pregnancy but before conception, and few young couples have the experience of handling babies or seeing infants being reared before they have the experience, in a state of almost total ignorance, of becoming parents themselves. If anyone in this place is prepared to underrate the effects of that ignorance, let him look at the statistics presented to the Royal Commission into the non-medical use of drugs by Professor T. G. Murrell, head of the Department of Community Medicine at the University of Adelaide, and Dr. J. R. Moss, of the Foundation of Multi-Disciplinary Education in Community Health.

In their findings from a representative sample of 406 interviews with mothers of six-month-old babies, they reported that 31 per cent of babies had received sleeping medication at some time and that 66 per cent had received analgesics at some time. Ten infants had been given sleeping medication virtually every night for six months. Both doctors pointed out that it was the mothers' perception of the use of drugs which was important and that patterns were being established in infancy which indicated that drugs might be a preferred method of coping throughout life.

This points to the profound effect of current community attitudes on the lives of children and of the massive influence of media-promoted drug taking in what is described as legitimate form. The only way to eradicate parental ignorance and to alter attitudes created by a media-dominated society is by education. In a society that demands instant relief of its pain or instant gratification of its needs, there is an urgent need for us to promote the idea of self-discipline and of personal responsibility for health and for families. This programme must begin before parenthood, it must continue with young parents, young children, and young adults, and it must be based on a common-sense understanding of the physical and emotional needs of the child and on the notion that personal responsibility plays a prime role in parenthood.

The State Government should recognise the fact that many of the organisations or agencies which are best equipped to handle such an education programme are already established. Organisations such as the Mothers and Babies Health Association, the Childbirth Education Association, the Nursing Mothers Association, the Family Life Movement and Parent Centres Australia should be encouraged in their immensely valuable work by financial assistance where it does not already exist or by greatly increased levels of assistance that will enable important projects to be maintained or expanded.

Mr. Speaker, there may be some members, and it seems that there are, who think that the well-being of babies, children and their parents are not subjects for Parliamentary debate. I suggest that the very reason that such an attitude has prevailed (and according to *Hansard*, it has prevailed) is that it is time priorities were

rearranged. I note with interest that the Parliament of Papua New Guinea has an understanding of the things that are of basic importance. I read recently that it had passed legislation to ensure that breast-feeding of babies does not give way to the bottle feeding practised in so-called developed countries, by requiring licences for the purchase of babies' bottles. I am not suggesting that this Parliament should contemplate such legislation, but I do suggest that we should be reassessing our priorities when it comes to determining what really is best for children.

The quality of infant nutrition is a reflection of developing adult and young adult attitudes to food in Australia today. Surveys indicate that Australians are eating less nutritional foods than ever before. Many Australians are deliberately choosing to buy what are known as junk foods with little or no nutritional value in preference to wholesome foods that are readily available. There are very strong forces persuading all of us, but especially children, to eat unhealthy food—junk food that is specially formulated to appeal on visual or taste grounds or on the basis of convenience. It is time for the community to wake up and start asking why this is happening and to ask whether we are going to tolerate its continuance, because, when such massive sums of money are spent on public health, there should be an acknowledgment that diet plays an important part in good health and that good diet is essential if we are to have healthy children, healthy young adults, and a healthy society.

Although nutrition does play this important part, it is a word that is not mentioned in the platforms of either of the major political Parties. I hope that will be remedied shortly in the case of the Liberal Party. It is an issue to which very few people in decision-making positions have given much attention. I suggest it is time that attention was paid to this matter and that we started to monitor the diet patterns of children and adults in this State, so that any action to correct deficiencies is soundly based. It is time we embarked upon a promotional and educational programme that teaches people the value of wholesome food and of sensible eating habits. There is not much point in fighting for a world in which the environment is pleasing if the people who inhabit it are not healthy enough to enjoy it.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child states that every child needs and deserves good medical care, education and food, protection from present dangers, and preparation for future opportunities. Preparation for future opportunities lies, to a high degree, with the education system, and I do not propose to discuss that now except to differ with the member for Newland and to say that I firmly agree with the statements made by Professor Harry Messel in his recent address "Excellence in Decline" to the annual graduate function of the University of Sydney. He said that we will not properly prepare children for future opportunities until we realise that it is no use providing choices for children too young to know what is good for them, but that we should provide a compulsory curriculum in both primary and secondary schools—and one with high emphasis on high standards. Children have to be taught to be interested in literature and maths and science and history and geography and art and music.

**Dr. Eastick:** "Taught" is the key word.

**Mrs. ADAMSON:** It is the key word. It does not necessarily happen naturally. It must be the effort of teachers on behalf of the child. As Professor Messel says, it is their birthright to have good teaching, and not to provide good teachers able to achieve this with all children is, in his words, "a cop-out for our society". I also agree

with Professor Messel that the ramifications of dismantling the State examinations systems are enormous and represent a major assault upon the civil liberties of this country in relation to a child's right to be judged impartially on his academic merit.

The section of the declaration which refers to protection from present dangers is equally important and all-embracing. It embraces much of what falls within the portfolios of the Attorney-General and the Minister of Community Welfare. It certainly encompasses protection from the legal presentation and depiction of pornography, perversion, and violence which have been enshrined by this Government in the form of the Classification of Publications Act. This Act provides the legal vehicle by which publications depicting sex and violence may be purveyed, and it seems clear to me that, in doing so, it contravenes United Nations Treaty No. 710.

The way the State interprets the rights of children who are directly within its care, either over a long period or throughout a transitory stage, is a fair indication of its attitude to the rights of all children, whether they be in its care or not. One aspect of this Government's attitude to the rights of children and their parents which is greatly disturbing families all over South Australia is the proposed contact register for adopted children. It is reprehensible that, when the State is entrusted with the responsibility of arranging adoptions, there should be a subsequent breach of faith and confidentiality in respect of the adopting family and the natural parent.

The contact register represents a direct attack on the rights not only of adopting families but, by implication, of all families. When it is coupled with a statement by the Attorney-General that a proposed freedom of information Act should establish procedures whereby citizens gain access to information and should encompass "all records kept on individuals", it strikes well-justified fear into the hearts of those who believe that it is the parents, not the State, who should determine what is in the best interests of children.

There is no question that, through the efforts of dedicated individuals and groups and the response of legislators to these individuals and groups, the cause of children in South Australia has been advanced over many years, and South Australia has much to be proud of in its legislation and treatment of children. At the same time, we should acknowledge that there is much to be ashamed of if we allow present abuse and neglect to continue without taking constructive action to correct it.

In the words of the declaration, "Mankind owes the child the best it has to give." The best is not, I believe, concerned exclusively with material wealth, resources, and comfort directed to the physical well-being of the child. If society is going to give of its best, it must concern itself also with a child's spiritual and ethical values, and set adult standards and make adult sacrifices which enable those values to be recognised and achieved. I support the motion.

**The Hon. D. W. SIMMONS (Chief Secretary)** moved:

That the time for moving the adjournment of the House be extended beyond 5 p.m.

Motion carried.

**Mr. WILSON (Torrens):** In supporting the motion, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to your high office. I think you have shown already that you are fair and equitable, and your ability has been shown equally well on the leg side as it has been on the off. I congratulate new members on their election, and I refer to the members for Ross Smith, Mawson, Napier, Newland, and Morphett, but I especially refer to the election of the member for Coles, and congratulate her on her fighting



win. As members have already found out, her ability is not confined to the hustings alone.

I congratulate His Excellency, and endorse the remarks of the member for Ross Smith and other speakers who have congratulated His Excellency on his election. I pay a tribute to the service given to this country and to the State by the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Walter Crocker, not only during the past year but also throughout a long and distinguished career. I am especially fortunate to represent a district such as Torrens, which has been well served in the past by Mr. John Coumbe.

John Coumbe gave to this State a period of community and Parliamentary service that most people would find difficult to emulate. For 11 years he was a councillor of the city of Prospect; he is a Past President of the Royal Association of Justices; he is a member of the South Australian Institute of Technology Council; a member of the board of the Northern Community Hospital; he is a Vice-President of the North Adelaide Football Club; and Past Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission State Advisory Committee. His membership of various other charitable bodies is too detailed to mention. He entered Parliament in 1956 as the member for Torrens, a district with boundaries that were somewhat different from those that exist today. He has served as Minister of Works, Minister of Marine, Minister of Labour and Industry, and Minister of Education between 1968 and 1970.

From 1973 until 1975 he was Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and he was consistently a member of various Parliamentary committees. I wish to place on record my personal gratitude to John Coumbe and to say that he has the gratitude of not only this House but also the people of this State and of the District of Torrens in particular.

I now wish to deal with some aspects of our society which are causing many people concern. I particularly wish to deal with problems facing young people. When young people look at us they must be puzzled by what they see. They see a community that has become confrontationalist. They see a community in which their mothers, as well as their fathers, have to work, so that their families may maintain their standard of living. They find, after completing their secondary education, difficulty in identifying their future role in the community. If they do identify that role, they may well find that they cannot enter their chosen calling because an entry quota has been imposed on the career of their choice. Indeed, even if they do enter their chosen calling they may find it impossible to find employment upon completing their course.

The young see us divided over the question of the mining and exporting of uranium, as we were a few years ago over the Vietnam war. They see Government against Opposition, employer against the unionist, and pressure group against pressure group. Our young people are in difficult times and, of course, the biggest problem for them has been, and is, unemployment. One of the most unfortunate mistakes of our generation has been the coining of the term "dole bludger". That is not to say that there are not people in the community who deliberately take advantage of the system, but they are by far a minority. What is more important is that they are not necessarily young people. What has happened, of course, is that the title "dole bludger" has become synonymous in the minds of some people with unemployed youth, and that is a grave injustice.

I understand that the Federal Government has just received a report entitled "Inquiry into education and training" and that that inquiry was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of Sydney University, Professor Bruce Williams. This report contains some interesting revela-

tions. First, we find that in February, 1977, 16.7 per cent of the total teenagers in the work force were unemployed. This is, in fact, four times the rate of unemployment among people over 25 years of age.

Of course, the February figures always reflect the number of unemployed school leavers, but I believe that in May of the previous year people under 25 comprised 27 per cent of the labour force and 54 per cent of the unemployed. However, the rise in unemployment among young people began before the dramatic rise in unemployment benefits granted by the Whitlam Government in 1973. At that time unemployment benefits for juniors rose from 19.6 per cent to 40.4 per cent of the average weekly earnings. The fact that increased unemployment among young people came before increased benefits is evidence that not all young people are dole bludgers or seeking a workless existence. However, the report does show that where there is a negative attitude to work it is caused by constant failure to obtain employment after many interviews and applications. The disturbing finale to this report is that youth unemployment will continue to increase at a faster rate than the over-25 rate.

The member for Ross Smith and other Government speakers, when referring to this subject in the Budget debate, made much play on the Opposition's policy of tax incentives to increase employment. In fact, they criticised it roundly. Nothing shows more clearly the difference in philosophy between the Government and the Opposition than the different approaches they take to the grave social problem of youth and unemployment. The Government's unemployment relief scheme is the typical remedy of the socialist philosophy. It is a scheme that is designed to give relief of a most temporary nature, that gives the unemployed little choice as to their work, that does not even pay lip service to the dignity of those who are out of work, and that gives relief for a few weeks to be followed by yet another period on the dole.

The Liberal philosophy is entirely opposite in approach. It is designed to create jobs in private industry, particularly amongst small business, the largest employer of labour. It is designed to give our youth a choice in their own future, and to give dignity, hope and permanency. It is a scheme that is supported by the Wran Labor Government in New South Wales and by the Institute of Labour Studies at Flinders University.

To take my point further, I should like to precis some extracts from the Liberal Party's policy on youth, a most excellent document. Members opposite should not think that they alone in this House have a monopoly of concern for the plight of the unemployed or of the disadvantaged in our community.

**Mr. Slater:** Do you want—

**Mr. WILSON:** The honourable member should listen to this. I recommend that Government members should read the Liberal Party's policy on youth. It is a most comprehensive and humane approach to the problem. What would a Liberal Government be doing to alleviate the present position? First, it would ensure that education at all levels was made more appropriate to future employment demands. It is becoming obvious that employers in industry (and, indeed, I believe that Public Service) are looking for applicants whose course syllabuses are more in line with the job that they are seeking. This is merely a reflection of the way in which society is moving into a technocracy with a demand for more specialised skills.

Of course, I do not mean that students should neglect an appreciation of the humanities and the finer aspects on



which our society will be judged in future. However, unfortunately, when one is unemployed, such things become of secondary importance.

Secondly, we would ensure that information was freely available to those seeking work. Such Government schemes as the special youth unemployment training programme must be widely advertised. It is my opinion that communications between all Governments and the people need to be drastically improved. We would ensure that job-sharing arrangements were provided in the Public Service. This will not only help working parents but will also create more part-time opportunities.

This policy not only applies to youth but also is important to women in the community. This is something for which women's groups have been pressing for some time, and it is a part of the Liberal Party's move for a more equitable society.

Despite its imperfections, we would not cut the present Government's unemployment relief scheme immediately, as to do so would leave an untenable gap. Rather, we would restrict the present scheme to selected capital works that were of importance to the State. Funds would then be allocated to subsidise and create jobs in the private sector. Tax incentives would be provided to employers who provided jobs under the scheme, and this would also apply to apprentices.

Submissions would be made to the Industrial Commission to allow for permanent part-time jobs at the average rate for ordinary hours. This would overcome the enormous barrier that penalty rates create against casual employment in hotels, restaurants, shops, etc.

Now, Sir, we need to consider several prevailing attitudes in the community regarding youth and the problems of youth. We also need to look at ourselves and try to see where we fall down in their eyes. Certainly, we have lack of communication between the generations. Paternalistic attitudes of older people, whether they be Parliamentarians (and I include members opposite), teachers, parents or community groups are an example. It appears that there is too much overlap, duplication and conflict at both Commonwealth and State level, which prevent the integration and effective provision of services to youth.

It is my hope that the newly-formed Office of Youth Affairs will help to alleviate this problem. This office will have to give priority to such fields of study as the change from school to work, the provision of crisis accommodation, developing a conference approach to Government consultation with youth, and studying the international aspects of youth progress.

Finally, Sir, on this subject, I say that the young people of today expect leadership and example from us, and it is only by supplying that example that we will gain their confidence and trust. What our youth and, indeed, the community at large are demanding from us, their representatives, is a new politics.

Members will have found as they moved around their districts during the State election campaign that the community is disillusioned by the apparent cynicism of politics. We must show the people, particularly the youth, that we are dedicated to their welfare and prepared to work hard for a society that is just and equitable and where people are free to live, work and enjoy themselves without undue interference from Government, Parliament, the Public Service, and the large pressure groups in our community.

**Mr. TONKIN (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Acting Speaker, it is customary to congratulate you on your present temporary position in the Chair, to congratulate the member for Stuart on his election as Chairman of

Committees, and to congratulate the member for Unley on his election as Speaker. I have much pleasure in doing so, and I congratulate, too, those new members of the House who have been supported by the electors at the polls. I also thank all those people who supported the Liberal Party at the recent election.

**Mr. Slater:** There weren't too many of them.

**Mr. TONKIN:** The honourable member has made rather an over-statement, because there was a considerable number of them, but they just happened to be in the wrong districts. Now that members opposite have had their fun, let me make it quite clear that the Liberal Party will accept the decision of the people on this occasion with every expectation that the present Government will be defeated at the next election because of what has become its more cynical, cavalier and arrogant attitude towards the electorate as a whole, which will show up clearly during the next year of so.

It is customary before the prorogation of Parliament to make mention of the members of this Parliament who are to retire after the election but, because of the abrupt nature of the prorogation, this was not possible last August. It is with much pleasure that I now pay a tribute to those members and to the service which each has given to this Parliament.

Claude Allen was elected to this House as the member for Burra in March, 1968, and was re-elected as the member for Frome in May, 1970. He served as a member of the Land Settlement Committee, but he was best known for his devotion and service to the people of his district, involving as it did a large area of the mid and far northern areas. He travelled many kilometres in fulfilling his duties and public responsibilities, and generally enjoyed the very great respect of everyone in that area.

David Boundy came into this House in June, 1974, as the member for Goyder, and was re-elected in July, 1975. He took a great interest in the affairs of his district and was greatly respected in this Parliament as a cheerful and hard-working member. He can be regarded as one of the casualties of the rearrangement of seats brought about by the redistribution.

Edward Connelly was elected as the member for Pirie in July, 1975, and set an unusual precedent since he was immediately approached to accept nomination as Speaker of this House, and was subsequently so elected. During his short term of office, he set a record for consistency in his determinations which, I venture to suggest, will rarely if ever be equalled.

John Coumbe was the member for Torrens from March, 1956, until September, 1977, and gave distinguished service to his district, to the Parliament, and to the State. He was a member of the Public Works Standing Committee from 1958 to 1968, and was Minister of Works, Minister of Marine, and Minister of Labour and Industry from 1968 to 1970, and Minister of Education in 1970. He then returned to service on Parliamentary committees, and was a member of the Industries Development Committee from 1970 to 1973, and of the Public Works Committee from 1975 until now. He was Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 1973 to 1975.

John Coumbe enjoyed the universal respect of all members, and of all sections of the community. His valuable service to his own local electorate was recognised by local government, sporting bodies, elderly citizens groups, and indeed everyone both in the District of Torrens and in the wider area.

**The Hon. G. R. Broomhill:** I can't understand why you got rid of him.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I am doing the best I can not to respond to that interjection, because I believe that a strong

fellowship exists between members of Parliament that is occasionally above Party politics. That is the spirit in which I am speaking now. John Jennings—or Jack, as he is universally known—was first elected in March, 1953, and at the time of his retirement had completed almost 25 years of Parliamentary service. He was successively member for Prospect, Enfield, and Ross Smith. And, although his health was a great handicap to him during latter years, he was still able to exercise his wit and his command of the English language to effect in this Chamber. His concern for the welfare of animals was well-known, and expressed in private member's legislation he introduced. He has earned the respect of members, too, for his forthright comments in annual reports of the Public Works Committee.

Murray Vandepuer had only a short term in this House, having been elected in July, 1975, but he was a highly respected member, too. He has indicated his continued interest in serving the people, as he did before the election. He was a casualty of the redistribution, since his seat of Millicent disappeared as a result of those changes.

Ivon Wardle was elected to the House as member for Murray in March, 1968, and has served on the Public Works Committee from 1973 until now. He at all times showed great concern and interest in the affairs of his constituents, and he established a standard for service which was very high indeed. He also was the victim of the effects of the redistribution. He has been a greatly respected member of this House, and will always enjoy the respect of the community.

I should also like to pay a tribute to the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. W. R. Crockier, for the fine service he has given to South Australia in that office. He was a diplomat of great note who served Australia well, and it is not to be wondered at that he has been able to fulfil his duties as Lieutenant-Governor of this State so ably. The circumstances which followed the unfortunate illness of Sir Douglas Nicholls placed an additional and unexpected burden on him, but it was a burden which he accepted and a challenge which he met in the most exemplary way. He has earned the admiration of every citizen of South Australia. We are indeed fortunate to have a man of his reputation and undoubted abilities as our Lieutenant-Governor.

To His Excellency the Governor, I would simply say welcome. Mr. Seaman is of course well known to all of us, and I extend my good wishes for a continuation of his undoubted service to the community in his new role.

I wish to ventilate several matters during the course of this debate. First, I wish to discuss the question of increasing violence in our community, particularly as it affects young people. This is a matter of grave concern. The figures for crimes of violence, and particularly for rape, have shown an enormous increase during this decade. The 70's in South Australia may well be described in the future as the "violent 70's". Of course, this is not an isolated problem, confined only to this State. Anyone who visited Washington, for instance, at the beginning of this decade would have been warned about being out on the streets at night, because of the threat of violence, and unfortunately this situation has gradually spread not only throughout the North American continent, but to Australia and other countries as well. Regrettably, it has been much more frequent in Australia in the past year or so.

The present situation has been brought home most forcibly by the increasing number of rapes which have been reported and the sudden upsurge in armed holdups, something which in this State was a rarity until only a year or two ago. On the world scene we have seen hijackings,

terrorism, and the senseless fighting in Northern Ireland, but inevitably the spotlight as far as we are concerned comes back to our own community.

Juvenile offenders are frequently young people who have become alienated from society, and that is a matter which has been debated very thoroughly in this House on previous occasions and which I hope will be debated thoroughly again in the future, when the new legislation based on the findings of the Royal Commission is brought into this House.

It is not my intention in this debate to deal with the reasons for offending, but it is my very real concern to examine the ways in which people now offend and, more particularly, to try to find some reason for the increasing emphasis on violence in the way in which they offend. The increasingly violent expression of alienation must concern everyone. Inevitably one must ask, "Why?" Why is violence now the accepted form of expression, because there is little doubt that this is the case? Perhaps it is because this is now actually happening in our own community, and is not just something that we see in television crime programmes. Perhaps it is for this reason that we are sitting up and taking a great deal more notice than we used to take.

**Mr. Groom:** Has it anything to do with unemployment?

**Mr. TONKIN:** Yes, but the motivation goes more deeply than that.

**The Hon. D. W. Simmons:** It may be related to the breakdown of our free enterprise society.

**Mr. TONKIN:** I have heard that theory, but I will not go into its political source. However, it is interesting that the Minister has advanced the theory here. We are now seeing things happening at our front doorstep and it is only in this circumstance that we take notice—when we see something happening to someone we know or know of. This was the experience of many people in North America. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that this experience has now been transported to Australia. It is unfortunate, too, that the upsurge in violence, drug dependence, and juvenile delinquency, which was predicted in the early part of this decade, has now arrived. It is a sad state of affairs.

There has been much discussion recently about the effect of television on the behaviour patterns of young people, and no-one can now doubt that this is a major factor that should be considered very seriously. Television has been with us now for 21 years, and it may or may not be a coincidence that the incidence of violent crime has steadily escalated over that period. Many people do not realise for how long television has been with us. It first came to North America in 1941, and Australia has tended to lag behind developments in North America by between five years and 10 years. Having a considerable interest in the possible causes of anti-social behaviour, I have studied the available reports very carefully, and I am surprised that so much has been written on the subject in the last 12 months, and I am even more surprised that there has been so little reaction in the community.

The same hypnotic effect that holds many young people in thrall may well considerably contribute to an acceptance of the behavioural standards which they see portrayed; their parents are obviously affected as well. Their parents, held in that same thrall, tend to lose the ability to judge critically the standards of the programmes that their children watch. Indeed, a few do not bother to think about the standards at all; they do not worry about what their children watch. They accept that something will be there, and their children may watch it, without the parents' having any regard to what is portrayed and to what the effect will be on their children.

The reports I have gathered over the past 12 months confirm my opinion about the relationship between television viewing and violence. I will not go into the details of the reports and the studies, but I have no doubt, having read the reports and other literature, that there has been a volume of evidence showing conclusively that violent behaviour in young children is directly linked with violence shown on the television screen. One cannot any longer ignore it. There are a few things that we must do. The findings are very alarming. The list of symptoms that is often issued about people called T.V. idiots, T.V. addicts, or T.V. superstars can be so easily translated to apply to our own children.

The increasing realism that has become the accepted norm for both television and film production is, I believe, the answer to this problem. Very little is left to the imagination. Television shows are produced to shock and to be real, and a whole generation of young people is growing up with a significant proportion of them believing that criminal offences involving violence occur frequently and almost always end in a violent shoot-out with the forces of the law. Young people can accept bloodthirsty tales of piracy, the Wild West, or somewhere in what Walt Disney would have called Fantasyland, but the danger comes when they identify with situations on the screen which they can see as being the everyday situations with which they live, and there is no reason for them to suppose anything else. One cannot blame them for this; that is where we seem to have gone wrong in this whole business. In trying to achieve absolute realism, we have created something of a monster. There is a growing awareness amongst parents of what is going on and amongst the general public, and we have reports now that American parents and teachers are threatening to boycott certain television shows and sponsors and to take court action to deal with violence on the screen.

The British Broadcasting Corporation has begun to censor some of its programmes: *Starsky and Hutch* is one that is frequently quoted. It is typical of the violence that is upsetting so many young people particularly, and it is disturbing because it involves young law enforcement officers who frequently tend to take matters into their own hands and stay outside the law. We cannot wonder that young people do not know which side of the fence they are on. Even in Adelaide, a study of five and six-year-old children has shown that 85 per cent of them are overwhelmed to the point of fear by what they see on television. I quote the *Australian* of May 16 of this year. The frightening detail that came out of this study was that 70 out of a total of 80 surveyed regularly watch adult as well as children's programmes. Further reports continue to flood in from all parts of the world. An excellent summary appeared in the *Australian* of October 17, 1977, relating to a study by Dr. Belsen, an Australian psychologist, on this subject. Again, I commend that report to honourable members because it has a lot of good sense in it.

What I am really saying is that it is now time for the community as a whole to examine carefully what the long-term effects of sustained television viewing are likely to be not only on young people now but on their behaviour particularly during adolescence and during the rest of their lives. There are a number of watchdog committees that have brought these matters to the attention of the public but, unfortunately, there seems to be a continued apathy, which results in a lack of any sustained response. Parents should be helped to recognise the danger that prolonged television viewing of violent programmes produces for their children, and they should be prepared to be firm in regulating their children's viewing habits. They should be encouraged to take direct action either by supporting one

of the bodies concerned with standards in television or by writing to the sponsors or the television channels themselves.

But, basically, this whole matter lies in the hands of each parent, and there is a great need for it to be brought to their attention again and again and again, if that is necessary. At all times, parents should be taking a close interest in what their children are doing. They should maintain their lines of communication but, if we are to strengthen the ties of family life, parents must extend their interests to a firm control of television viewing habits.

**The Hon. D. W. Simmons:** Isn't there a responsibility on the sponsors?

**Mr. TONKIN:** As I have already said, there is a responsibility on the sponsors, the parents and the television channels but, basically, it comes back to the parents themselves. That is the only way in which action can be initiated. It comes back to family life, pure and simple. This is an issue that should not be allowed to die. It is one of the most important issues facing modern civilisation, and our whole future, depending as it does on young people, must be regarded in the light of the potential damage being done every day to the psyches of young people who have become television addicts. Our future depends on the young, and they deserve the very best we can give them. We have a real responsibility to them, and I believe that we have been falling down in that responsibility.

I turn now to the subject of planning, a subject which has been brought up in the House many times, but it will not do any harm to go through the matter again. Planning has become a subject of increasing dispute between the Government and the Opposition, and, in the absence of any changed policies on the Government's part, I can see that it will continue to be a subject for some dispute. Planning should encompass two major objectives: the enhancement of the economic and social environment in which we all live, and the question of planning goals which are economically viable.

The massive wastage of funds by this Government, particularly on projects like the Monarto project, and the potential wastage that could be of even greater magnitude on Munno Para, is directly attributable to a poorly based planning concept. It must be remembered that the South Australian planning bureaucracy embraces a multiplicity of departments and authorities, and it is not difficult to understand why the Government's planning performance has been so poor in the past. Over the past seven years, there have been no new initiatives that qualify under those two criteria to which I have referred. During the last election, the Liberal Party undertook to rationalise the role of the State Planning Office, the Land Commission, the Housing Trust, and the newly-formed Housing and Urban Affairs Department, but it will be interesting to see whether the Government (now that the election is over) is willing to take the undoubtedly good advice the Liberal Party had to offer.

The Minister has recently claimed that this has been done, but I am unwilling to accept that statement in the light of the apparent conflict between officers in the State Planning Office and in the newly-formed department. During the campaign, I outlined the need for strong links to be forged with other service departments, such as Education, Highways, and Engineering and Water Supply, to ensure that we had an overall plan with which to move on in this State. At the same time, it is important that planning is such that the Government of the day ensures that expenditure is justified by a measure of value to the community of the projects it undertakes, and what part they play in the overall planning process. One of the

Minister's own planners was quoted in a report in the *Australian* of November 2 as saying:

The real problem in Adelaide is the Government itself. He was referring to the State Government's planning responsibilities and policies. He continued by saying:

The real change to planning in Adelaide will occur when idle Government lands are accounted by the Government properly, and are not left fallow for some unplanned, unimaginative rainy day.

The article was stimulated by the Minister's reference in the press to cluster housing—a concept which the Liberal Party has been promoting for some considerable time and which has been working very well for a long time in other countries.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** You were responsible for Pavlov's dog, weren't you?

**Mr. TONKIN:** If I had been responsible for Pavlov's dog I would not have trained it to the same sort of response which the Minister automatically gives by way of interjection across the Chamber whenever the key word is given. Any criticism of the Labor Party and the Pavlovian response by the Minister is instantaneous. I shall have to try to think what the key words are, but mismanagement, lack of accountability and ineptitude in planning must represent the most important of them.

I now wish to talk in some detail of the anomalies inherent in the present planning regime. The Labor Party's total and absolute obsession with Monarto has resulted in the planners ignoring the inner urban area and allowing it to decline. This has been stated in this House previously and it has been stated outside, and the Government has not at any stage done anything to remedy the situation or indeed to accept that it exists. The problems we are now facing were emerging in the early 1970's, the first part of this decade, and they have been compounded year after year because of the Labor Party's neglect.

The waste of taxpayers' money on Monarto has directly contributed to the neglect of the Adelaide city and inner suburban areas. Urban renewal is essential, and can proceed only on a planned basis. I should like to pay a tribute to the work done by the Adelaide City Council in this regard. It has far and away outstripped the performance of this Government and this Minister. There has been no plan and no review of the plan since 1967. I am disappointed that the Minister for Planning is leaving the Chamber. Obviously, he cannot take it, or perhaps he is afraid of his Pavlovian response.

**Mr. Mathwin:** Perhaps he is celebrating.

**Mr. TONKIN:** Perhaps he is. I repeat that the plan which was supposed to guide this State and this city has not been renewed at five-yearly intervals, as was the commitment made by the previous Labor Government. It was a firm commitment that the plan would be reviewed every five years, and that has not been done. The need of 900 000 people living in the metropolitan area has gone begging in favour of a non-existent population, a phantom population, which was to have been 150 000 in Monarto, but which as yet is non-existent. I am appalled that the Government should still say that it will go ahead with Monarto if funds become available.

Turning to the Adelaide District, currently represented (I suppose that is the word) by the Minister of Labour and Industry, let us look at the picture we see there. It is a picture of decay and decline. "Decay" is the word used in the planning sense for a decaying of facilities. The Australian Bureau of Statistics, which the Minister of Labour and Industry is fond of quoting in relation to industrial days lost, shows that in the period from 1971 to 1976 the population of his district declined by about 15 per

cent. Let me outline what happens to a suburb or to an area when that sort of thing happens. Roads and footpaths fall into disrepair; houses become neglected and unoccupied; large unused wasteland areas emerge, rendering the surrounding area ugly; little or no attention is paid to making the area look pleasant with tree plantings, parks, playgrounds and gardens. There are fewer small businesses and shops because people will ask, "Who is going to invest in a declining area and who wants to live there?" Shopping centres become substandard; with less investment in small businesses and shops as well as large businesses there are fewer employment opportunities near home; there can be wholesale community breakdown; there is decline in the usage of schools, churches and community facilities which contributes to that community breakdown. That ridiculous situation applies when new schools in outer metropolitan areas are filled to overflowing, whilst schools in the inner, run down, and decaying areas are looking for pupils and have all the room in the world to spare.

I remind honourable members of the population shifts as demonstrated by the statistics available from the 1971 census and the 1976 census, and that local government areas have shown population declines, as follows:

|                              | Per Cent |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Adelaide .....               | 15.6     |
| Thebarton .....              | 12.8     |
| Kensington and Norwood ..... | 12.9     |
| St. Peters .....             | 12.8     |
| Prospect .....               | 6.9      |
| Hindmarsh .....              | 15.7     |

The Minister's response to our argument regarding declining population in the inner urban areas has been that such figures give a false picture because of the changes in the structure of family units and the trend towards nuclear family households. The Minister's assumptions are factually wrong in every detail. There has been a 44 per cent rise in the number of vacant private dwelling units in the metropolitan area in the past five years. Indeed, in the following areas there has been an absolute decline in the number of occupied private dwellings:

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Adelaide .....               | 214 |
| Thebarton .....              | 187 |
| Kensington and Norwood ..... | 163 |
| St. Peters .....             | 37  |
| Hindmarsh .....              | 246 |

The number of households has declined in spite of some flat and unit building in these areas. We can see that across all the inner declining suburbs there is a private dwelling unit vacancy rate that is very much higher than the metropolitan average. This is despite the fact that the metropolitan average is distorted by the large numbers of holiday homes in areas such as Willunga and Noarlunga and, to a lesser extent, the bayside suburbs.

According to the 1976 census, "Percentage on vacant private dwellings by local government areas", Adelaide has the highest vacancy rate of 15.6 per cent which should be compared to new areas such as Tea Tree Gully, 4.5 per cent; Elizabeth, 2.6 per cent; and Munno Para, 3.2 per cent. The problem is critical now for inner suburbs, but it threatens to extend beyond them to the middle suburbs of Adelaide—Enfield, Prospect, Campbelltown, Woodville, West Torrens, Unley, and Marion. These suburbs have experienced a massive growth in the number of vacant houses in the past five years without accompanying population growth.

**Mr. Allison:** It is suburban decay.

**Mr. TONKIN:** It is, and it is almost like a cancer spreading into the surrounding areas, and that is a worrying situation. All these areas except Woodville and

Campbelltown have declined in population in this period. Woodville's population has been boosted by the presence of West Lakes, and it might be expected that the decline is more noticeable in other areas of Woodville.

Vacancies in private dwelling units have risen at the following rates in this period:

|                    | Per cent |
|--------------------|----------|
| Campbelltown ..... | 103      |
| Enfield .....      | 77       |
| Prospect .....     | 53       |
| West Torrens ..... | 65       |
| Marion .....       | 65       |
| Thebarton .....    | 73       |
| Unley .....        | 56       |
| Woodville .....    | 45       |
| Walkerville .....  | 45       |

That is an appalling state of affairs, and is evidence of a gross lack of concern and proper planning by this Government for a long time. The neglect of planning and the method of approach and development through the Housing Trust has meant extremely rapid rates of settlement in restricted areas to an extent that cannot be serviced by available funds.

For example, the State District of Fisher, held by my colleague, has developed and settled at a reasonable pace. When the local baby boom causes maximum stress on local education facilities, 15 per cent of the population will be in primary school. On the other hand, settlement of the State District of Mawson has pushed at such an extreme pace that within several years it is possible to foresee that 20 per cent of the population will be in primary school.

This means that one-third more primary schools and secondary schools will be needed in Mawson than will be required to service the same population in Fisher. This is a transient thing, and means the expenditure of capital moneys which will no longer be necessary in another 20 years after that time. Young people are forced to settle in outer suburbs, and are left without adequate facilities at the time when they need them most, and that is a very sad thing indeed.

Apart from the extreme pressure on limited State funds to provide facilities, the rapid pace of settlement leads to whole suburbs housing one particular age group. That is exactly what is happening in some of the out-lying suburbs. It is the worst possible type of development. It is something planners warn against at every opportunity. This is what is happening; we have a uniformity of population and the psychological and social problems created by it. These policies lead to extreme pressure on public facilities for a few years, with under-utilisation and a waste of resources thereafter.

One area of apparent confusion and particular concern is the proposal contained in a report in the *Advertiser* of August 25 for a multi-million-dollar city for Munno Para between Elizabeth and Gawler. The present population of that district is 25 000 people, but plans are for a population of 100 000 people to be settled there by 1991. The area's population in the 1976 census was 22 300. The area extends from the gulf to the hills face and covers a number of geographically different areas. The plans are for the development to be concentrated around the Elizabeth-Gawler railway line. A population of 100 000, with an average of three people per house, implies a total of about 33 000 dwellings. There would be plenty of land available as long as existing green belts and industrial belts were ignored. Some land was zoned rural "A" in the 1962 development report. The estimated cost of the development is \$100 000 000, and the time scale for it is 15 years.

**The Hon. Hugh Hudson:** It's 20 years.

**Mr. TONKIN:** According to the article, it is 15 years

but if it is 20 years I am reassured, because it will mean that the same amount of money plus inflation will be spread over a longer period. There are several questions to be asked about this proposal. Will it be a new city? Will it have its own industry and be self-contained and self sufficient? What will be done about existing green belts and industrial belts? Will they remain as they are, or will they be taken up by the development, incorporating 33 000 dwellings? I could make several criticisms of the statement by Government Ministers about this new city at Munno Para. The statement made by the Minister for Planning was not in accordance with the wishes and concepts of local government in the area and was made without their authority. It represents, by this Government and the Minister responsible for planning, a promotion of the urban sprawl, both as a development of a completely new regional centre from scratch with the consequent high cost of infrastructure, and because of its siting at the extreme end of the longest access of the metropolitan sprawl.

We have heard all about the metropolitan sprawl, but here is another project which will, in fact, accentuate it. A development of this size could not be more ineptly sited. One accepts that there must be some development of that area, and the local government bodies in the area have accepted that, but not of the magnitude proposed by the Government. Development of a regional centre here will take population, as well as developmental dollars, away from established areas such as Tea Tree Gully.

It is widely accepted that changes in the pattern of energy use are likely to profoundly affect urban lifestyles over the next 10 to 15 years. I seriously question the interjection that the period is 20 years, because the Minister, as I recollect (and I am certain of this), is absolutely committed to 15 years in his statement. He may well have been wrong about that, as he has been about so many other things, but the energy crisis is going to be extreme, and it could well promote a move back from the outer areas into the middle of the city, towards the centre of Adelaide. How can we possibly face such a development at this stage, a development that is proposed for the next 15 years, if at the end of that time nobody can afford petrol or other means of transport to travel to and from their place of work. That whole settlement and development could become redundant.

I think it is totally imprudent and without any firm planning base to commit ourselves to a development of that nature at this stage. It is a development that will compound the problems of isolation already generated by the urban sprawl. The planned city could well be too close to the existing areas of Elizabeth and Salisbury. It would compete with and detract from those centres; otherwise it will have its own possibility of development of commercial growth absolutely stymied by the close proximity of those already developed centres.

The population estimates on which the planning seems to have been based appear to be as out of date as those on which Monarto was projected. As far as I can see, those estimates seem to have come from the MATS report, the figures in which are now at least 12 years out of date. They are based on a projected population for Adelaide of 1 400 000 people by 1991. Even the most optimistic figures produced by the Premier's Department in June, 1975, projected only 1 060 000, 160 000 more than the population in 1976.

In fact, the now widely accepted middle Borrie estimates put the total Adelaide growth in the period from 1976 to 1991 at just 86 000 people. This makes the Government's announced projections for Munno Para look absolutely ridiculous, unless it plans a deliberate run-

down of other Adelaide suburbs. Perhaps it is actively encouraging a run-down in Enfield and the middle suburban areas. If so, that is a totally culpable and absolutely wrong concept. I do not believe that even the Government could be so completely devoid of a sense of responsibility to the South Australian public.

The costing of this project is also unrealistic. At \$30 000 a house, and at current prices, there is a cost of nearly \$1 000 000 000 in housing construction alone, let alone roads, water, sewerage, power, schools, shopping centres, hospitals, and, indeed, all the infrastructure that would be necessary.

When one looks at the costs of schools, for instance, one sees that the rate of settlement projected is substantially greater than that experienced at Tea Tree Gully (that is, a growth rate of 40 000 people in the period from 1965 to 1976), and it would be for a period half as long again. Therefore, my figure would be conservative.

In a few years, Tea Tree Gully will experience peak pressure on its education facilities as its local baby boom passes through the primary and then high schools. The member for Todd well knows that. If the peak of the baby boom at Munno Para was no greater (and it would be), spaces would have to be found for at least an extra 13 500 Munno Para schoolchildren, which is equivalent to 23 schools each with about 600 pupils. If each school cost, say, \$1 500 000, the total cost would be \$34 500 000.

If we base our estimates on the State average ratio of primary to secondary school numbers (that is, 1.75 to 1), it would be necessary to build seven new high schools, with 1 100 students at each school.

If one looks at the cost of high schools alone, without the infrastructure base, at \$5 000 000 for each in today's figures, it represents a further \$35 000 000. Clearly, the Government should answer many questions, not the least of which is whether it intends to divert possibly billions of dollars of community resources to a city where, from experience, few people will prefer to live.

The impact on individual and parental choice could well be catastrophic if this scenario unfolds, while other outer-metropolitan and inner-urban areas will continue to be neglected, as they have been in the past because of the Government's obsession with Monarto. I regard this matter as being of the gravest importance, and I will continue to sum up the situation when the House next meets. In the meantime, I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### **PERSONAL EXPLANATION: HORWOOD BAGSHAW LTD.**

**Mr. DEAN BROWN (Davenport):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**Mr. DEAN BROWN:** Yesterday, the Deputy Premier answered my question asked on Tuesday concerning planning by the Government to arrange finance for the purchase of shares in Horwood Bagshaw Ltd. The main

issue raised in my question was whether the State Government was planning to make \$2 100 000 available for the purchase of up to half the share capital in the company at a price of 60c a share.

In his answer, the Deputy Premier admitted that there had been a series of discussions between a director of Horwood Bagshaw, acting in an unofficial capacity, and the Unit for Industrial Democracy. These discussions were in relation to the establishment of an employee share ownership trust. Such a trust would enable the employees to own up to one-third of the shares of the company.

The Deputy Premier said that during those discussions no share price was mentioned. Also, such discussions ceased when the company's present financial difficulties became known. It was my understanding that the company was having marketing difficulties rather than financial ones. The planning of a share purchase I referred to on Tuesday should not be confused with earlier discussions referred to by the Deputy Premier, the substance of which has been known for several months.

The discussions and financial planning to which I referred took place during the last few weeks. These discussions involved a representative of Horwood Bagshaw Ltd. and senior representatives of the South Australian Government who are not part of the Unit for Industrial Democracy. Financial matters were raised in these discussions and involved a possible price to be paid for the shares. A figure of 60c a share for up to half the issued ordinary shares and involving up to \$2 100 000 was proposed, although that figure may not be final. Although the Government may claim that these discussions were unofficial, they were treated as significant and meaningful discussions by those involved.

The incredible observation to be made from these discussions is that any share transfer will not by itself inject any money into the Mannum or Edwardstown plants to restore lost jobs. It would be a payment of \$2 100 000 to outside shareholders, the largest of whom is based in Sydney.

Two important aspects now arise from the Deputy Premier's answer. First, the Deputy Premier obviously admitted to the earlier discussions in an attempt to divert attention from these recent and much more significant discussions. Secondly, by omission the Deputy Premier has grossly misled this Parliament. I now challenge the Deputy Premier to reveal the other details of discussions and planning by Government officers in relation to Horwood Bagshaw Ltd.

#### **PUBLIC PURPOSES LOAN BILL**

Returned from the Legislative Council without amendment.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 5.55 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday, November 15, at 2 p.m.