

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 14 August 1980

The **SPEAKER (Hon. B. C. Eastick)** took the Chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

URBAN LAND TRUST BILL

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

PETITION: PORNOGRAPHY

A petition signed by 67 residents of South Australia praying that the House legislate to tighten restrictions on pornography and establish clear classification standards under the Classification of Publications Act was presented by Mr. Schmidt.

Petition received.

PETITION: SWIMMING POOLS

A petition signed by 501 residents of South Australia praying that the House urge the Government to amend the Swimming Pools (Safety) Act so that swimming pools will be covered and separately fenced when not in use was presented by Mr. Schmidt.

Petition received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: AGRICULTURE
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

The **Hon. W. E. CHAPMAN (Minister of Agriculture)**: I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The **Hon. W. E. CHAPMAN**: I am somewhat disturbed by attacks on officers of the Department of Agriculture by a person in another place, the Hon. Brian Chatterton. In a radio interview on the *Country Hour* last Tuesday 12 August and in another place again yesterday, the Hon. Brian Chatterton accused the department of victimisation of people previously employed on a weekly-paid basis in the Aphid Control Task Force, which terminated on 30 June, when its functions were absorbed by the Plant Industry Division of the Department of Agriculture. I regard that allegation as a slur on the professionalism of all officers of my department.

The Hon. Brian Chatterton has seized on an opportunity in this instance to attack officers who, through their hard work and dedication, have obtained additional funds from outside State Government resources to continue work on aphid research and associated projects. Through their endeavours (that is, the endeavours of the very officers who have been accused) they have obtained some \$85 514 from the Australian Meat Research Committee and the Australian Wheat Industry Research Council as contributions to the programme. This will allow the creation of six industry-funded positions.

The Hon. Brian Chatterton has now accused these officers of victimisation, because the money was not available from 30 June to employ some of the people whose employment was terminated when the Aphid Control Task Force was wound up. In doing this, the

honourable member in another place has not only broken the convention of not attacking officers who are unable to defend themselves, but has conveniently forgotten in this instance what he learnt when he was Minister of Agriculture about availability of industry funding for various projects.

Members interjecting:

The **SPEAKER**: Order! Will the honourable Minister please resume his seat. Honourable members were asked whether leave was granted for a Ministerial statement. As leave was granted, it is only correct that it should be heard in silence.

The **Hon. W. E. CHAPMAN**: Perhaps the Hon. Mr. Chatterton has not forgotten, but just wanted to make some political capital out of this deal. The honourable member used the word "retrenched" in relation to 17 people who had been members of the Aphid Control Task Force: this is incorrect and quite misleading. All members of the task force, with the exception of three permanent officers, were employed on a temporary basis, in the full understanding that the task force would go out of existence on 30 June 1980, because that was the date when special Commonwealth and State funds made available for the task force would terminate.

The State funds for the task force were allocated during the term of the previous Administration, and the expiry date for the State funding was set by it, not by the present Government.

In fact, of the 17 whose employment was terminated on 30 June this year, two have already been re-employed by the Department of Agriculture. In regard to the honourable member's allegations of victimisation, these were both signatories to a publicity campaign seeking re-employment, which campaign, the honourable member alleges resulted in victimisation.

I might suggest that, if we are seeing any victimisation, it is emanating from another place, with cowardly attacks on the officers concerned. As I have pointed out, six industry-funded positions are in the process of being created as well. They are not simply a direct extension of the previous projects.

It is anticipated that the Australian Wheat Industry Research Council will provide \$22 000 in the current financial year for research into annual medic breeding. It is also anticipated that the Australian Meat Research Committee will provide \$27 213 in the same period for research into the breeding of sainfoin, which is an alternative pasture legume, and \$36 301 for the breeding of lucerne cultivars resistant to aphids and other insects. The department will receive these funds in two moieties, one at the start of a project, and the other six months later. We have an obligation to these industry research groups to appoint the very best people available. Some of the former task force members may be appointed; some may not be suitable.

To suggest that the aphid control programme has suffered severely is highly inaccurate, and the honourable member, if he had kept himself informed while he was a Minister, would have known that the phasing out of the task force operation, and the phasing in of the alternative replacement programmes in the Division of Plant Industry had been very carefully planned and had started in 1979. The programme had reached an appropriate stage for these changes to be made, and the changeover has gone ahead smoothly. Nothing of critical importance has been dropped, and we can expect to reach a satisfactory conclusion to the work.

Mr. Speaker, I turn now to the allegations that the department knew that the positions were in the pipeline, and could have carried people for six weeks until funds

became available. This, once more, highlights the honourable member's inability to grasp the very fundamentals of finance. One does not spend money until it is in hand, and it would have been most reprehensible of this, or any other Government, to have continued to employ people in the hope that something in the way of funds might turn up. That the money has been found is a tribute to the officers who prepared the successful submissions.

From 1 July 1979 to 20 June 1980, there was a maximum of 28 positions in the task force. With turnover of staff, this involved the employment of 32 people over that period. Of these 32 people, six were transferred to positions in the Department of Agriculture before 30 June. Nine resigned to take up other employment before 30 June. The first of these resignations commenced in August 1979. Seventeen had their employment terminated on 30 June, in line with their conditions of employment, which were explained to them when they accepted jobs in the task force. With two of these 17 already re-employed by the department, it could be that some of the 15 may be reappointed to the six industry-funded positions I have mentioned, or to other positions which may become available. This will be done only if those officers are suitable for the job. And, Mr. Speaker, I reiterate "suitable", because the department's first obligation is to primary industry, and this means that it must employ the best persons for the job; not to do so would harm the industry and also jeopardise further funding from industry research groups on whom we depend.

The SPEAKER: I point out to all members, and particularly Ministers of the Crown, that, in making Ministerial statements, they must not allude to members in another place, more particularly to attack them, as the honourable Minister just did by saying that a member in another place was responsible for a cowardly attack.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I ask honourable members to be silent while the Chair is addressing the House. I make the point so that all members will be fully aware of their responsibility that Standing Orders should be upheld, and that, in the ruse of a Ministerial statement or a personal statement, no attack will be made upon another member.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: CYANIDE PELLETS

The Hon. M. M. WILSON (Minister of Transport): I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M. M. WILSON: On 31 July 1980, I made a Ministerial statement on the serious accident which occurred near Burra at about 10 p.m. on 30 July, and which caused 40 drums of cyanide pellets to be spilt on the road and the surrounding area.

Excellent co-operation by officers of the Highways Department, Police, St. John's Ambulance, Health Commission, Department for the Environment, the local hospital and local volunteers resulted in the area being cleaned up by 4 p.m. on 1 August 1980, when the road was re-opened to traffic. Fortunately, no serious injury or harm was caused to any person involved in the accident or the cleaning up operations. However, one volunteer was admitted to hospital for a short period because he was suspected of being affected by gases.

Detailed reports have been received from the Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner of Highways on the circumstances surrounding the accident and these are being analysed with a view to improving standard procedures for dealing with future emergencies of this nature.

It is pertinent to point out that, at its meeting on 4 July 1980, the Australian Transport Advisory Council approved the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail, and each State, including South Australia, has undertaken to implement in its own way the necessary legislation to ensure uniform compliance with the code on roads and railways throughout Australia.

Officers of my department are pursuing this matter as quickly as possible, and it is anticipated that the necessary legislation, calling up the code in South Australia, will be presented to Parliament shortly. Because present regulations for the transport of dangerous goods in South Australia fall within the jurisdiction of several Ministers, it has been necessary for me to consult with my colleagues on this matter.

QUESTION TIME

WAYVILLE SHOWGROUNDS

Mr. BANNON: Can the Premier say what is the status of a proposal to develop the Wayville Showgrounds? Can the Premier assure us that there has been absolutely no undertaking given by his Government, or by an official or Ministerial appointee in his own department or in any other department, that would lead any commercial group to believe that it would expect Government support for such a housing development on the Wayville Showgrounds. Late last month a suburban newspaper, the *Community Courier*, reported that the proposed new development of the Wayville Showgrounds was being contemplated by a private development company. There was to be a shift of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society's exhibition grounds from Wayville to Islington, and thousands of houses substituted. One of the conditions of the development was to be the free transfer of Government-owned land to the developers. On 25 July the matter was also reported in the *Advertiser* by its urban affairs writer, Mr. David Moncrieff. Part of the report is as follows:

Spokesmen for the Premier (Mr. Tonkin) and the Minister of Planning (Mr. Wotton) said the Minister did not know of the proposal.

Since then the Jackson Construction Report for South Australia noted on 11 August 1980 the following construction proposal—

Members interjecting:

Mr. BANNON: I am waiting to make sure the Premier is attending to this information because it might help him to answer the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Leader will continue with his explanation.

Mr. BANNON: The Jackson Construction Report for South Australia notes on 11 August 1980 the following construction proposal, under the heading "Community Developments Proprietary Limited, 58 Greenhill Road, Wayville":

Stage—proposed; project—dwellings (5 000); Value—\$104 000 000 approximately; on Wayville Showgrounds, Goodwood Road, Wayville (Unley council); architect—Walter, Roach, Brooke Proprietary Limited.

In the latest *Dun's Gazette*, under the heading "New Companies", the following is recorded:

Company formed on 31 July 1980. Community Developments Pty. Ltd., 70 Pirie Street, Adelaide. A Property. Bruce Hundertmark, 3/83 Kingston Terrace, North Adelaide. David J. Tucker, Adelaide.

They are listed as directors. Mr. Hundertmark was formerly the Managing Director of I.M.F.C., and Mr. Tucker is a city solicitor. The Premier should concentrate on what I am saying.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BANNON: It is understood that the current Managing Director of I.M.F.C., Mr. Kevin Ricketts, is also to resign his post and join the new company. In the light of these arrangements and announcements, will the Premier say what is the official basis and what encouragement has the Government given?

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: I am afraid that I do not have the crystal ball that the Leader of the Opposition apparently has.

The Hon. Peter Duncan: He has the facts, not a crystal ball.

The Hon. E. R. Goldsworthy: You are in fairy land most of the time.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: I think the Deputy Premier has hit the nail right on the head. There is no proposal that I know of, and certainly no negotiations between the Government and any organisation for a housing development at the site of the Wayville Showgrounds. I believe that the Leader referred to Islington as some sort of trade-off agreement. I could not understand exactly what he was getting at. I understand that he also referred to a firm called Community Developments.

I know that that firm is looking for investment opportunities in Adelaide and in South Australia, and the firm is welcome to do that, as is any other firm that is looking for such opportunities. The Government will talk to the firm at any time. If we can be of assistance in any project that any such firm brings forward, we are happy to help. I repeat that there have certainly been no Government negotiations in respect of a housing development on the site of the Wayville Showgrounds.

HOSPITAL BISCUITS

Dr. BILLARD: Did the Minister of Health direct that biscuits no longer be served with morning and afternoon tea at the Royal Adelaide Hospital? The member for Unley has suggested that the Minister directed that biscuits not be served at the Royal Adelaide Hospital for morning and afternoon tea. Such a suggestion would imply that the Minister has nothing better to do than take time to make such grass roots decisions.

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON: No, I did not give such a direction, nor would it be in my power to do so, and the member for Unley knows that well, because a few weeks ago I wrote to him in response to his question about this matter and, among other things, I stated that the decision to discontinue the purchase of sweet biscuits was taken by the board of management some time ago as a cost saving measure. The Royal Adelaide Hospital is an incorporated hospital and has its own board of management. The board is not required to consult the Health Commission before it makes decisions of this nature, and it is certainly not required to consult me.

The Hon. R. G. Payne: Do you agree with the decision?

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON: I accept the decisions of the boards of management in consultation with dieticians and people who have the clinical knowledge to know what is appropriate. I think it would be wise if members opposite did the same. The statements made by the member for Unley last night really take the biscuit, to coin a phrase. He must have known that what he was saying was completely irresponsible and incorrect, but he continued to say it.

His remarks are typical of the pettifogging, frivolous approach of members opposite to health issues. Since this Parliament has been sitting, there has not been a common-sense approach by the Opposition and, without doubt, the most sensible comments from the other side came last night from the member for Semaphore, who made a valuable and thoughtful contribution. If the Leader knew what was good for the Opposition, he would appoint the member for Semaphore as his spokesman on health.

ELECTRICITY CHARGES

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: Will the Premier now put an end to the muddle and confusion in the Government over whether there will be another increase in the electricity charges in the coming months? How does the Premier reconcile his statement last Wednesday—

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, members on this side of the House have had ample opportunity to take points of order on repetitive questions and questions asked previously in this session. There is an end to patience; it was the Deputy Leader who asked the same question only last week.

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order, by virtue of the manner in which the question was framed. It may have been of a repetitive nature in its substance, but the preamble clearly indicated that a requirement is made in relation to the situation as it exists today.

The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT: I will start again so that the Premier may know what I am talking about. Will the Premier now put an end to the muddle and confusion in the Government over whether there will be another increase in electricity charges in the coming months? I am confused about the situation because there seems to be a controversy between the Premier and the General Manager of the Electricity Trust. The General Manager said, as reported in the *Advertiser* of 20 June, that there could be another lift in the electricity charges later this year. In this House, the Premier has denied such an increase. I want to know whether the Premier has consulted with the General Manager of the Electricity Trust, whether they are both of one accord, or whether the General Manager is making the decisions and overriding the Government.

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: In spite of the Deputy Leader's rather pitiful attempt to find a subject matter for another question to fill in question Question Time, my answer remains the same as it was last week.

ENGINEERING AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Mr. MATHWIN: Has the Premier read the sixteenth report of the Public Accounts Committee, especially as it relates to the financial management in the Engineering and Water Supply Department? Can the Premier say how the problems identified in that report first arose and what steps have been undertaken to implement a more effective and efficient management in this department, and indeed, throughout the whole Public Service?

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: Yes, I have had an opportunity of reading the report in rather more detail; I would say that the Government will find it of extreme value in its further attention to cutting down cases of waste and extravagance.

Mr. Hemmings: How many are you going to sack?

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: While interjections are out of

order, I think I really should raise the subject which is being interpolated into this answer by the member for Elizabeth—that is, Napier.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Premier has alluded to an honourable member who did not make an interjection.

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: I have corrected myself, Mr. Speaker. This is as good a time as any to give a further forthright statement to the honourable member (and all of his colleagues on the other side of the House who have heard it many times before, but who insist on going outside and spreading these untruths) that the Government has a strong policy, to which it is adhering, of no retrenchment of people in the public sector. I have said that before and I will say it again, and I am grateful to the honourable member for giving me the opportunity of putting him right yet again.

In relation to the E. and W.S. Department, the former Government had the benefit of a number of reports: the W. D. Scott Report of 1970; the P.A.C. fourth report, of 1974; the P.A.C. tenth report, of 1975; and the report of Cresap, McCormack and Paget, international consultants, in 1978. Every single one of those reports, from 1970 to 1978, made specific reference to inadequacies in the area of financial management in the E. and W.S. Department. So, for the previous Government (now Opposition) to say that it did not really understand what was the problem, is quite absurd.

The Hon. E. R. Goldsworthy: They're not very bright.

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: I must agree with my colleague's assessment. It is perfectly clear from this most recent report of the P.A.C. brought down recently that the repeated recommendations (and they were repeated recommendations) of these earlier reports—to institute management information systems, to measure resource deployment, and relating to general performance—were totally ignored by the previous Government. Why it ignored them, I am unable to say; that is something known only to the Opposition. I suspect that it had something to do with trade union pressure and the fact that it was not prepared to buck the trade union system. Nevertheless, the department was directed by the previous Government to undertake capital works at an accelerated rate years ahead of scheduled times and to expand, under what was a rigid policy of allowing all work out to its day-labour force to at least 80 per cent.

At the same time, the previous Government did not do anything about improving resource management or management systems. Despite all of those recommendations in reports that were available, additional resources were not used to improve the processes of administration, financial management, and public accountability. To cap it all, the previous Government completely misread the situation, which began in 1975, of a down-turn in construction activity. Instead, it irresponsibly pursued the policy of continuing to expand the day-labour force at a time when the work available for that force was actually shrinking. That, basically, is why there is now an excess of 950 day-labour employees.

With regard to the second part of the honourable member's question, the present Government has already recognised the difficulties which exist, and it did this before the election. We have in our policies, on water resources and financial matters, the undertaking that recommendations of the P.A.C., as they had been spelt out in this most recent report, will rapidly be implemented. Under the direction of the Minister of Water Resources (and I pay tribute to the present Minister for the way in which he has taken up this challenge), advanced management information systems have been

developed; a detailed corporate plan has been drafted; and budgetary formats have been completely revised.

As a result of this, presentation of the department's corporate plan to Cabinet is imminent, and the department's budget will be one of the budgets of three departments that will be presented to Parliament in programme and performance form. This, really, is quite an achievement. Both the corporate plan and the programme budget clearly define the department's objectives and its functions. They will detail the management improvements recently introduced to ensure that those objectives are achieved, both efficiently and effectively. The documents will shortly be placed before the House as clear evidence of the significant improvements achieved by the Government.

In addition, we find that capital projects, which are being put out to competitive tender, are being let at 1973 prices: that is sound financial management in the interests of all taxpayers and, indeed, of ratepayers. The E. & W.S. Department is not the only department whose functions are being streamlined by this Government; there are significant reforms under way in all departments. It is worth briefly outlining this for honourable members.

Corporate plans which require departments to define their objectives, to define the relevance of those objectives to Government policy and to establish criteria for measurement of performance, are of first priority. Programme performance budgets are closely related to the concept of corporate management, because they will be used to delineate and define departmental objectives and functions, those functions being delineated particularly in terms of specific programmes. We want to be able to assess the cost of financial input—that is, the net cost to Government—against the benefits of departmental output, the achievement of projects, aims, and so on.

An example of the sort of problem to be faced is shown in the most recent P.A.C. report, and I refer to page 25 of the report, where the following conclusion is drawn by the committee:

The Hendon depot was closed on 17 December 1975. However, the department could not identify the operation savings.

That is a most extraordinary statement, but it is one that I do not criticise in any way, because obviously members of the P.A.C. had no option but to make that finding.

This inability to quantify either costs or savings is not at all possible in budgets which are not properly presented or prepared. The ability to quantify costs is essential. It has not been possible to do it until now. If we have properly prepared programme budgets, we will have such depots as Hendon separately itemised as individual programmes, and the budget for the department will show clearly the net aggregate cost to Government of that programme, and the closing of that depot will be clearly quantified in financial terms.

We are also instituting, as a matter of policy, a programme of internal audit. We are training internal audit officers who, in time, will be appointed to all departments. Their job will be to ensure that budgets are being observed, costs are being contained, cheaper means of providing better services are being devised, and staff are familiar with the defined goals of the department concerned.

The Government accounting system review which was initiated, I will say, by the previous Administration, and in which the former Premier, the member for Hartley, took a specific interest, is being given rather more priority, and the Government accounting system as set out originally in what was commonly known as the blue book is being developed and worked on quite extensively. This means

that, under this Government, all departments will be put on to a common computer accounting system. This will enable the actual costs of all programmes to be readily identified, and it will be of tremendous benefit to the Government in assessing the actual performance of Government programmes, and whether the money spent is being spent effectively.

COOPER BASIN

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: As a result of recent changes in the ownership of companies in the Cooper Basin unit, does the Minister of Mines and Energy agree that, in the event of the disposal by the Delhi International Oil Corporation of its Cooper Basin holding, it would be in the best interests of the South Australian people for the State Government to purchase the Delhi share, and, if not, why not? Has the Minister already initiated a study of this possible course of action by the Government? The view that the South Australian Government could purchase the Delhi stake was, according to this morning's *Age* newspaper, "a suggestion clearly having some merit". The *Age* went on to say:

The South Australian Government could see the Delhi offer of sale as a chance to ensure a greater degree of control over the eventual sale of the resources in the basin.

Relevant to the matter of the Delhi sale is the Deputy Premier's claim on Tuesday that he had told the Deputy Leader the previous week that he had been telephoned by the State Manager of Delhi, who had conveyed certain information.

As everyone who was in the Chamber on that day would be aware, that is not true. The Deputy Premier did not say anything in the House except to dismiss the Deputy Leader's question as a stupid question. Is the Deputy Premier having trouble keeping up with everything he says in this House?

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Deputy Premier.

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: For the third time I will repeat what I said. The position in relation to the possible sale of Delhi is far from clear. All that Delhi has done is appoint a consultant to advise it on what it might do with its company. As I have indicated earlier, I had a conversation with the State Manager of Delhi before the matter became public. It is not my habit, nor should it be the habit of any responsible Minister, to act on the basis of newspaper conjecture. No offer of the company has been made to the Government. In fact, the investigations are in a preliminary stage.

Of course we are interested in the future of the Cooper Basin. It would be folly, though, if one were to take a lead from the Leader of the Opposition in suggesting that I should somehow or other at this moment invoke my powers in relation to the Santos legislation alleging that there was some collusion between the Bond group and the Murdoch group, when in fact they have had no board meetings and there has been not one scrap of evidence on which one could allege collusion. In that potpourri of events which spewed from the Leader of the Opposition last evening in ranging over the energy scene, that was one of the suggestions he made. Another is that he has written to the Stock Exchange telling it how to run its affairs. Of course the Government is concerned to see that the interests of South Australia are protected.

The Delhi holding has not been offered to the Government. As I indicated earlier, the position is quite unclear. I said that I did not have a crystal ball of the intensity necessary to enable me to answer the Deputy

Leader's questions in this House; no-one in this House has. The Opposition has obviously got very sensitive about the fact that I referred to the question as being stupid; that was in response to interjections, I believe. For anyone to say that a certain thing should be done at this time is, I believe, acting in that fashion.

ELECTRICITY TRUST LOAN

Mr. BECKER: Can the Premier say what significant and important economic features for South Australia can be gleaned from the most successful recent Electricity Trust of South Australia \$25 000 000 cash loan? I understand that the public reaction to semi-Government cash loans can be used as a valuable economic indicator for the State. I have been told that the Electricity Trust of South Australia's \$25 000 000 cash loan which opened a few days ago has set records for such borrowing in this State. I further understand that the State Bank of South Australia was for the first time involved in this loan as one of the joint underwriters, a suggestion that I promoted with the previous Government.

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: The success of the Electricity Trust's loan is, I think, of enormous importance to South Australia. It does provide further evidence of the fact that there is a renewed confidence in this State and a renewed confidence on the part of investors who, after all, are the true indicators of confidence.

The \$25 000 000 loan sought was a record amount: loans were only \$14 000 000 last year, and \$3 000 000 and \$12 000 000 in the preceding two years. In strong contrast with the previous occasions, the loan filled in less than a week. There was much stronger application from sharebrokers, and some investors were in fact reported as selling shares in order to take up an interest in the loan. There was also a considerable increase in the number of new investors vying for the loan, and that in itself is of great significance. Those new investors were largely small investors. Once again, that is an exceedingly hopeful and encouraging sign. It seems to me that, whatever construction it is in the minds of members of the Opposition to put on this situation, they are now clutching at straws in any criticism that they make.

I believe that the loan has been successful because people in South Australia are once again seeing that there is a future for South Australia and that there will be industrial development in this State. This shows a clear recognition of the dependence on electric energy and the provision of adequate power for appropriate industrial development and resulting prosperity in South Australia.

RADIATION LEAK

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: Will the Deputy Premier table in this House the telex he sent to England yesterday regarding his reply to me about a radiation leak at British Nuclear Fuel's Windscale plant? Yesterday, in a statement to the House, the Deputy Premier said that he telexed England to ensure that his views were not misrepresented. He said that the Opposition had attempted to interfere in international negotiations being conducted at the highest level and that this irresponsible action flouted all the traditions and conventions of proper Parliamentary opposition and deserved the severest censure. He incorrectly, if not mischievously, ascribed to me a statement that I have said the Labor Party had contacted London. Neither I nor the Opposition are sure why, because we have had no international communications in

regard to the Windscale matter at all, and this was never suggested by me. However, I was told that an environmental group has communicated the exact text of the Deputy Premier's reply, as has the Deputy Premier, but in case the Opposition has been slighted internationally—

The SPEAKER: Order! I point out to the honourable member for Salisbury that he is now tending to debate the issue. He has sought leave to explain the question that he put to the Deputy Premier, but he is ranging wider than that at present.

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: Because of the respect for Parliamentary traditions and conventions that we on this side uphold, I ask whether the Deputy Premier will table the telex.

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: The short answer to the first part of that fairly diffuse question and explanation is "No".

The Hon. J. D. Wright: Why not?

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: I would like the honourable member to go to his source of information (the nonsense to which he gave credence, when he said that Urenco-Centec had lied to the commission of inquiry).

The Hon. J. D. Wright: You said that.

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: I will read from the relevant copy of *Hansard*. I did not use the word "lie" in my original answer.

The SPEAKER: Order! I draw two matters to the attention of the House, more particularly on this occasion to the Deputy Premier. The word "lie" or "lied" in any context in this House is unparliamentary. I also make the point that it is not competent for any honourable member to read from *Hansard* of the current session identifying the fact that that is being done.

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: In answer to a question initially, I stated that members of Urenco-Centec had indicated that the leak at Windscale had occurred over a long period of time, but no-one, unless intent on mischief, could possibly have read into that that I was suggesting that they had known about it for a long time. I suggested that they were asked to comment on a leak at Windscale, which they thought was a new leak, and they said, "We don't know anything about it", but realised that they were talking about a leak that had been the subject of an inquiry.

Anyone who reads in *Hansard* what I said cannot believe that I suggested that they knew about the leak from the time it first occurred. Now, everyone knows that it occurred over a long period, because that fact is in the report. The member for Salisbury will not have a very bright career in this place or in politics if he is prepared to give currency to that sort of thing, which I think verges on libel, as he did in this House when he was touting words to the effect that, if the Deputy Premier is correct, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. lied to the court of inquiry and the British Government. I did not use the word "lie". That was used in the honourable member's explanation. No-one, and I repeat no-one, in his right mind could have read into what I said that I was suggesting that Urenco-Centec knew about this leak from the time that it occurred. Of course, after the event everyone knew that it had occurred over a long period.

I invited members of the Opposition to dissociate themselves. In my Ministerial statement yesterday I invited the Leader to dissociate members of the Labor Party from this slander. The Leader of the Opposition has not yet done so. It is a serious matter. We know perfectly well that the Opposition now hides and that its members do not take a front running in the uranium question. They hide behind such organisations as CANE.

Mr. Bannon interjecting:

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: Well, the Leader is proud to stand up at the CANE rallies, and we know that the member for Elizabeth is happy to tip off the media about conditions at Amdel and so on. Representatives of the media went down to Amdel and did some filming without being invited in, and they said that they had been tipped off by the member for Elizabeth that they ought to go and have a look at the pit at Amdel. We know perfectly well that members opposite now like to hide. They know that there is a split right down the middle of their Party in relation to the uranium question. Fortunately, there are sane elements in that Party; we know that Mr. Bob Hawke is very strongly pro-uranium. He is getting very close to the views of Mr. Hayden. We know what the member for Elizabeth thinks about Mr. Hawke and the way he is leading the Labor Party, as I recounted to the House a day or two ago.

We have members such as the member for Salisbury who are prepared to give substance, credence and currency to the sort of nonsense that he trotted out here. He related to the House what amounted to complete falsehoods and misrepresentations and invited me to comment on them, but his Party will not dissociate itself from it.

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I did not relate to the House complete falsehoods, and I think the Deputy Premier should withdraw those comments.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. The honourable member has the opportunity to seek to make a personal explanation in due time if he so desires.

NORTHERN RAIL SERVICES

Mr. OLSEN: Has the Minister of Transport received a reply from the Federal Minister for Transport in respect of his request for deferment of the cessation of rail services on Mid-North lines? The State Minister previously indicated that he had requested deferment due to the short notice given by the Federal Minister. The published reports indicate community concern at the possibility of the cessation without negotiations for a viable alternative having been completed.

The Hon. M. M. WILSON: I have received a reply. In answer to a question from the member for Goyder, I think last week, I informed the House that, upon receipt of the letter from the Federal Minister for Transport informing me of the reduction in rail services on the Adelaide-Peterborough and Adelaide-Gladstone services, I wrote to my Federal colleague requesting that the cessation of services be deferred so as to enable the State Government to investigate whether an alternative service could be provided, and whether the State Government should object, under the railways transfer agreement, to the cessation of services. I am pleased to inform the member for Rocky River that I received a telex yesterday from the Federal Minister for Transport which states that the cessation of services will be deferred until the end of this year.

SANTOS

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I, too, am very pleased to be able to—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has been called upon to ask a question.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Yes, indeed, Sir; I was

about to do so. I do not understand your interjection.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is of the distinct understanding that the honourable member was starting to preface a question with a gratuitous statement.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: On the contrary, I had not had the opportunity to—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will ask the question.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Indeed, I will, Sir. What evidence does the Deputy Premier require before he will exercise his powers under section 3 (ii) of the Santos (Regulations of Shareholdings) Act, 1979. Yesterday, and again a little earlier in Question Time today, the Minister placed great emphasis on the fact that the new board of Santos Limited has yet to meet. However, the Santos Act makes no such mention of the need for directors of the Santos company actually to sit down together before the Minister can make inquiries which would enable him to determine whether certain shareholders constitute a group of associated shareholders. In fact, the relevant section is as follows:

Where two or more shareholders are—
and these are the crucial words—
in the opinion of the Minister likely to act in concert with a view to taking control of the company or otherwise against the public interest, those shareholders constitute a group of associated shareholders.

Clearly, the Act requires only that the Minister form an opinion of that nature; it does not require meetings of shareholders or anything else as indicated by the Minister yesterday. In asking this question, I am sure this will give the Minister a further opportunity to expose himself before the people of South Australia.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: Of course, that is a hypothetical question, so really it should not be dignified with a long answer. If the member for Elizabeth had his way, we know that there would be such a set of hidebound rules in relation to investment in this State that we would never see anyone come near South Australia. We also know that his philosophy, expounded in his student days and well on record, is that he wants to change the system.

Mr. Bannon: That is personal abuse.

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: It is not personal abuse; it is history. If the Leader of the Opposition would like to inquire into some of those who sit behind him, such as the member for Elizabeth, perhaps he would know a bit more about those with whom he is in league. What I am saying is a statement of fact. We know what has led to that sort of question from the member for Elizabeth, because, frankly, we know his attitude to the way in which the business community—

Mr. BANNON: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I cannot quote the Standing Order, but the Deputy Premier is impugning the motives of a member in this House, in raising a serious question before this House, by suggesting that there is some ulterior or other motive than that explained by the member in his question.

Mr. Becker: Your mob used to do it all the time.

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not uphold the point of order. I recognise the difficulty which all members are having in a House which is building up to tension because of the interference by members on both sides of the House during Question Time; I refer to interference by way of interjection and unnecessary comment. I am listening very closely to the content of the Deputy Premier's answer to the question. I note, and I point out to all members of the House, that both questions and answers are required to be relevant to matter which is the due regard of the business of Government and Parliament. In that regard, I accept

that any suggestion relative to a member's background or a member's habits are not necessarily associated with the answer which one would expect to a question. However, as I have drawn to the attention of this House on a number of occasions before, the veracity of statements by Ministers in answering questions is something with which they themselves must live.

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In answer to this question, which of course is hypothetical, what the honourable member for Elizabeth seeks is that I set out a hard and fast set of guidelines under which one would invoke the provisions of an Act. He may be prepared to do it, and I expect, after having read extensively of his background and having read his recent writings, that he would be quite prepared to set out in black and white a set of guidelines which would, I believe, effectively discourage anyone from coming into this State to invest capital. I have already said it is a hypothetical question. The circumstances have not yet arisen, and there is no evidence of collusion to my knowledge. To act arbitrarily, as the member for Elizabeth would apparently want me to do, would be (I am searching for a word other than "stupid") ill advised, to put it at its mildest.

I will quote again to indicate the sort of attitude that the member for Elizabeth exhibited in his attack on Hawke. He said:

Nowhere can I find any real evidence of a desire on Hawke's part to fundamentally change the substance. Nowhere can I find evidence of Hawke's seeking meaningful change in the power of the Australian Government to deal with the almost insurmountable challenge confronting it, the power of the trans-nationals.

It is that sort of thinking, and that sort of question—

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is the honourable member's point of order?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: My point of order relates to rules of debate Nos. 153 and 154, and I will quote from your statement on this matter, Sir, at the end of which you said that you did not intend to rule out imputations or improper motives where points of order were taken by other members but, where the person the subject of such an imputation raised a point of order, it would be a different situation. These imputations are against me, and I seek to have them withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: To what specific imputations does the honourable member draw the attention of the House?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: The Deputy Premier is trying, by referring to some documents from which he is quoting, apparently being extracts of an article I wrote, to impugn my motives in asking the question I was asking this afternoon. I asked the question from perfectly proper motives, and to suggest that I have done from improper motives is a breach of Standing Orders.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think that, if the honourable member will read the totality of the statement I made to the House, he will realise that he is trying to put a construction on that statement different from that which I left with the House. The statement made to the House indicated that, if there were words which were creating mischief or causing distress to the honourable member, I would take action if the matter were drawn to my attention. I genuinely believe (and I do not uphold the point of order) that, in the circumstances which the honourable member has just explained, he would be better to seek to make a personal explanation in due course, indicating the nature of the "imputations" that he levels against the honourable Deputy Premier. I also take

this opportunity of pointing out to all honourable members that answers are required to be relevant to the question that has been asked.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Mr. Speaker, I quote your comment on page 5 of your minute, as follows:

Where the words are not clearly unparliamentary [and I take it from what you have said that that is your view] I will leave to the member who feels himself impugned by some word or reference to raise a point or order. I will then request the offending member to withdraw the remarks complained of. However, it should be recognised that it is in that member's hands as to whether he wishes to withdraw them or not. I would hope that all members' sense of responsibility to other members and particularly to the institution of Parliament will impel them to withdraw any words about which complaints have been raised.

It is in that context that I now ask you to put into effect your dictum contained in this minute and to ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw the imputations he has made.

The SPEAKER: Order! I asked the honourable member to indicate to me what word or imputation he was concerned about. He failed to give me definitively an indication of the word or words about which he was concerned. I will give him the opportunity again to indicate to me—

The Hon. E. R. Goldsworthy: They are his words.

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable Deputy Premier. Does the honourable member have a word or imputation he wishes the Chair to consider?

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: It is the whole body of the material from which he is quoting, the imputation being that the selective quotes he is making, from an article that I wrote some time ago, is in some way an indication of an improper motive in asking this question this afternoon. I believe that the quotation he is making is in no way related to the question, and is being quoted to the House this afternoon only to try to impugn my motives in asking the question.

The SPEAKER: I cannot uphold the point of order. I have listened carefully, as I indicated previously. The honourable Deputy Premier was not using words of his own. He was using a quotation that reputed to have reported the honourable member who raises the question. I say again that I believe that it is not a proper test of the dictum (the word the honourable member used) that I gave to the House earlier. I believe that the circumstances surrounding the current situation would be better handled by way of a personal explanation if that be the honourable member's desire. I do not uphold the point of order.

The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY: The words causing all the trouble are those of the honourable member himself. I point out to him that I am not prepared to put in black and white a set of hard and fast rules and guidelines under which I would invoke the implications of an Act. Obviously, the honourable member wants me to do that. I can understand why he does, in view of his writings and utterances over a long period.

COFFIN BAY

Mr. BLACKER: Can the Minister of Fisheries inform the House whether he or officers of his department have made statements relating to restrictions on fishing in the Coffin Bay area and, if they have, what was the nature of those statements? This morning on radio (I think it was 5DN) a fisherman from Coffin Bay who remained anonymous claimed that he had been or would be prevented from fishing in his traditional manner. In view of the Minister's recent trip to Coffin Bay, can he state the

present position and say what action is being contemplated?

The Hon. W. A. RODDA: I was informed today by the Director of Fisheries that a fisherman from Coffin Bay telephoned him yesterday (13 August) regarding a review of restrictions on netting and the present closures in Coffin Bay. The Director informed that person that the department was currently looking at options for the future management of that area, including possible netting restrictions. He was also informed that no firm decision had been taken and that the matter would be discussed with all interested parties, including professional and recreational fishermen in the area. The Director certainly did not say, "That's your bad luck," as reported on a radio station this morning. Indeed, the reporter could have done the Director the courtesy of checking his story before going to air. The Director and I were accompanied by the member for Flinders and the member for Eyre.

The Hon. J. D. Wright: Why not table the report and save a lot of time.

The Hon. W. A. RODDA: This is important to the House. On 17 July, we had a meeting with the Coffin Bay Fishermen's Association and discussed with its members the matter of closures at Coffin Bay. The department would prepare options for future management of Coffin Bay, and these would be discussed with the Australian Fishing Industries Council and the South Australian Recreational Fishing Council within the next three or four weeks. A letter to that effect was sent to those responsible organisations on 13 August. The Government is very much aware of the problems involved in the present netting restrictions in the Coffin Bay area, and will be seeking a responsible solution to allow reasonable access for professional fishermen while at the same time allowing enjoyment for recreational fishermen.

I heard the news segment this morning and, in view of the meeting we had with these people, I found the attitude of the unnamed fisherman to be quite out of kilter with our discussions on that day. I hope that clears up the matter for the honourable member.

RAIL FARES

Mr. HAMILTON: Will the Minister of Transport say whether the Australian National Railways Commission has approached him about a proposal to increase the Adelaide to Victor Harbor adult return fare to \$8.40, and did he give his approval under the terms of the Railways Transfer Agreement Act 1975? The Minister will be aware that, on 1 April 1980, the Adelaide to Victor Harbor fares were increased from \$5.20 return to \$7.20 return, and it is now proposed to increase the fare from 17 August to \$8.40 adult return. It has been suggested to me that this would represent about a 70 per cent increase in just four months, a price hike that would not be tolerated in any other industry or service. The Minister will be aware that the rail link with Victor Harbor is vital for tourism on the South Coast. What is the Minister's attitude to this latest rise? Did he agree to it?

The Hon. M. M. WILSON: I cannot recall the A.N.R. approaching me about the latest rise. I shall look at the matter for the honourable member and get a reply.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

Mr. GLAZBROOK: Has the Premier noticed a report of the Australian Federation of Construction Contractors that indicates the anticipated growth rates, State by State,

of the Australian construction industry for the period 1981 to 1985?

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: I have read the report in today's press, and this is only the latest of a series of reports by the same federation. Those members who have read today's report will notice that there is a very strong degree of confidence coming from the construction industry, and it is indeed anticipating real growth in the years 1981 to 1985, provided that the Redcliff project and the Roxby Downs development proceed. A report in the *News states:*

The latest quarterly survey by the Australian Federation of Construction Contractors shows South Australia had the second highest anticipated growth rate in the industry. "Our survey indicates that if either the Roxby Downs or Redcliff projects get the go-ahead, South Australia will be facing real growth in engineering construction between 1981 and 1985." This is the federation's Executive Director—

"However, if neither project proceeds, the growth rate will be little more than 1 per cent or 2 per cent. Even this low rate would be better than the result in 1979-80, when total known expenditure on new engineering construction projects in South Australia declined by a massive 40 per cent."

In fact, the federation survey predicts that South Australia is expected to achieve the second highest growth rate among all the States. We expect to achieve a 28 per cent growth rate for the period, compared with 37 per cent in Western Australia (that State has had a long head start on us, with the mineral boom), 23 per cent in the Northern Territory, 19 per cent in Tasmania, 7 per cent in Queensland, 2 per cent in New South Wales, and minus 14 per cent in Victoria. The 28 per cent growth rate predicted for South Australia is a rate which we can be very pleased about. Members may have noticed that, in the financial year just completed, total known expenditure on new engineering construction in South Australia declined by a massive 40 per cent. That is further evidence of the undeniable fact that, when the previous Government left office, there were no construction programmes in the pipeline. That position is being rapidly reversed, as is evident not only from the federation's survey but also from its other publications, and I commend to members the *National Constructor*, the construction industry's journal, and an article entitled "End of Stagnation", on 19 May this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION: URANIUM

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: In earlier comments made today by the Deputy Premier and on other occasions in this House, four imputations have been made against me: that I have made complete falsehoods to the House; that I asserted that the Opposition sent a telex to London; that I accused British Nuclear Fuels Limited of lying; and that I have libelled British Nuclear Fuels. I regard these imputations as very serious, and it does no credit to any member who makes those imputations against me.

I wish to summarise the course of action I undertook in the last two days with regard to this matter, and I want to go through it in four clear stages, because my actions follow those stages quite clearly, if anyone had listened to or read what I said.

First, I reminded the House of statements made in the House, and I reminded the House of events that have been publicly recorded. Secondly, I pointed out for the

information of the House a course of action that had already been taken by other people. Thirdly, I pointed out some possible implications of that course of action. Fourthly, I sought, by way of a question, clarification from the Deputy Premier, for the public interest.

That indeed was an honourable and just course of action for me to have undertaken, given the information available to me in this House, and given the comments made both inside the House and outside. Therefore, I wish to make the following response to the four imputations made about my contribution.

First, I believe that the charge of complete falsehoods is most certainly unsubstantiated in any way at all, because I have not at any time in the past three days made complete falsehoods on this matter, nor have I ever in my Parliamentary career to date made complete falsehoods on any matter. Secondly, the Deputy Premier, in his assertion that I had said the Opposition sent a telex to London, is totally incorrect. I have not said that, and the record clearly shows that that is so. The fact that he continues to assert it is a cause of some regret to me.

The Hon. E. R. Goldsworthy: I did not—

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member not to make the additional comments, which are otherwise cutting across the very strict requirements of a personal explanation.

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: Thank you. Indeed, Sir, it is not necessary to make those comments.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member not to make them again.

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: It is quite clear what the obvious implications are. With regard to the accusation of British Nuclear Fuel lying, I point to what I actually said, and I presume that to this extent I am allowed to quote the words I used. The phrase that is entirely relevant is this: "It has been put to me that if . . .". That is a qualification requesting and demanding clarification in a question. It did not receive it initially. It finally received some degree of clarification, but that is the crux of that sentence, totally ignored, I believe.

I have been accused of libelling British Nuclear Fuels Corporation. I believe that a thorough check of my statement clears me of any such accusation.

The Hon. E. R. Goldsworthy interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: My statement was dependent upon certain implications coming from certain events already well known to this House, and, owing to a lack of clarification in the early stages from the Deputy Premier in that regard, it was natural and understandable that such an implication should have been conceived as possible or likely. I think the Minister has been most unjust, and I refute the imputations.

The SPEAKER: Order!

At 3.19 p.m., the bells having been rung:

The SPEAKER: Call on the business of the day.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.
(Continued from 12 August. Page 249.)

Mr. OLSEN (Rocky River): I support the motion so ably moved by the member for Newland and seconded by the member for Mawson. The Opposition has commended the member for Newland on the approach and the well-reasoned arguments included in his speech, which in short

indicates that nuclear energy production is the safest form and type of energy generation available.

Despite the indication that the Opposition was going to refute that argument, it has avoided it significantly in the debate that has ensued. Indeed, the dilemma for the Leader of the Opposition is that he has boxed himself into a corner in relation to the development of the Roxby Downs project. It will be interesting to see the neat footwork that the Leader will have to apply to extract himself from that position. We on this side of the House await with interest the indication of the new technology which is available and which indicates that one can proceed with a mining project, such as Roxby Downs, effectively and efficiently removing uranium from the minerals extracted.

The Governor's Speech outlines the new emphasis in Government direction in South Australia, a direction that will rekindle the business community of this State. Australia is a free society, but it is not free of obligation, nor is it free of responsibility. The "I would rather be sailing" bumper sticker reflects an attitude that is all too prevalent in our way of life today. Society has undergone dramatic and, indeed, significant changes in the last decade. We, as Australians, have a new set of values, and we, as legislators, need to understand that change and analyse what its repercussions will be.

The reason why the Australian Labor Party is now occupying the Opposition benches can be directly related to its inability to understand that shift in emphasis, that shift in direction of attitudes of the voting public of South Australia. Old beliefs have been surrendered. Up until the mid-1960's, hard work was but a basic requirement and seemed all but self-evident, and from that flowed progress and material and social rewards for the individual. Thereby, the individual and society took staggering leaps forward in progress and growth offering the rarest of all luxuries—stability and its inherent privileges. We expected initiative, and we encouraged initiative. Few of us would have anticipated how great our claims would be on growth in society.

Historically there have been serious challenges, the most noticeable of which have been the Great Wars and the depression years, but as the reality of the depression years faded into all but oblivion we allowed the next serious challenge to escalate, and that was that the public demanded an increasing and expanding system of social services and support systems. Coupled with this new demand our young underwent, and thus forced upon society, a reappraisal of the real values. They were able to achieve this, as their population base indicates that 52 per cent were under the age of 30 years at the last census. The traditional criteria for success were revised and tempered with other factors which were considered vital to the young. They questioned authority, they questioned wasteful materialism, they questioned competition and the stress it generated merely to obtain wealth and privilege, and they gave greater emphasis to personal growth, inner satisfaction and self-fulfilment.

Australia has been termed the lucky country, but our luck will run out if our community trends of the 1970's are allowed to continue. The question to answer is: what percentage of time should be work and what percentage should be leisure? The issue is really one of trade-offs. Unfortunately, Australia in the early 1970's became increasingly inefficient, particularly in the manufacturing industry, which has led to uncompetitive industry, which in turn has led to a reduction in job opportunities and our current high rate of unemployment.

The work force itself is not the only thing to blame; in some sectors the captains of industry must take their share

of responsibility. Our protectionist policies of the 1950's and 1960's removed the necessity in some instances for industry to remain competitive and efficient. A degree of complacency prevailed where in some industries personnel believed that Government would not be politically game to force restructuring by removing tariff protection. Gambling on this premise, they were lulled into a false sense of security and thus inefficiency, believing that Governments would prop them up rather than have people retrenched. The danger in isolated cases was realised, wherein our political system allowed Lenin socialism; that is, that the focus was to save the Lenins at all costs rather than have obsolete jobs and companies going bankrupt because they were too inefficient to compete on world markets.

This new community attitude can be summed up by measured input but with the expectation that output (income and benefits) would escalate or at least remain constant. Perhaps that is a harsh value judgment, but nevertheless I believe it is realistic. For example, between 1967 and 1973 the gross domestic product increased by 32.13 per cent, whereas between 1973 and 1979 that increase fell to 18.47 per cent. Even if you relate that to a per capita basis, gross domestic product increased by 16.19 per cent in the first period but by only 12.84 per cent in the latter period. In comparison, it is interesting to note that between 1860 and 1890 Australia was the richest country in the world on a per capita basis.

The three most significant changes to Australian society have been (1) the decreased emphasis on the work ethic, (2) an enlarged social welfare, and (3) a safer, improved and protected environment. The latter has had positive ingredients for making Australia a better place in which to live. However, the first two have placed enormous strains on Australia's economic system. Australians' attitude of "She'll be right, mate", coupled with the general belief that problems were solved in the past, so therefore automatically they will be solved in the future, could leave this country at the start of the twenty-first century with limited options, being a legacy of a lack of concerted effort by Australians, and thereby having other developing nations outperforming us. Resulting therefrom will be a drop in the standard of living of Australians and a compounding of the current unemployment situation. By that I mean it refers to all sectors of the community. The blame should be spread right across the spectrum.

In rationalising future actions to reduce unemployment, we need to understand more readily the underlying reasons for this current world-wide problem and make decisions for its reduction accurately by a single rifle shot, not by a shotgun blast. To achieve long-term objectives we as a nation have to accept unpalatable short-term options. A sportsman who wants to excel and not just be good has to make sacrifices. For example, he will have to have early nights and have a reduction in social life in terms of other features of social life, in drinking and smoking, if he wants to excel in his chosen field. Because of the comfortable manner in which the majority of Australians live, we do not place the same emphasis on growth as immigrants to this country have done in the past. Hermann Kahn, founder and director of the Hudson Institute, says:

In the different circumstances of the 1980's, a protect-my-corner attitude reflects insecurity and defensiveness vis-a-vis the rest of the world; all too often it can become selfish and even self-destructive. A tolerance for this attitude is one reason for Australia's traditional protection of manufacturing, and the legacy of its once-traditional (and once-inoffensive) white Australia immigration policy. In recent years, this insecure and defensive version of a protect-my-corner stance has led to attempts to assert not only the right

to a livelihood, but also the right to a particular kind of livelihood, in a particular place.

Whether manifested in opposition to new industries, new technologies, or new Australians, this position is more negative than provincial, and more selfish than courageous. In this form, it is akin to the attitude of low-ranking soldiers or sailors, who often have little or no conception of their overall mission. Their main goals are usually a decent meal, a cold beer, a warm bed, and a girl, and from any viewpoint, except the shortest, these low-level goals are taken too exclusively.

One highly visible manifestation of this version of a protect-my-corner attitude is Australia's habit of lightning strikes, particularly those affecting transportation. Such strikes cause great inconvenience to almost everybody, and are counter-productive by any objective criteria.

Mr. HEMMINGS: Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the House.

A quorum having been formed:

Mr. OLSEN: It is interesting to note that only three people are sitting in their places on the Opposition benches.

Mr. Trainer: Four.

Mr. OLSEN: I said that there were three people in their places. If the honourable member listened, he would be better off. He continues:

Certainly the average person would conclude that 1979's bus strike in Adelaide, when union drivers abandoned passengers in the middle of their routes the day before a State election, did nothing but damage to the union, the trade union movement as a whole, and that State Labor Party. Yet such strikes continue to be tolerated, and continue to occur.

Indeed, whereas other developed countries have labour disputes and strikes in particular industries or plants the sort of strikes that are purposely designed to bother the rest of society seem characteristic of Australia.

It was interesting to note the comments of the Federal Opposition Leader, Bill Hayden, in last night's *News*; he claimed that, because the A.L.P. had such a close working relationship with the union movement, it would therefore be better able to govern this country in the future. So much for the special relationship existing between the A.L.P. and the trade union movement, when it comes to the pinch. Moreover, in qualitative terms, Australians now favour a kind of welfare-leisure orientated society which would lead to a reduced input and resultant output.

The idea of economic growth is all but out of fashion in Australia today. In the 1960's we had the economic boom in manufacturing, construction, education and culture. The rewards of the 1960's have given high expectations in the 1970's that cannot be met in the 1980's without a very clear rethink of the work commitment. I repeat: Australians take the past for granted and assume that the future is assured. The underlying reason for economic growth is more positive than negative, more to seek achievements for their own sake than merely to rebut challenges. If some Australians believe that growth is worth seeking, they face the daunting question of how to achieve it, particularly in view of the general malaise. He continues:

For Australia, with its enormous natural wealth, this would mean an even greater emphasis on exporting agricultural and mineral resources, and correspondingly less emphasis on the kinds of manufacturing Australia has traditionally had. Australia could still maintain some degree of manufacturing, but not the broad-based, old-fashioned, uncompetitive industry of the past. If efficiency is the criterion, Australian manufacturing would have to become more specialised, more technological, and/or more capital-intensive, that is, more oriented to export markets, mainly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Instead of maintaining a protected manufacturing sector that is increasingly less supportable over the long term, Australia under this alternative would shift to a manufacturing sector that becomes competitive as it develops and maintains its competitiveness through the medium and the long term. The efficiencies of the market that force obsolete industries to go out of business also bring new businesses into existence, and do so to a greater degree than typically happens in a more protected economy. The uncertainties of the market are one reason for its dynamism: uncertainty leads to unexpected losses, but—and this is the point that many Australians seem to miss—it leads to unexpected gains as well. In short, economic dynamism offers greater risks in the short term—and a requirement to work harder—but promises much greater gain in the medium and long term.

South Australia, with its enormous natural wealth, can best achieve economic growth through efficiencies generated by a market economy and supplementary Government policies, and by placing a greater emphasis on exporting agricultural or mineral resources and correspondingly less emphasis on the kinds of manufacturing that Australia has traditionally had. The Tonkin Government has placed renewed and greater emphasis on the export of our mineral resources. The Government has a fully integrated plan with an objective to ensure that South Australia enters the next century with a sound energy base. This will be achieved by allowing new exploration to take place, by encouraging the development of a petro-chemical plant, in addition to investigating the possibilities for the use of South Australia's huge coal reserves.

This is in stark contrast to the past, in which no attempts were made to match the requirements of our domestic, commercial, industrial and overseas markets. Indeed, the royalties to the State from mineral and petroleum developments are expected to increase tenfold within the next five years, not to mention the job opportunities that will be created and the corresponding spin-off to the service industries within the State. The unprecedented level of exploration activity represents expenditure commitment in excess of \$10 000 000, which excludes the now accelerated works programme at Roxby Downs, on which expenditure is running at about \$1 000 000 a month.

We have an enormous potential in the reserves of uranium oxide, amounting to about 10 per cent of the presently known world reserves. The world energy shortage has created a demand for these resources, which are, incidentally, vital to world needs, and that demand must be met. The benefits from these projects will be threefold in terms of increased job opportunities, additional royalty income and participation in the development of new technologies. Roxby Downs alone has a life of about 50 years and a capacity to generate sales in excess of \$500 000 000 a year when fully operational. Therefore, it can be seen that there are real, tangible and, indeed, necessary economic benefits available to South Australia if these resources are developed.

Not to develop the resources would be to deny a source of energy to countries that have no option available to them except the nuclear option for a significant part of their power generating capacity at present and in the future. To deny these countries would be to condemn them to economic depression. This, in turn, would be disastrous for the Western world and for developing countries and would cause greatly increased hardship and suffering. Additionally, conversion and enrichment plants would afford the means to South Australia to promote new manufacturing activity. By stark contrast to this new vigour and development during the past decade, it almost appeared that to be striving too hard was to violate the

social order and thus be scorned by one's contemporaries. During the period 1973 to 1974, a time when our gross domestic product increase fell, we also bottomed out in our competitive position throughout the world. I seek leave to have inserted in *Hansard*, without my reading it, a

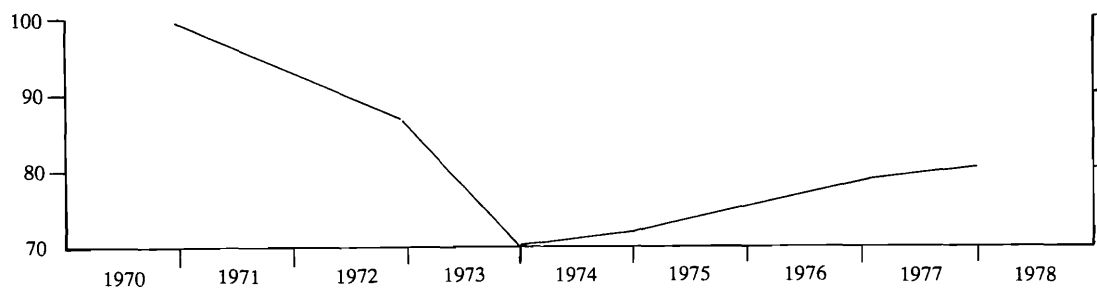
chart measuring Australia's competitive position and an index of Australia's competitive position. It is purely statistical.

Leave granted.

MEASURING OUR COMPETITIVE POSITION

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Index of Hourly Wages	Index of Hourly Labour Costs	Unit Labour Cost Index	Unit Labour Cost in \$U.S. Index	Weighted Index of Competitors Unit Labour Cost	Index of Australia's Competitive Position
1970-71	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971-72	110.4	111.8	109.7	114.2	107.3	94.0
1972-73	124.3	127.3	121.6	135.2	116.8	86.4
1973-74	152.3	159.4	144.1	187.2	131.2	70.1
1974-75	197.9	214.4	185.8	215.2	154.6	71.8
1975-76	227.4	255.1	212.2	233.3	177.9	76.2
1976-77	258.3	290.4	232.3	220.6	173.9	78.8
1977-78	281.0	316.0	238.5	238.0	191.8	80.6

AN INDEX OF AUSTRALIA'S COMPETITIVE POSITION



Mr. OLSEN: The malaise of Australia's manufacturing industry, upon which this State is dependent for job opportunities, can be highlighted by the fact that, over 10 years to 1977-78, 160 employee positions fell, indicating a reduction from 27 per cent of the civilian work force to 21 per cent. Imported manufactured goods increased from 17 per cent of the domestic market to 24 per cent in the eight-year period 1976-77. Additionally, new fixed capital investment fell from 41 per cent of all new investment in 1968-69 to 21 per cent in 1978-79. Therefore, we have increased competition from developing countries that we need to match, and better, to survive, and thus maintain job opportunities, which is counter to Australia's attitude of the 1970's.

The uncompetitive nature of the manufacturing industry has been compounded by the labour cost increases far beyond productivity improvement. Thus, business has been left with inadequate or insufficient profits for new or replacement investment. Put simply, without profits business cannot expand and cannot remain competitive with their Asian counterparts. Therefore, an increase in imports is attracted to the detriment of job opportunities within Australia.

The Liberal approach has had some rewards in holding down wage increases and inflation to restore our ability to sell competitively on world markets. Between 1978 and 1980 employment in the manufacturing sector stabilised and, in fact, increased. To continue that trend we need to

continue that desperate fight for restoring our competitive world base. To embark on short term *ad hoc* measures to counter the unemployment problems would have disastrous long-term effects on the greater number of Australians. Politically, it would be far easier and more palatable to embark on the shotgun blast approach. However, it is the goal and objective for the turn of the century that we should be aiming for with single-minded determination.

No doubt, some will say that an affluent country cannot morally allow this to happen, but it would be far more immoral to destroy Australia's trading base totally and therefore place in jeopardy that base which is providing the majority of Australians with their current standard of living. That is not to say that there is not a clear understanding of the traumatic experience that the genuine unemployed must go through. We must ensure that the level of benefits, while maintaining the monetary incentive to return to work, at least provides basic support for those unemployed.

I wonder how many jobs fell during the 1970-78 period when wages and salaries of the manufacturing sector increased by 181 per cent. Unit labour costs are the single most significant factor in measuring our competitive position. In the early 1970's our costs increased much more rapidly than those of our competitors. In the latter part of the 1970's that position has reversed. However, at the close of the decade our position had not recovered to

the situation which existed at the beginning of the 1970's. We cannot allow labour costs to rise above productivity improvement. If, for example, the 35-hour week were introduced, without an accompanying improvement in productivity, hourly labour costs could rise by anything up to 33 per cent, a prospect we simply cannot afford. The main and only argument put forward by the metal unions is the emotional appeal that reduced hours will mean more jobs. I think they qualified that in some of their advertisements indicating that that should attract 252 000 job opportunities. In effect, they are allowing their imagination to ignore the facts and run riot.

Supposedly, company profits will easily foot the Bill for this increased wage bill. However, the facts compiled by the Industries Assistance Commission's report indicate that average net profit, as a proportion of total sales (that is, turnover) in the past 10 years was approximately 4.2 per cent. If one accepts the Metal Industry Association's figure, a 35-hour work week would place an additional 18.6 per cent burden on actual wage costs, which incidentally just happen to be 4.7 per cent of turnover, the employers' profits disappearing in one action, and it would do irreparable harm and destruction to the industry.

It is difficult to explain to consumers who work a 40-hour week that the 22½ per cent increase in ETSA charges is not related to the industry, which elected 20 months previously to adopt a 37½-hour week. To the shame of the former Government, it did not retard that move; in fact, it encouraged it. The situation is now that the majority of taxpayers in this State are footing the bill for the previous Government's willingness to capitulate to union demands, South Terrace requests.

The campaign by metal workers would add up to anything like \$10 000 million to the wage bill and would force industry to restructure, and thereby increase unemployment levels. As a result of increased annual and sick leave, manufacturers claim (and, incidentally, unions acknowledge) that since the 40-hour week was introduced in 1947 there has been a 10 per cent reduction in working time and a 90 per cent increase in days off. I repeat: unless we remain competitive with our trading neighbours, consumers will go for cheaper products from overseas. In the mid-1970's, thousands of Australian metal workers lost their jobs when wages increased dramatically and duties were lowered. Cheap imported goods flooded the Australian market from low-wage Asian countries.

It is imperative that we maintain that competitive base. Federal leader of the A.L.P. Bill Hayden has criticised the campaign, but the South Australian A.L.P. has not. In fact, its June meeting endorsed the concept of the introduction of a 35-hour week. Apparently, the South Australian A.L.P. has not learnt the lesson from 15 September, and blindly it careered on to continued political oblivion and towards a campaign that can only lead to higher prices and fewer goods being sold here and on our overseas market. There is no doubt that it would harm the economy and the nation's standard of living.

Other factors generally taken for granted add significantly to the unit labour costs, such as pay-roll tax, long service leave, annual leave, holiday loadings, which in the year 1977-78 added an average of 30 per cent to those labour costs. Additionally, companies are finding that staff are spending increased amounts of time on providing information for Government agencies; the hosts of licences needed by companies, and the resultant penalties for failure to comply usually ensure that companies spend a large amount of funds on ensuring that their legal requirements are met. Between management working and wanting more detailed information to plan future decisions, and with the rapid expansion of

Government departments and agencies all requiring information, the result has been more reports, more forms and more expense for business. Therefore, is it any wonder that clerical staff have increased far out of proportion to production employees? Figures available indicate that in the United States in 1950 there was one clerk for every 2.5 workers.

Twenty years previously, there was one clerk for every 30 workers. In private industry in Australia in February 1979, there were 1 040 000 clerks to 1 830 000 tradesmen, or one clerk to every 1.76 production worker. It has been estimated that possibly 40 per cent of paperwork in a business is unnecessary. The cost to industry of this factor is enormous, and hence the State Government's review of unnecessary forms and regulations, which was widely welcomed by industry in this State.

Additionally, because of a relatively cautious disciplined business community, businessmen generally invest in low-risk ventures. Therefore, since the wages explosion of 1973-74, labour costs have been a major barrier to increased employment and economic recovery. Thereby, people have experienced difficulty in getting jobs and, with significant media coverage of the unemployment problem, a concept of having a job is prized, and this has led to inducing high rates of personal savings. We need to create a turning point to achieve expenditure of those savings which will, in turn, create jobs and investment prospects, and so the cycle gathers momentum.

The economy can become problem controlled rather than problem prone, if individuals, groups, and society as a whole seek to deal with universal difficulties. Where population growth is high, corresponding high rates of investment and growth tend to occur to maintain per capita income levels. In turn, the growth rate is dependent on inflation and labour-unit cost increases. Never let it be forgotten that politicians will lose elections for high inflation before high unemployment, because the former touches more people.

The Hon. D. J. Hopgood interjecting:

Mr. OLSEN: Indeed, we can refer to the 1977 Federal election, for the benefit of the member for Baudin, and I will refresh his memory by saying that the Australian Labor Party, in 1977, used the issue of unemployment as one of the key planks to the election programme.

The Hon. D. J. Hopgood: Was that the only issue in that election?

Mr. OLSEN: I said that it was the key plank in the A.L.P. election programme. The problem was that the A.L.P., at that time, as in September last year, was unable to interpret market surveys accurately. What the survey showed was that most Australians thought that unemployment was the major issue. What the A.L.P. forgot was that the survey showed, after in-depth analysis, that the people did not blame the Government for it, but blamed the unions, because of wage increases and claims on the economy of this country. So, the Opposition Leader at that time (Mr. Whitlam) went to the wall as, indeed, did the State Labor Party at the last election, because it was unable to accurately interpret market surveys in this State.

It was interesting to note the speech made last night by the member for Gilles, wherein he took great pride in referring to the recent *Bulletin* market survey results. He must have taken a crash course in analysing market survey results since 15 September, because the great satisfaction he derived from the results is short-lived. It is the trend behind the survey, not the base of the survey that is involved. I indicate that for the edification of the member for Gilles, and it might well be taken on board by the rest of the members of his Party. Hermann Kahn has said:

The point here is simply to recognise that while advanced

capitalist economies can provide their citizens with unparalleled affluence, as well as prospects for continued growth, such achievements cannot be without cost. In particular, groups in society cannot act as if they are entitled to support as a matter of right; society may agree to provide some floor on wages or some degree of welfare payments and unemployment insurance, but the amount of such benefits should, like other public policies, be the result of a political consensus throughout the society, and not simply among those seeking the benefits. Just as unemployment benefits arose in the first place as a result of adjustments decided upon in the wake of the travail of the Great Depression, a limitation on contemporary unemployment benefits and welfare systems is needed as an adjustment to the difficulties brought about by the persistent inflation of the 1970's.

Protectionism for our manufacturing sector has made it obsolete and uncompetitive. Unfortunately, a feeling of economic sufficiency has become an Australian hallmark for the early 1970's. During the last decade, society shifted from growth to modernisation and consolidation, and thus the desire for higher levels of protection for the manufacturing industry.

Additionally, new demands for welfare as a matter of right emerged, and also for continued protection, short-sighted as that demand is. The comfortable approach is to preserving the *status quo*, blind to the realities of the potential of our Asian neighbours. Meanwhile, the boom in individuality and leisure time has expanded into a number of new pursuits and concepts. Our former economic growth and high affluence have generated a feeling of prosperity and have given credence to the attitude that the days of hard work for Australia have passed and that the future leisure time is a right; as the bumper sticker says, "I'd rather be sailing."

Between 1947 and 1971, a period of rapid economic growth coincided with a high population growth and increased immigration. The average rate of increase of 2 per cent was high enough to contribute steadily to an expanding domestic market and labour supply, of which about a half per cent of that population growth was due to immigration levels. Because of the rise in unemployment, particularly the high rise in the 1974-5 period, the consensus was in favour of a more restrictive immigration policy, which has exacerbated the problem. Closely associated with that was South Australia's participation over those two decades in Australia's immigration programme. In lieu of the 2 per cent growth factor, we are now averaging less than 1 per cent. The basic choice, therefore, is lower growth coupled with lower immigration, or higher growth and higher immigration.

South Australia should actively participate in an expanding immigration policy. As I have said earlier, new Australians tend to embark on a vigorous pursuit of achievement, and believe more in the concept of a growth economy and participating in that growth. The clear warning to Australians is that we have been fortunate in the past, but we will need to roll up our sleeves to develop the vast resources of this State to maintain and provide the standard of living to which we have become accustomed.

Higher rates of economic growth in Australia historically have occurred with an expanding population and by developing new land and resources. It is interesting to note that, coupled with that, the figures which have just been released by the Federal Department of Industry and Commerce indicate a rekindling of South Australia's development prospects. There is a renewed confidence in this State for development. From major manufacturing and mining investment projects flow job opportunities and income to provide this State's service industries. The increasing demand on welfare services can be met only by

projects that inject significant income into the State's Budget.

A survey by the Department of Industry and Commerce shows a 1 036 per cent rise in combined manufacturing and mining investment in South Australia from October last through to May this year. The figures I have indicated from the Federal department combine only the committed and final feasibility projects, that is, those already under way or reasonably expected to commence within the next three years.

In manufacturing industry, the increase was 27.3 per cent, from \$110 000 000 to \$140 000 000. The mining industry showed a more significant increase of 1 621 per cent, from \$190 000 000 in October 1979 to \$3 270 000 000 in May 1980. Since that survey was released, two announcements have been made involving estimated expenditure of \$50 000 000 in off-shore oil exploration. Therefore, committed investment in the South Australian mining industry stands at \$3 320 000 000, an increase since October last of a massive \$3 130 000 000. South Australian projects included in that survey are the South Australian Brewing Company, \$21 000 000; Adelaide and Wallaroo Fertilizers, \$18 000 000; and General Motors-Holden's, \$2 300 000.

Mr. Keneally interjecting:

Mr. OLSEN: The member for Stuart questions the environmental impact. I referred earlier in my speech to the environmental change in South Australia in the 1970's. Had he been in the House at that time, he would have heard my commendation of the environmental protection measures, effected in the 1970's, to make this a better place in which to live.

During the years of the former Labor Government, wages had risen at a much higher rate than had productivity, whereas the Liberal approach is that market forces will react naturally and positively as excess inflation and wages are squeezed out of the system. Therefore, investment will pick up, as the figures to which I have just referred indicate. Competitiveness in Australian manufacturing will return, and therefore increased employment, export and growth rate levels that can be sustained in the long term will be achieved. The debate therefore centres on what price Australians are prepared to pay in the short term to gain long-term benefits for the nation and the individual. We need to exploit vigorously whatever opportunities exist.

If Australians want the benefit of an affluent society following the industrial society, they will have to work hard for it and maintain it through continued work effort. There is no substitute for that work effort. Prospects for the future are exciting, and should engender sober thought and resultant hard work. A vision is needed to provide Australian goals and objectives which are realistic, feasible, and thereby rewarding. We have to move away from the welfare syndrome.

It is interesting to note that social security welfare payments have risen to 28 per cent of Federal Budget outlays last year, representing \$8 144 000 000. For every person on benefits in 1968, there were approximately four taxpayers, whereas in 1978 there were approximately 2.5 taxpayers for every person on benefits. If that trend continues, how many taxpayers will be providing the welfare benefits in 1988 and 1998? We need to rekindle the self-help theme within our community.

As part of the new values we have in Australian society, we have not been prepared to sacrifice any reduction in services or goods, despite our redefinition of the work commitment. We are midway between the continuation of the old post-war faith of expanding horizons and economic growth, and the acceptance of new expectations, and we

have some apprehension of the future and what it holds for us—"apprehension" because of the uncertainty of the future. Perhaps this is the reason for the staggering increase in savings bank deposits in this country. I fear that we are more concerned about preserving what we have than about expanding our frontiers.

Mr. Keneally: A lot of people don't have any—

Mr. OLSEN: The only way they will have any prospect of achievement is for this State to open up new fields of endeavour, creating the wealth, and giving support systems to those people to whom the honourable member refers. Only by rekindling hope, removing despair, regenerating the excitement of challenge, disproving the insignificance of the individual's input, can we give a visible lead for society to the turn of the century and beyond. All sections of the community will have to respond positively; one section cannot do it alone. Equally, one section can give a lead and encouragement to develop a united Australia. I believe that the South Australian Government has that prospect at its feet, and I think it is taking up the challenge appropriately and most significantly.

There are a number of other factors that I refer to by talking about the standard of living. I mean not only physical wealth and possessions, but, more importantly, expanding horizons and opening up new fields of endeavour, the excitement of challenge in other areas, such as reducing social problems, for example, juvenile delinquency and drug abuse, because of the consequential disastrous effect on the individual and the community generally.

The number of offences committed by juveniles in South Australia has increased from 7 129 offences in 1967 to 17 526 offences in 1978, a 145 per cent increase. Likewise, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of drug offences in Australia, from 2 075 in 1970 to 19 948 in 1976, an 861 per cent increase. These are escalating social problems that each and every one of us, and certainly the Government, has an obligation to reverse.

A conscious effort to rebuild South Australia's productive capacity is the only real alternative to our loss of competitiveness in the past decade. From this changed social contrast between all groups will come accelerating economic growth, and thus an expectation of what each group can expect to receive. There is no doubt that revitalisation or reindustrialisation will be a difficult goal to achieve, but it is one worth striving for. Overseas countries, such as Japan, have come to economic decisions, with attitudes far more attuned to realistic opportunities available in the world economy during the remainder of this century.

There will have to be a total rethinking of Australia's attitude. Without the stimulus of new capital plant, productivity growth will decline, for an increase in the labour intensity of output is not a sign of vigour, but of decay. Taking growth for granted is no longer possible. If Australia tries to pretend otherwise, further economic decline and social disruption are inevitable, as various groups struggle for more and more of less and less. If we continue the economic decline of the early 1970's, no group will achieve its aspirations.

What is required is an environment that encourages growth rather than a multitude of new laws that strait-jacket initiative. Employers will have to renew the emphasis on long-term goals and risk taking, in lieu of short-term profit. The judgment will be on how well they manage growth. Government will have to scrutinise policies closely to ensure that it promotes rather than

impedes economic growth. For some sections of the community, this will mean substituting work for welfare benefits. Generally, I believe Australians will respond to such a challenge and will be prepared to make sacrifices, provided those sacrifices are equitably and fairly distributed right across the spectrum.

Perhaps it is true to say that the people distrust business, particularly on safety and environmental issues. However, they rate business high on ability to get things done, whereas most people believe that Governments are slow. Therefore, as the Tonkin Government has done, there is a necessity for Governments to get out of the road and off the back of the business community. This new direction of Australian society will require an investment towards higher production of capital goods over further quality of life improvements, and more investment and less consumption.

In the past, the requirement of a cleaner environment has diverted vast amounts of capital from production, research and development, and there needs to be a balance.

In summary, there need to be new attitudes to remove the uncompetitive nature of many sections of our industry. We have to look clearly at the protectionist policies applying in Australia. For example, coastal shipping laws have made it 44 per cent more expensive to transport steel from Port Kembla on the east coast to Fremantle on the west coast than from Japan through to Fremantle. Taking the same points from a different angle, the Industries Assistance Commission estimated that Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited, Australia's main steel producer, spends between \$20 000 000 and \$25 000 000 a year more to transport iron ore and coal around the coast in Australian ships than it would cost using those sailing under foreign flags of convenience. Since every benefit has a cost, one commentary looked at the numbers and posed the question whether this degree of protection, which it valued at between \$15 000 and \$19 000 a person a year to keep 1 300 seamen employed in the B.H.P. fleet, might not be better spent in some other way.

In addition, we need specific measures, that single rifle shot, to pinpoint the unemployment problem. We have to remove high expectations prevalent within the community. We have to increase the gross domestic product, the output of this country. The welfare state has been too costly. We need to substitute job opportunities for the welfare state. We need to develop our mineral exports and our natural resources and re-establish our competitive position, ensure that wage increases are realistic, and look at the long-term objectives and counter them with short-term claims. We must put the 35-hour week in its proper perspective in relation to its costs to industry. The Government needs to look at the regulations and cost to industry, removing inhibitive regulations.

We need to look at the immigration policies applying in Australia today and see whether they are still appropriate or whether we ought not to have an expanding immigration policy. Mining projects and productivity are areas in which the Governor's Speech highlighted the new direction of Government in South Australia, a new direction for a future which has prospects for all South Australians and in which this State will be a better place to live in a decade from now. We must establish the base for the twenty-first century.

Mr. LANGLEY (Unley): I have just listened to the member for Rocky River and, as usual, I heard about the unions, again. It appears that the Government at all times hates unions, even though it says it does not. I am not sure about the honourable member, but not too many members

on the Government side have not been members of a union at some time; they most likely paid for and expected benefits from union activities. It does not really matter to me one way or another, but why do they bash unions all the time?

Mr. Olsen: If you listened to the full text of my speech, you'll know that I didn't.

Mr. LANGLEY: If it is not the member for Rocky River, it is someone else.

Mr. Olsen: I'd be pleased if you put the emphasis in the right place.

Mr. LANGLEY: I still say that the member for Rocky River would most likely have been a member of some organisation from which he could accept some benefit. He would not be doing it otherwise. I am saying that each time Government members speak they talk about uranium or they bash the unions.

An honourable member: Tell us what union you were a member of.

Mr. LANGLEY: I used to be a member of the Electrical Trades Union and I was proud of it. I paid my dues and I took the benefits. However, some people who do not pay into unions are ready to take the benefits from them. In my opinion this should not happen. It is written into some of the awards, I think in Western Australia, that a worker has to be a paid up member of a union before he can get a rise.

Mr. Randall: How else would they get benefits?

Mr. LANGLEY: The honourable member is disturbed about things like this, because of what happened to him. He has condemned everyone since. Only the other day he was talking about satellites and things like that. I happened to be a member of the A.B.C. committee that was talking about things similar to those the honourable member spoke about the other day. We are a bit more advanced in this matter. At the moment 4 000 satellites are near the equator, so there is not room for many more. We will have to do something soon in the realm of outback broadcasting, and I believe something will happen soon. I am sure whoever is the Government of the day will do something about it.

Mr. Randall: The present Federal Government is doing something now.

Mr. LANGLEY: The Federal Government is doing nothing at all. At the moment it is in the committee stage and it is trying to find out the best way to open up the outback.

Mr. Randall interjecting:

Mr. LANGLEY: The honourable member is entitled to his opinions, as I am entitled to mine concerning the Minister of Health. Have you ever heard anything like what happened today? The Royal Adelaide Hospital is not in my district but it does look after people from all suburbs and most likely from the country as well. I do not think the question involved was a Dorothy Dixier but it was close to such a question because the Minister wanted to get out of trouble. I expected such a question; I was surprised that she did not make a Ministerial statement, because that seems to be fashionable amongst Ministers these days.

I do not have my copy of the relevant letter. I think all members received a notice from, I think, the Minister of Industrial Affairs, stating that we must correspond with a Minister, not with departmental heads. When I had a question about health matters I naturally wrote to the Minister of Health. I received a jolly good answer, I must admit; it has caused a lot of trouble. The funny thing about the matter is that it is true. I can vouch for that. The Minister of Health is in charge of hospitals and of all health matters in South Australia, and she should be

responsible. Today, the Minister tried to sidetrack the issue. If the Minister did not agree with the Royal Adelaide Hospital Board because she did not agree with something it was doing, surely she should have had a word to say to the board members about it.

In this case the Minister has got right away from the fact that she has no control over these people; they are controlling her. The Minister is not taking the blame in any way at all for what has happened. I should have thought the honourable member might have asked the Minister whether she liked to have a biscuit with her cup of morning tea. After all, people in hospital look forward to this. It is penny pinching to cut out biscuits.

Members cannot say that the Minister of Health has not caused this, because she cut down on money to the hospitals. There is no doubt about it. Outside my district is one of the most famous hospitals in the world, a hospital that looks after people from all over the State—it is the Home for Incurables, which is recognised by people as being the best in the southern hemisphere. What have we there?

Mr. Slater: Salada crackers.

Mr. LANGLEY: I believe that mice have started to run around after the biscuits. The Minister did not attend the annual meeting of the hospital. I usually attend that meeting and I was there on that occasion. Mr. Irwin has been the President of the hospital for many years and a plaque was erected because of the wonderful work he had done for the hospital. I know that all Ministers are busy—in fact, all members are busy. However, the Minister was not present because he was labouring in his office, so it was said. That is all right. What happened a day or two later? The Minister of Health opened a painting exhibition. Where are her priorities? That is not for me to say.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member for Unley does not need the assistance of the honourable member for Napier.

Mr. LANGLEY: We got the message that something would happen when it was stated that there would be cuts in health and welfare, and there is no doubt that something has happened. The next thing we heard was that cuts were to be made in South Australian hospital funds, and there is no doubt that that has happened. The situation in regard to hospitals has become worrying over the years. Then, Sir Norman Young retired from the R.A.H. board. I do not know why he retired; he was a brilliant businessman. Perhaps he was not satisfied with what was going on; perhaps it was over a cup of tea. However, something happened.

Naturally, costs have risen, as everyone knows. A letter has been lent to me by the member for Spence; this was in reply to a letter he wrote to the Minister about this topic. The letter received by him is similar to mine, but it is in regard to the Hillcrest Hospital. It states:

Dear Mr. Abbott,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June regarding the issue of biscuits to patients at Hillcrest Hospital. This matter has been discussed with the Administrative Officer, Hillcrest Hospital, and I am informed that the decision to discontinue the issue of biscuits to patients and staff was made some time ago as a cost-saving measure.

In my letter dieticians and sweet biscuits were also mentioned. The letter continued:

It was considered, as it has been in other health institutions, as a positive means of reducing expenditure without any undue effect on patient care. It will be of interest for you to know that savings amounting to \$12 000 per

annum have been achieved at Hillcrest Hospital by this action, and in excess of \$60 000 per annum has been saved at the Royal Adelaide Hospital by similar measures.

I should like to assure you that the appropriate daily nutritional intake for all patients is monitored by the dietetic staff. Their activities are directed towards providing a healthy lifestyle for the patients with the food component an integral part of this programme.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) JENNIFER ADAMSON, Minister of Health

Surely the Minister is in charge of the health scheme; she has now passed the buck to someone else—the hospital board. I reiterate that surely the Minister is in constant touch with the board on matters such as this. As she said today, the action was taken to save costs, and the biscuit cutting was not her idea, anyway. In future, if I want to know something about the R.A.H., I will write to the board, because the Minister blames the board for this type of thing. That is not good enough.

The member for Spence informed me about one of his constituents who is at Hillcrest and who is a pensioner. The hospital takes almost all of that person's pension as board. That person believes that he is paying for biscuits out of his poverty pension cheque, and that the Government is stealing some of his pension. I do not doubt that is correct. After all, these sick people love to have a cup of tea and a biscuit, as do members opposite. That is part of a person's life. If a person visits a home, the wife usually says, "Would you like a cup of tea?"

Mr. Hemmings: Or coffee.

Mr. LANGLEY: That is a minor point. People may like a piece of cake. A saving of even \$100 000 a year has to be considered in relation to the overall size of the health budget. The Labor Government, when in office, did something for the pensioners—it gave them rate remissions, for instance. I have been in Opposition and in Government, and I can assure members that a Liberal Government has never done anything to help pensioners in matters such as this. The Labor Government remission was 50 per cent and then 60 per cent on water rates, and I hope it will not be taken away from pensioners.

I am more worried every day about further cutbacks. Hospitals are very important. All members will know that the Modbury Hospital experienced cuts, and I can go further: the Queen Victoria Hospital, at which many people have been brought into the world, is a valuable asset to people of this State because it is almost in the centre of the city and people from many areas have access to it. I do not know where the cuts will end. It is hard for people who are hospitalised because of the way the Commonwealth Government has hit them financially in relation to Medibank. People who take home \$150 a week and have two or three children find it hard to pay health contributions. Something must be done; we cannot continue in this way.

Members can afford to pay for things like this, but we must consider those who cannot. Those people must be looked after. I know that this is not a State matter, but it has come to the stage where everyone is worried about health care, and something must be done. Promises have been made and broken, especially lately. The Commonwealth Government stated that it would not scrap Medibank, but it has.

I assure honourable members that this type of business is not helping the people of this country or the people of this State, and something must be done about this in the very near future.

Having made those remarks on the hospital set-up, I hope that in future the Minister will be able to let me know

whether she has a cup of tea at morning and afternoon tea time. Also, she can inform me to whom I must write if a health matter arises in the future. I hope that, to whichever hospital I must go, the Minister allows me to go to the person concerned. These matters involve much penny-pinching, and they have not done the Minister any good. I was told that they all knew about it and I had many calls received at my office concerning the matter. That goes to show that people outside, including me, did not know that.

Although I have not been to the Adelaide Hospital recently, this penny-pinching has occurred, and it is not doing the Government any good at all. If members opposite do not agree with me, then they are entitled to get up and speak about it. I would be interested to hear their ideas on this matter of preventing patients in hospitals from having a cup of tea twice a day.

Mr. Hemmings interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LANGLEY: I would not say that. If anybody is sick, I think we should be sympathetic. Surely, the person concerned has some rights. I have an article here by a dietician; I am not sure whether I referred to it. However, the fact is that is not good enough. I am glad to see that the Minister is now present.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: The tea has not been cut off, and you know it.

Mr. LANGLEY: I do not know it. The Minister can interject as much as she likes; I have the letter. The Minister, who knows that the tea has been cut off, was not game enough to go into it in any way at all. Surely, the Minister has some control of her staff. However, I am sure that the Minister has not.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I suggest that the Member for Unley address all his remarks to the Chair, and that the Minister of Health not interject.

Mr. LANGLEY: Thank you, Sir, for your protection. I am sorry that I breached the Chair. I will leave that subject. I refer now to a subject that is likely to be a thorn in the side of the Government, namely, the subject of employment and pay-roll tax. I have often heard the Leader talking about taxes concerning this State and, luckily, I was able to gain some knowledge from our Premier concerning State taxes. I refer now to a press report headed "Pay-roll tax stupid—Tonkin" in the *Advertiser* of 11 April 1980. I am giving Mr. Tonkin credit for this, simply because I think that every State needs it and that it is part and parcel of balancing the Budget. However, I do not think that that will be done this coming year. The newspaper report to which I have referred states:

The South Australian Premier said yesterday that he favoured tax on sales rather than the stupid pay-roll tax. Further, Mr. Tonkin told the London Chamber of Commerce that something like Britain's value-added tax was far more sensible.

In spite of all the things that the Premier has done in relation to succession duties and things like that, one can see that in the future, outside of all the taxes that have fallen upon us recently—

The Hon. W. E. Chapman interjecting:

Mr. LANGLEY: I understand what I am saying; the Minister can misconstrue it if he wants to. I know that increased water rate charges and things like that are going into the Government coffers. I know what is going on, because the Premier has said on several occasions that taxes would be increased. The former Labor Government also taxed people further. I do not disagree with that, but

this value-added tax is outside the normal taxation that is occurring now.

I do not think the Minister is a chartered accountant, and he can have the opportunity to speak if he so desires. However, I can see that the Premier now has something in his mind as a means of obtaining further taxation and to make up for the things that he did. In relation to succession duties, the only people whom the Premier helped were the rich. I assure members that no more than 85 per cent of people, if it was that many, would have to pay succession duties. Furthermore, 15 per cent would pay very little. However, 5 per cent were going to be hit. Who were they? They were the rich ones who could afford to pay the taxes.

The Government must get money from somewhere and I think the Premier has something up his sleeve to save the Budget this time. When his scheme does hit, there will be much rebelling among the people of this State. During his speech the Premier said that he would not do these types of things and that it would involve essential matters only. However, I can see that something else is going to move him very quickly.

I do not want to be termed a knocker, but I assure members opposite that there is no-one better at this than the Premier. Most of the times when in Opposition he got up to ask questions, within a few minutes he was knocking South Australia. Now, he is asking us to do the opposite. Of course, everyone in this State and country is worried about unemployment. Recently, the Premier spoke in this House for 10 minutes about the unemployment situation. However, I am not sure that his plans will eventuate. The fact is that the situation is no better. At no stage did the Premier mention the number of people losing jobs. I am sure that members opposite have had coming to their offices people who are concerned about being put out of work and who are asking for work.

The Labor Party had the SURS scheme. Although the Liberal Party did not want it, it did a lot of good work in my district and probably in many members' districts—one of the things about it was that it employed people who paid their taxes, and it would be a good idea if the Commonwealth Government put the money back into the State coffers so that we could employ more people. However it did not do so.

That was very poor. We would more likely have done better by it. Just to refute what the Premier has said, I quote from a press cutting dated 12 December 1979 which states "80 more jobs to go". Another 50 were stood down at Bedford Industries, and they were physically handicapped. The closing of Bowden Ford threw 55 out of work, and four lost jobs in a bakery take-over. In my district, I noticed a small businessman today who was selling bread for eight cents a loaf off. He was holding a scribbling pad, but I do not know why. The Opie Bakery in my district was family owned, and it was one of the few such bakeries.

The Hon. W. E. Chapman: What about Lovell's?

Mr. LANGLEY: Lovell's has been taken over. The Minister should check, and he will find that out. We have been led to believe that we are going ahead like no-one's business as regards employment and are doing better, but statistics do not bear that out. If only one person in a household is unemployed, who has to carry him? The family does. Even the other day the bakeries were selling to the big stores at reduced prices, leaving the small store proprietor to pay the full price. After bread discounting, two big bakeries have now requested a price rise. Where do we go?

The Hon. W. E. Chapman: Do you think we should have price control?

Mr. LANGLEY: I have always voted for price control,

whereas the member for Mitcham never believed in it. Even when in Government, he did not approve of it.

Mr. Ashenden: What's a fair price for a loaf of bread?

Mr. LANGLEY: I am not in the bread-carting game. Why should the bakeries want price rises at a time when they are selling at discount prices? The big stores buy in bulk. I thought that members opposite protected the small businessman, but that is the wrong way to go about it. If it is good for the big chains to buy bread for 50c, it should be all right for the small store as well.

The Hon. W. E. Chapman: Tell us about agriculture.

Mr. LANGLEY: I know nothing about agriculture, in answer to the Minister, and I do not think that he knows much about it, either. What was happening two or three years ago is still happening today, because school-leavers will find it difficult to obtain employment in the future. I hope that our unemployment problem will be solved at some stage so that our employment figures will change. The Premier has promised this would happen, and I hope that he is right. However, it is not happening.

We have heard many conflicting remarks from the Deputy Premier on many occasions concerning uranium. He has made several errors, and has had to rescind what he has said. Remember what happened when he blamed one of his own staff? He should realise that, if you are in charge of your department, you are responsible for it. His remarks about certain Opposition members have been disgraceful. It does him no credit to say things such as "stew in your own juice".

Another matter that happened recently is reported in the *Advertiser* under the heading "It certainly smacks of intimidation" reported by industrial reporter Bill Rust. When the Minister reads this tomorrow, he might say that it is incorrect. The report states:

A circular to Government departments over Monday's proposed 24-hour stoppage by State Government officers smacked of intimidation, it was claimed today.

We know what that means, and I am sure that the Minister, too, knows. The report continues:

The Acting General Secretary of the Public Service Association (Mr. K. Mayes) said the Public Service Board circular stated that section 147 of the South Australian Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act made it illegal for public servants to strike.

The report also states:

Department officers were to prepare lists of all employees absent on Monday and refer them immediately to the board.

This was a strong suggestion of intimidation.

If this is correct, it has not been refuted by any Minister or anyone else. Is this the way the Government intends to carry on—if people stay away, they will not be promoted? We still have freedom of choice. We have read much concerning the Public Service Board over a period, and there have been many changes. In many cases, the changes have been politically motivated, and some of our best people have lost their job.

Regarding the mineral boost announced by the Deputy Premier, when you look at the millions of dollars we spend, we are selling our State. Only recently, the Premier sold some of our assets to an American company Golden Breed. It will not be long, if we do not watch carefully, before we are left with nothing. This sort of thing is not helping the people of this State. These projects take years to build up.

A report appeared in the *Advertiser* of 14 February 1980 under the heading "Coal will fuel future". If that is the case, we have large deposits of coal in South Australia and throughout Australia. If it is to be the principal energy source in the future, why is the Deputy Premier continuing to promote nuclear power? Surely, the Premier will take

issue with his Deputy and ensure that this vexed question of uranium and our assets will not be as beneficial as people believe. Uranium is a harmful substance, and no-one could convince me that it is safe in any form.

I now turn to another matter. We have heard of one small shop where bread has been sold at eight cents a loaf below the recognised price. Recently, the Minister of Industrial Affairs and the Minister of Community Welfare spoke to the parties involved in the bread war, and they said that no-one would be able to discount prices by more than five cents. I have been given a case of a discount of eight cents. Everyone involved is furious about all this, and they do not know which way to turn. I am sure members will know of bakeries that are being taken over, and we know of price rises. The employees of Opie Bros. do not know where they are, and they do not know how safe their jobs will be.

When the Olympic athletes were about to leave for the games, the Prime Minister tried to swing a vote that had already been taken. He would not abide by the umpire's decision. Anyone who saw the Olympic Games, the opening and closing ceremonies, and the various events on television would have to give credit for the way in which the event was organised.

Mr. Randall: And you're going to give us a rerun.

Mr. LANGLEY: I am sure the honourable member must agree that it was one of the greatest sporting events of all time. I do not know whether the Prime Minister is a sportsman, and I do not know whether he played marbles with Lady Docker, but he does not know very much about sport. The contribution of the Commonwealth Government to sport in this country is shocking. The Government gets revenue from sales tax on sports equipment. The tax can be up to 15 per cent, and the Government collects that tax, but little is ploughed back into sport. A cricket bat 10 years ago cost about £2/7/-, but now you would be lucky to get one for \$140. With our summer and winter seasons, it is possible for one person to play two different sports, although, because of the training involved, it is difficult for professionals to be at the top of the tree in more than one sport.

Mr. Fraser tried to reverse the vote about athletes going to the Olympic Games. When he was unsuccessful, he made another attack on the athletes, most of whom are not politically minded. I recall the comments of a young lady in Queensland—and I do not give her much praise for them—that the gold medals won at the games were tarnished, and she rubbished the girl who had won a medal. She herself had had the opportunity to go, but she had not gone. One paper published her photograph, and I think it should be condemned for doing so. It was a deplorable situation. The Prime Minister belatedly sent a telegram to the first group of athletes to win a gold medal.

Mr. Randall: What did the telegram say?

Mr. LANGLEY: I do not know. I would have said simply, "Congratulations on your fine victory. You are a credit to Australia." Mrs. Hill, a South Australian competitor, scored 596 out of a possible 600, which was a fine effort, but she did not receive a telegram from the Prime Minister. However, Mr. Fraser knew that his popularity had been waning over this issue, because few people favoured what he had done about the Olympic Games, so when the next gold medal was won by Australia he sent another telegram. Now, according to the press, he has sent a letter to everyone who did not compete. How is that for a sporting man? He went further at one stage. Money was to have been spent for one athlete to travel overseas, but that person did not go. I seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. M. M. WILSON (Minister of Transport): I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

Dr. BILLARD (Newland): On Tuesday of last week I moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, with an address on the subject of uranium. I hoped with that address to stimulate some positive discussion of the benefits or otherwise of the uranium industry. I hoped to hear something from Opposition members about their point of view, because this is an important issue for the people of South Australia over at least the next five years or 10 years. I have been disappointed in the time that has elapsed, with the sort of response that has resulted from the other side.

Members interjecting:

Dr. BILLARD: There has been no answer to the arguments I presented. My argument that the nuclear industry is safer than the coal-fired power industry has not been answered. The argument that the nuclear industry is essential for electricity generation in the coming decades has not been answered, and all we have had has been the emotionalism that is typical of the debate and the questions that have come from the Opposition during the life of this Parliament.

Mr. Whitten interjecting:

Dr. BILLARD: I am prepared to change my mind if arguments are put up which can convince me that we should not participate in that industry. However, the overwhelming evidence at the moment, which has not been refuted, is that the nuclear industry is by far the safer of the alternatives.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Dr. BILLARD: Following my contribution, we had a partial reply from the Leader of the Opposition, who sought to clarify his position somewhat and, in my view, only succeeded in muddying the waters. We are now left with the situation in which the Leader of the Opposition (and I presume in that respect he represents the Labor Party) has stated that he wants it put on the record firmly and clearly that he is not and never has been opposed to the development of Roxby Downs. From that, we might understand that that is his reassurance to South Australians, that he would encourage that development. However, he also said that his Party was opposed to the development of uranium in the present situation, and that it was clearly and firmly opposed to the nuclear industry and uranium mining in the present situation. The only way that I can see that he can reconcile those two statements is if we assume there is no uranium at Roxby Downs, and that clearly is not the case.

If the Leader of the Opposition believes that we can proceed with the development of Roxby Downs without mining uranium, he should say so and he should explain to the public of South Australia exactly how he would propose that that could be done. We know that that is technologically impossible. Uranium is intimately bound up with the copper and other minerals that are present in that ore body, and it is technically impossible to mine Roxby Downs without mining uranium. We have heard from Western Mining, which is the company operating that project, that the whole project would be uneconomic if it was to mine the uranium and then stockpile it and presumably put it back into the ground, so we know that that is not on. How can the Leader of the Opposition say, on the one hand, that he is in favour of the development of

Roxby Downs and, on the other hand, that he is opposed to uranium mining?

At present the jobs of 90 people depend on that project, and within a short period of time there will be 170 jobs there. By the time that project comes on stream there will be several thousand jobs available. That project is vital to South Australia, and the people of South Australia know it; it played sufficiently significant a part in the last State election for us to be able to claim a mandate to proceed with that project.

The Leader of the Opposition may have had three possibilities in his mind when he made the statements that he made. First, he may in fact believe that that project, which would be to mine uranium in South Australia at Roxby Downs, should not proceed. If that is so, his views are in conflict with the wishes of the people of South Australia, and with their best interests. If that is so, he should say so. Secondly, it is possible that he really does want to proceed with that development and with the mining of uranium at Roxby Downs and is simply making these other statements to placate those interests within his own Party that are opposed to that development. If that is true, he is perpetrating a fraud on his own Party, and he should say that clearly. The third possibility is that he really believes that it is possible to develop Roxby Downs and not to mine the uranium. As we have already heard, that is technically impossible.

I believe that the Leader of the Opposition owes it to the people of South Australia to make his position quite clear. If people who know a little bit about the subject cannot understand from his statements what he really means, I believe that the onus is on him to make it clear so that all South Australians know what he intends, or what he would intend if the Labor Party were returned at the next election. We can in fact read beyond the statements of the Leader of the Opposition to the statements that have been made by other members of the Labor Party on this issue.

As I intimated in my speech last week the general trend has been one of denigration, of magnifying any dangers associated with the nuclear industry and generally of operating in an attempt to hold back that development. If that is what members opposite believe is the situation, they are perfectly entitled to their views but the Leader of their Party should come out clearly and say that they intend to hold back that project, to slow it down or to stop it. What we have had is what I referred to in my original speech as the emotional arguments that have been put, and I cite by way of example the comments of the member for Napier yesterday. The scientific authority quoted by the member for Napier was a journalist who, in turn, got some of his figures from a Professor Sternglass, who has himself been disowned by his colleagues as a man who has become so obsessed with his mission to kill the nuclear industry that he admits that he has no time for objectivity, and that is a primary basis of action for scientific inquiry. It is no wonder then that his scientific colleagues have disowned his results, and it is these results that were quoted.

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

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury): I wish to raise a couple of matters in regard to the Minister of Transport, and I am pleased to see to see that the Minister is in the House. I expect that in response to issues I raise I can receive a more coherent and rational response than I received from another Minister earlier today and this week.

The first matter I want to raise is in regard to school bus

passes, something I have already written to the Minister about and received a reply. The reply I had from the Minister disappoints me a little, and I ask that he reconsider the matter. To recap for the benefit of members, members will be aware that on 17 August the cost of school bus passes, regardless of the number of sections, is to go up by 100 per cent from \$3 to \$6. After this announcement was made by the Minister quite a few constituents in my electorate contacted me about this matter, indicating that this was an unfair burden and increase, particularly for students who travel only one section.

Parents of children attending Salisbury Primary School and the Salisbury Lutheran Kindergarten approached me in considerable numbers. They argued the case that it was necessary for their children to travel the short distance by bus rather than walk because of the hazard to pedestrians along the routes they had to follow. Indeed, the particular roads in question are hazardous to adults as well as to children, and therefore it was necessary that they take the bus. It was not possible, in most cases, for them to provide transport in their cars.

They felt that given that other fares had increased by about 25 per cent, on average, it was unfair that this section of fares should rise by 100 per cent. Not wishing to make a major political issue of this matter, I chose not to make a release about it but instead to write to the Minister, and I wish to raise some of the points that I raised in my letter, which was dated 1 August. The letter stated, in part:

Six dollars is expensive for such a short distance. It should be mentioned here that the distance involved traverses numerous roads that carry quite heavy volumes of traffic and are thus hazards to pedestrians; parents prefer their children to travel in safety rather than walk the three to four kilometres.

I mentioned that the absence of concessional fares or a second rate of fares for short distance school bus pass travellers was in some element discriminatory against those passengers. I added the point that, naturally, short distance passengers cannot expect to pay tariffs entirely proportionate to the distance compared to long distance travellers, but in this instance some concession would seem appropriate.

I worked out some statistics in regard to the number of children involved. Concerning the Salisbury Primary School group of children, I found that, from one area alone, 14 children were transported this three to four kilometres each day. Over a month, their parents collectively would pay \$84 to the State Transport Authority. I worked out an average of 40 trips and calculated that, each day, the State Transport Authority would benefit to the tune of \$2.10 a trip.

Taking that information and combining it with the information in the answer to my Question on Notice last session (No. 394), I found that that amount is about equal to the cost of running a bus for that period. Therefore, the students, paying what is termed a concessional fare, are in fact meeting the cost of running the bus to take them to school. That does not seem to be concessional. The concept of public transport, as the Minister said the other day, is a subsidised form of transport.

The Minister, in his reply to me, initially rejected my submission (and I hope that he will reconsider his decision) and suggested that his calculations were based on 30 rides a month, not 40. I do not know why he used that figure, but, taking the figure 30, the revenue per trip is \$2.80, which turns a marginally profitable situation into a clearly profitable one. One of the points the Minister makes in his reply is that the authority receives no

reimbursement for carrying children at less than half the adult fare. In fact, most children who travel on concessional passes travel on buses at times when there is a reasonable amount of passenger traffic, so the services can be considered as the profitable runs of the S.T.A., and indeed this applies in the case of the 14 students that I mentioned. They are not the only passengers on the bus; there are other passengers as well, who also pay into the S.T.A. coffers.

So, the services in question would be regarded as profitable, and it would not be expected that the students would unnecessarily reduce the revenue to the S.T.A. by paying fees that are less than \$6. The parents who approached me argue that, if other fares go up 25 per cent, student fares should go up accordingly, not 100 per cent. On the other hand, the Minister replied that, while he acknowledges that there was a 100 per cent increase, he also stated that it was only a 10c rise, in common with adult fares.

However, for families who send their children to school, every day of the school year, on a bus, 10c a ride can become a significant amount. If there is more than one child at school (and the Minister also talks about families with a large number of children), the burden can be significant.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: That is why most children's fares didn't go up at all.

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: The small section fares went up 100 per cent; we are not disputing that. I ask the Minister to reconsider this matter and not expect those school distance bus pass travellers who travel only one section to actually subsidise the cost of running the bus as compared to other passengers. I hope that the Minister will reconsider his decision before 17 August, which is not far away but may be time enough.

Another matter to which I refer also involves the Minister of Transport. I refer to the proposed traffic lights at the head of the Salisbury Highway, Waterloo Corner Road and Park Terrace intersection. This intersection has been the scene of numerous traffic accidents over many years and has caused a great deal of local disquiet, not only among constituents but also from the local council, with some degree of justification.

My predecessor approached the Minister of Transport, asking for lights to be installed at the earliest possible date. The initial response was that a Highways Department traffic count did not justify lights. My predecessor pressed the matter yet again, and a second Highways Department traffic count found that there was a need for the lights; he proposed that lights be installed. In a letter dated 10 August 1978, the Minister acknowledged that the traffic volume justified the lights and stated that such signals could not be installed until the 1979-80 financial year. That year has now passed.

He followed up the matter by telephoning the office of the Minister of Transport and he was told by the Minister's officers that the lights would be installed in December 1979. I draw attention to the fact that December 1979 has also passed. What has not arrived, while the other dates have gone, is the traffic lights. Therefore, I am very concerned about the matter. My office rang the Minister's office early this week, and we were informed that the matter was still under study. What more study has to be done? There have already been two Highways Department traffic counts and an acknowledgement by a previous Minister that lights are justified; a date has even been set for their installation. Why have they not been put in?

Accidents are happening at that intersection. People have to wait a long time, particularly at peak hours, and they find the situation intolerable. I am led to suggest that

some of the more nervous drivers should take their Christmas presents in their cars because they will still be there at Christmas time. It is a dangerous situation and I ask the Minister to delay on the matter no longer and to have the lights installed at the earliest opportunity.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: Hasn't the new section of road made any difference to the accident rate?

Mr. LYNN ARNOLD: It has made a reduction, but that modification of the design was done before the acknowledgement that the lights would go in in December. Despite that, accidents still occur, and there are still delays to traffic from Salisbury North trying to enter Salisbury town centre. Cars wait excessive lengths of time during peak hours, perhaps 20 to 25 minutes. There are shorter delays, but they are significant, in regard to traffic going into the Salisbury centre from the Salisbury Highway. I know that my constituents are agitated about the situation, as is the local council and, as I said before, the delay is quite unnecessary and unjustified. The earlier the Minister replies, the better.

I now refer to another set of lights, because I heard a rumour that it was proposed that more lights be installed on Waterloo Corner Road. I would appreciate any information that the Minister can give in regard to this matter.

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

Mr. RANDALL (Henley Beach): It is interesting to stand in this House and to reflect on what has happened during the past hours of debate. I look back with delight in regard to some contributions, but I shudder to think about our future if the Party opposite comes to power, considering some of the speeches made by members opposite. I also believe that some members opposite have made worthwhile contributions. I now refer specifically to the member for Albert Park. He and I have had an ongoing debate across the House during the week. I suppose I am having the last say for this week, but my remarks will probably not be the last in this issue. An eminent Jewish philosopher, Martin Buber, once stated:

Education means teaching people to see the reality around them, to understand it for themselves. Propaganda is exactly the opposite. It tells the people, "You will think like this, as we want you to think!" Education lifts the people up. It opens their ears and develops their minds so that they can discover the truth and make it their own.

Propaganda, on the other hand, closes their hearts and stunts their minds. It compels them to accept dogmas without asking themselves, "Is that true or not?"

That sums up very well the point that I want to make in conclusion. This Jewish philosopher, Martin Buber, quite well sums up the point I have been endeavouring to make, namely, that today we have many union magazines which are there for the benefit and information of and distribution among union members. My criticism is that these magazines have now become political and in most instances contain more than 50 per cent political material. When I pick up the Labor Party paper, the *Herald*, I am quite pleased (even though I find it difficult to read some articles) to accept that this is a Labor Party's propaganda machine paper. I expect to read in it what the Labor Party is doing for its members.

I realise that that is the correct place for such information. However, other union members and I detest picking up our own monthly union magazines and reading in them nothing more than political propaganda. I have an A.G.W.A. newsletter which was referred to in the House last evening. One can see therein political propaganda used to manipulate the members. Bearing in mind that, if

if this journal is put in front of people without giving them an opportunity to formulate their own opinions, it is mind degrading and not a true reflection of what our society should be today.

Surely, if a union believes it has a case to argue it can put forward the truth, and allow the Opposition to put forward its viewpoint. Surely, too, the union members can be left to make up their own minds. However, the Labor Party believes that it must tell its members what the position is. The newsletter states:

Our Government's method—

I notice that it says "Our Government's method"—

of dealing with the highest unemployment in Australia is to use taxpayers' money to prop up their Liberal campaign backers in private enterprise by dismantling Government services and handing over those services to their mates in the private sector. They say we haven't mentioned their "no retrenchment policy".

The article continues to elaborate on what they believe "retrenchment" means. The Minister of Industrial Affairs quite clearly spelt out in this House our Party's policy in relation to this matter. He did so time and time again this week, and it will be spelt out time and time again that the Liberal Party has a no-retrenchment policy; that we aim to transfer jobs when it is necessary.

Referring to the A.G.W.A. newsletter yesterday, the Minister of Industrial Affairs said that the United Trades and Labor Council was present with him and Government members during negotiations and that they knew full well what the Government's attitude was, yet we do not see a true reflection of this in the A.G.W.A. newsletter.

The member for Albert Park has highlighted what he believes the responsibility of what trade unions should be. The honourable member, who picked up my point about this magazine issue, believes that trade unions should be involved in a struggle for improved living standards for their members. I do not deny him the right to believe that; that is his belief. I believe that the trade unions are there to serve their members on work issues and employment issues, not in general social affairs. For the other areas we have political Parties and other interest groups like "Green Peace" and all sorts of groups which are serving the community well in relation to certain matters. It is not a union's responsibility to use its members' money to make political points.

We talked last evening about the money that unions have and preserve. Reference was made to this in the member for Glenelg's speech, to which I listened with interest. We have not heard the last there, either.

The member for Albert Park believes that the level of union activity on these questions should be determined by members; that it should be remembered who has the real power in our society. He believes the power is not with the union members, but with other bodies. I put it to the member for Albert Park that if the union is run by members it has the members' interests at heart and is looking after the will of the members. Unfortunately, today the unions are not a true reflection of the members' interests.

Mr. Hamilton: You are really pathetic.

Mr. RANDALL: No doubt the member for Albert Park is upset. Later, I hope the member for Albert Park can put forward his viewpoint. I ask him to listen to my point of view. The member for Albert Park alluded to the fact that non-union members also get pay rises when union members get pay rises. He also states that the A.C.T.U. has never argued that non-union members should not get the benefits won by the union. He says that unions generally do not oppose *bona fide* conscientious objectors to unionism, no matter how illogical the conscientious objection may be.

I believe it is the responsibility of the average working man to join his union and participate in the union's affairs, and I do not think the member for Albert Park would disagree with me on that point. I believe, also, that workers should have the choice of whether to join a union. If they believe it will do some good for them, they will be attracted to join it. Accordingly, the union will look after them, and hopefully they will participate in their union's affairs.

I am concerned when I remember what it meant to me being a union member when the Whitlam Government was in power. In those days, when any union negotiation was carried out it always had a little clause at the end that said that award conditions would be applicable only to union members, and that only union members were beneficiaries of that award. The member for Albert Park says that the A.C.T.U. has never argued against non-union members. The Whitlam Government, with the help of Bishop and Cameron from South Australia, made sure that clauses were attached to the awards so that only union members received benefits from awards. That meant, in the case of my own union, that during the nine-day fortnight dispute, only union members received the benefit, yet alongside me my fellow workers who were not union members but who did the same job had to work 10 days a fortnight. So it meant a 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ -hour week for union members and a 40-hour week for non-union members. The problem is that the non-union member has no other way in which he can negotiate with his employer to obtain those same benefits. Therefore, in the system it means that we must have compulsory unionism in Australia to look after the workers.

Mr. Hamilton: What about the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act?

Mr. RANDALL: That is fair enough; I accept that point. Maybe we need to look at a new system whereby people can negotiate their work standards with their employer instead of having to be locked together and forced to join a union in order to gain particular standards. I predict this will happen.

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

Motion carried.

At 5.28 p.m. the House adjourned until Tuesday 19 August at 2 p.m.