

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 11 August 1982

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

RESIGNATION OF Mr H. H. O'NEILL

The SPEAKER: It is with deep regret that I advise the House that I have this day received a letter from the member for Florey, Mr H. H. O'Neill, which states:

Dear Mr Speaker,

I herewith, on this day, submit my resignation from the Parliament of South Australia, House of Assembly, on the grounds of invalidity.

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN (Premier and Treasurer): I move:

That this House expresses its profound regret at the untimely resignation on account of ill health of Mr H. H. O'Neill as member for Florey and conveys to him and to his family best wishes for his speedy recovery.

The resignation of which the House has been notified today comes I suppose in some way not as a total surprise to those of us who have been concerned about Howard O'Neill's health for some little time now, but it nonetheless does not alter the fact that it is always a very distressing occasion when a member of this Chamber has to retire from the service of this Parliament because of ill health.

I think Howard O'Neill in his relatively short time in the Chamber has gone through a transition that many members undergo when they come into this place. He was always someone, as a member, to whom I was able to talk and whose opinions I greatly respected. I think all honourable members felt with him in the tragic loss of his son earlier, and Howard O'Neill has certainly made a great contribution to this Parliament in the short time that he has been here.

I certainly hope, and I am sure all honourable members do, too, that he does make a speedy recovery and that he and his family enjoy their future time together.

Mr BANNON (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to second the motion moved by the Premier and thank him for his remarks. On behalf of my colleagues, I formally put on the record of the House our sense of shock and regret at the course that has been forced on our friend and colleague, Howard O'Neill. As the Premier has said, he has been struggling with his illness now since the end of last year and at least twice in that period he felt able to come back on deck with renewed confidence and vigour only to find that the illness manifested itself again and forced his hospitalisation.

Even on the most recent occasion, I think until just the last week or so, he has been quite hopeful of a full recovery, and those of us who have been to see him and discussed matters with him were in fact only a few days ago saying how we were looking forward to his appearing again within the next few weeks. However, his medical advice has been very firm, and he has been forced to take this particular course.

His resignation is certainly a matter of major regret, because his Parliamentary career has been so short. He entered Parliament with a vast background of experience in the political industrial field—the sort of experience to which it is very necessary for this Parliament to have access. Indeed, it is one of the bases on which the Party which I lead is founded. He is a South Australian, born and bred in this State and also educated here. He worked his way up through the ranks of the trade union movement after serving

his apprenticeship as a boilermaker with the South Australian Railways. He has held office in various capacities in both the trade union movement and in the Labor Party for a considerable period of time. He is currently President of the Australian Labor Party, elected only last June for a second term—an unusual course in the Labor Party, but Howard O'Neill has enjoyed that honour.

At this stage it is still too early to say whether he may not be able to continue in that office. Certainly his service to the Party, particularly as Party Secretary prior to entering this House, paved the way for what was to be a successful, fruitful and, indeed, long career in the service of this State and this Parliament.

It is just a month short of three years that he entered this place starting an entirely new phase of his career and one which I am sure all honourable members were going to look on with interest. It is, in fact, just two days short of one year ago that he was elected a member of the shadow Cabinet of the Opposition. His Party colleagues put their faith in him after such a short term of service on the back benches to give him responsibility as one of our front bench spokesmen. In the short time that he was able to operate effectively in the position of shadow spokesman on transport, I know he earned the respect of all those working in the field. Certainly his background in the trade union and industrial movement stood him in very good stead. I am sure the Minister found that as his opposite number Howard O'Neill was someone to reckon with in political terms but also that he was prepared to work constructively in those areas where Opposition and Government so often have to understand the background of events and causes.

We were looking forward with considerable anticipation to Howard's continuing strength and abilities in that phase of his career. It is a very cruel blow indeed, not only to him personally and to his family, already suffering under the sad bereavement of his son, but also to this Party, to his friends and colleagues and, I would suggest, to the Parliament and people of South Australia that this course has been forced on him. I can only reiterate, as expressed in the motion, that I hope he has a speedy recovery and that he is able to recover full strength. If this decision, which I know he was so reluctant to take, will help him in that recovery, that is very much for the better, and that surely is the most important thing. Certainly, it will leave a big gap in our ranks.

The Hon. M. M. WILSON (Minister of Transport): I support the remarks of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I feel a deep sense of regret that Howard O'Neill has had to take the step of resigning from this House. In the short time that we were political adversaries we became friends outside this House. No person took greater pains to acquaint himself with the enormous ramifications of the transport portfolio than did Howard O'Neill. I remember Geoff Virgo telling me, when I was in a similar position, that it would take at least three years for me to get a grasp of the transport portfolio. Howard O'Neill took every step possible to try to acquaint himself with those responsibilities. Indeed, he was in constant contact with me to gain information about the portfolio and to interview public servants in the portfolio so as to acquaint himself with its complexities.

Nothing showed his ability more than the occasion when this House was debating the State Transport Authority Act. In the middle of that debate I called a meeting with the trade unions connected with the State Transport Authority. Howard O'Neill assisted with that meeting, and nowhere was his deep knowledge of trade union affairs more evident than at that meeting. He was of great assistance to me and to the union representatives themselves in reaching a consensus on that important piece of legislation. I wish him

well, I wish his family well, and I hope that he makes a speedy recovery.

Mr WHITTEN (Price): I want to join with the Premier, the Leader and the Minister in expressing my deep and sincere regret that Howard O'Neill has had to resign from this Parliament. I have known Howard for longer than has any other person in this Parliament. I knew him when he first began his apprenticeship as a boilermaker and we were at the railway workshops at Islington together. I served with Howard O'Neill for several years on the executive of the Boilermakers Society. He is a great mate of mine, and I feel very badly that this has happened in the way that it has.

As the Leader has said, Howard has had a great career in the working class movement, the trade unions and the Labor Party. Only a very few people have been able to be President of the Australian Labor Party twice. When Howard came into the office of the State branch of the Labor Party, he came in as my organiser; I was State Secretary, and Howard was my choice to be my organiser. We have been great mates, and it is not good that Howard has had to leave his job in Parliament.

I join with the Premier, the Leader and the Minister in expressing my deep and sincere regret that Howard O'Neill has been forced to resign. No man has more integrity (and I think the Minister has borne this out today in what he had to say), than has Howard O'Neill. He is a great fellow, and I have been pleased to be a mate of his for a long while.

Mr PETERSON (Semaphore): I support all of what previous speakers have said about Howard O'Neill. Howard and I came into this place at the same time. We did not hit it off well at first, and I think that all members would be aware of some of the early difficulties that he and I had, but full marks are due to Howard O'Neill that he and I managed to overcome our difficulties.

I found him to be a man of great compassion after I had had the opportunity to speak with him and had begun to communicate. Personally, I am very sad that this has happened at this stage of his career. He had a great future, and he took a large step forward when becoming a shadow Minister within a few years of being elected to Parliament. Further, he has recently suffered the great tragedy in the loss of a son, which I felt very badly about. I would like to wish Howard O'Neill a speedy recovery so that he can once again enjoy a full and wholesome life.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Hartley): I hope that honourable members will forgive my voice: at the moment I have great difficulty in speaking, but I feel that I must say a few words on this occasion, because of my friendship and very close association with Howard O'Neill, not only since he became a member of this Chamber but also whilst he was State Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, and indeed prior to that.

I was pleased to hear the member for Semaphore say that he was a man of compassion. Indeed, whilst I think on most occasions he displayed an appearance of being a very strong and tough person, underneath he was a very soft and very sentimental person. I know that during the short period whilst he was in this House he was very deeply appreciative of the great response that he received to the trust that was established to commemorate his son's death on the speedway.

Indeed, it touched him so deeply that I think it changed his attitude to the game of politics and to the people involved in it. I want people to know just how deeply it touched him, his wife Pat, and the other members of his family. I have been closely associated with Howard O'Neill throughout his unfortunate illness, and let no-one be in any doubt that he has had a very severe illness indeed.

Of course, I have been closely associated with him in the decision he has taken today, and I can assure every member of this House that it was one of the most difficult things that Howard O'Neill has had to do in his lifetime, because of his Party, because of his colleagues, and, of course, because of the career that lay in front of him. But he was not thinking of his career: he was thinking of the fact that he may be letting down his Party and his colleagues, and I can assure members that it took a great deal of convincing him that that was not the case.

On certain occasions in life, one has to put oneself and one's family first. I can assure honourable members that it was with great reluctance that Howard O'Neill did this. I am absolutely certain that the decision he has taken is the right one, not only for himself but also for his family and his wife Pat. If anything can help him to get well (and I have every hope that it will) it is the decision that he has taken which was so hard for him to make.

Motion carried.

PETITION: DEATH PENALTY

A petition signed by 331 residents of South Australia praying that the House urge the Government to provide for legislation enabling the death penalty to be reintroduced was presented by Mr Evans.

Petition received.

PETITION: CASINO

A petition signed by 19 residents of South Australia praying that the House urge the Federal Government to set up a committee to study the social effects of gambling; reject the proposals currently before the House to legalise casino gambling in South Australia, and establish a select committee on casino operations in this State was presented by Mr Rodda.

Petition received.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr BECKER laid on the table the Twenty-fifth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, which includes a progress report from the Minister on action taken on the Public Accounts Committee's fourteenth report referring to the management of Government hospitals.

Ordered that report be printed.

QUESTION TIME

The SPEAKER: Before calling on questions, I indicate that any questions directed to the Minister of Agriculture will be taken by the Minister of Industrial Affairs, and any questions directed to the Minister of Water Resources will be taken by the Chief Secretary.

OVERSEAS CONSULTANTS

Mr BANNON: Will the Premier confirm that consultants from the United States are currently engaged on an industrial development project for the Government and, if so, what is its nature and cost, in what way does it relate to the activities of the State Development Council, and to which Government department will the consultants report? I have been informed that the Government has allocated a

large sum of money for two groups of American consultants to devise a direct mail campaign aimed at certain United States companies.

The Hon. D. C. BROWN: I can indicate that there have been two Americans here last week. Following my visit to the United States, it became quite obvious that the State Government needed to adopt a more sophisticated approach in attracting overseas investment. In fact, it was obvious that, although we had the best approach of any State in Australia, that approach was somewhat different from what United States companies required.

Also, it became obvious that, whereas Australians have traditionally assumed that the chief executives of companies are the people who make the decisions as to where the next company or factory is established, in the United States they have what they call facility managers, who make that decision, go and set up the factory and formally hand it over to their production people. I had the opportunity to address the Industrial Development Research Council of the United States in May this year. About 400 of the biggest companies in America are members of that council, and during that conference I believed that we could achieve a far better effect in America if we changed our approach.

As a consequence of that, two Americans were invited to come here. I cannot give the exact details of the costs involved. They are still being finalised, but some part was to cover their own costs, travel costs and accommodation costs, as one would expect, as well as a consultancy fee. The timing they have given the Government, particularly the three departments involved—the State Development Office, with its Director, Matt Tiddy; my own Department of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Marine and Harbors because it is involved in the promotion and sale of port-related facilities—I think has been very beneficial. I will get a report on the other matter that the member has raised but I think, from the three meetings I had with those people, that the results will be of great and long-term significance to the State.

LAW COURTS BUILDING

Mr RANDALL: Can the Minister of Public Works indicate whether work on the new law courts building in Victoria Square is running to schedule and whether the building cost is approaching \$40 000 000 as speculated by members opposite?

The Hon. D. C. BROWN: I suppose that no other building, at least in the past four or five years, has received more criticism from some ill informed people in our community than the proposed law courts building. There was speculation, particularly from members opposite, that the building was structurally unsound or unsafe, that the foundations were crumbling, and that the building would cost at least \$40 000 000 and was unlikely ever to be finished. I think the other criticism was that it would have been far better to have constructed a multi-storey building on that site.

I am delighted to say that, two years after commencement of that programme, something like 93 per cent of the contract work on that law courts building has now been let and, with 93 per cent of the contract work let, the cost schedule is within \$40 000 of the original estimate, which I think is outstanding when the cost of the building is going to be \$19 000 000 and \$22 000 000 once the building is finished, furnished, and ready to occupy, and then there are holding costs on top of that.

I am also delighted to say that the building is running according to schedule. We expect it to be ready for occupation in July next year. I had the opportunity, only several weeks ago, to walk through the building, and I was very impressed.

I think it is a tribute to the people involved, particularly the architects, the construction managers, and the staff of the Public Buildings Department.

It will have a magnificent atrium going up through all five floors of the building with a stained glass window at the top, and the old Moore's marble staircase will be at the back of that atrium. I think it will be a building that Adelaide can be very proud of. If I can repeat to the House what was said by one of the subcontractors who has worked on most of the old buildings that have been restored in this city, of all the buildings he has worked on he thinks the law courts building will turn out to be one of the most magnificent buildings that Adelaide will ever have.

The Hon. J. D. Wright: I'll invite you to the opening.

The Hon. D. C. BROWN: If you would like to be invited to the opening, I will make sure that you get an invitation.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D. C. BROWN: I would like to finally hit on the head the rumours that have been spread about, right from the commencement of this project, by members of the Labor Party in this State. I think it was the Leader of the Opposition himself who speculated constantly that it would cost at least \$40 000 000 to complete this building. There is still a rumour circulating around Adelaide, I understand originating from the Labor Party, that already \$40 000 000 has been spent on this building. In fact, the accounts show that \$13 000 000 has been spent; work on the building is running according to schedule and will be completed, as programmed, within the \$22 000 000.

EDUCATION SPECIAL NEEDS

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: What action does the Minister of Education intend to take on the proposal put to him on 2 July 1982 that 'the existing proportion of staff allocated under special needs will be reduced'? On 2 July the Acting Director-General of Education, Dr J. M. Mayfield, presented a memo to the Minister of Education based upon staffing formulae recommendations in the light of the Touche-Ross and the Keeves Reports. In his opening paragraph he says:

I recommend that the suggested formulae be approved.

There has been some considerable discussion about the formulae over the past month, but the matter of the special needs is one that also deserves close examination. In the first page of that memorandum the quote which I have just read appears under 'Assumptions'. It is followed up again in the final page of the memo, headed 'Consequences of using the new formulae', and states:

As a result the special needs would be reduced by about 1 per cent. That is the special needs staff would be reduced from the current approximately 5 per cent of the total teaching force to 4 per cent in both primary and secondary. This is in line with recommendations of the Touche-Ross Report.

Whilst I acknowledge that the Director-General also commented that special needs staff for 1983 should continue to be distributed as in previous years, the recommendation is still implicit for 1984 and beyond.

The Hon. H. ALLISON: I regret to inform the honourable member that he will have to wait a little longer until the Budget is revealed before any specific announcements are made on that issue.

FLAGSTAFF HILL ROAD

Mr GLAZBROOK: Can the Minister of Transport tell the House whether any progress has been made in regard to upgrading and building a bridge or alternative structure at the northern end of Flagstaff Hill Road at the junction

with South Road, Darlington? Owing to the substantial growth in home development in the Flagstaff Hill area, the volume of traffic now using Flagstaff Hill Road has increased to such a degree that during peak hours traffic build-up means that considerable delays are now caused in entering South Road, Darlington. It has been said by many people, including the southern region councils, that the situation concerning the bridge to which I have referred is one of the most readily identifiable traffic problems involved at the Darlington junction. My constituents in that area are anxious to know what can be done and whether priority can be given to ensure that remedial work is undertaken to alleviate this problem as soon as possible.

The Hon. M. M. WILSON: I recently had the pleasure of visiting the intersection of Flagstaff Hill Road and South Road with the honourable member and the Mayor and Town Clerk of the Meadows council within the boundary of which the junction is situated. Two problems are involved here: first the intersection itself; and, secondly, a few metres south of it a narrow bridge on Flagstaff Road. Until something is done about the bridge, it will be difficult to solve the problem involving the intersection.

The realignment of the intersection itself poses a costly problem, because there is an E. & W. S. main at that intersection which I understand would cost about \$1 000 000 to relocate. Nevertheless, since the inspection, I have discussed the matter with the Commissioner of Highways, whose officers are now working on a detailed design for a replacement bridge, and we are also looking at restructuring the intersection. I cannot tell the honourable member when these detailed plans will be completed but when they are we will be able to cost the whole of the job and programme it hopefully to the satisfaction of the honourable member and his constituents.

EYE CLINIC

Mr TRAINER: Can the Minister of Health state the reasons behind what appears to be a disturbingly long waiting list for appointments at the eye clinic of the Flinders Medical Centre and provide the House with an assurance that the waiting time will be reduced substantially?

Over the past two or three years several constituents, many of them elderly, have commented on problems that had arisen at the Flinders Medical Centre in spending lengthy periods of up to four hours in the waiting rooms and in waiting a long time to get appointments for the excellent facilities that exist in the Flinders Medical Centre eye clinic. In response to Question on Notice No. 588 of 19 February 1980, the Minister advised on 25 March, over two years ago, that financial cutbacks had not adversely affected the eye clinic and that the situation should improve.

However, the most recent constituent problem of this nature to come to my attention suggests that the situation must be getting drastically worse. Mr Keith Eames, occupant of a pensioner unit in Wallala Street, Parkholme, suffers from a rash and sore eyes which he attributes to ceiling insulation particles dropping down through a gap between the walls and ceiling of his unit. His local general practitioner had him hospitalised at the Flinders Medical Centre for two weeks in May as an in-patient to have the skin complaint treated, expecting that Mr Eames could be seen by an eye specialist while there. His eyes water badly, blurring his vision so that he cannot even effectively watch television. However, no appointment at the eye clinic could be made before 20 July. That meant a lengthy two or three months wait. However, worse was to come. Mr Eames was shortly afterwards advised that the 20 July appointment with the

Flinders Medical Centre eye specialist would have to be postponed until 14 January 1983.

Fortunately, our G.P. has been able to manage alternative arrangements with a private specialist for September. The 14 January appointment would have meant a wait of nearly nine months from the time of the original attempts to arrange a specialist examination. In that time a person's eyesight could deteriorate quite drastically. I would also point out that Mr Eames is 86 years old, with all that that implies when an appointment is put that far into the future.

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON: I appreciate the difficulties that the honourable member raises, because some difficulties have been referred to me for my representation direct to the hospital. As a result of this question, I will investigate the specific details of waiting times and provide a detailed report for the honourable member. I hope to be in a position soon, when the Budget is brought down, to be able to make announcements regarding a substantial reduction in waiting times at the eye clinic, but at this stage I can only say that the matter has been given careful attention by me and by the Health Commission, and I expect things to improve soon.

ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CARE

Mr SCHMIDT: Will the Minister of Health say whether surveys are made of the usage of the accident and emergency departments of Adelaide's major hospitals? If they are, can the Minister advise the House of the results of any such survey at the Flinders Medical Centre, which is a principal public hospital supplying the needs of my constituents? When the Hospital Corporation of Australia withdrew from the Noarlunga hospital development I made a submission to the Minister seeking an assurance that emergency health needs of my constituents were being appropriately protected. The Minister's response was that all major emergencies were being adequately catered for at the Flinders Medical Centre and that private medical practitioners were organising a second 24-hour, seven-day-a-week medical practice to complement a similar practice which already exists at Christies Beach.

I was advised subsequently that this second practice commenced in March 1982. I am interested to find out to what extent the Flinders Medical Centre is surveying the emergency needs of the southern area.

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON: Yes, the major teaching hospitals in Adelaide do conduct assessments of the usage of their accident and emergency departments. The results of those assessments are normally reported in the annual reports of those hospitals. Anyone who studies those annual reports will notice the recurring statement that the greater percentage of cases attending the accident and emergency departments of hospitals are cases which would be more appropriately dealt with by a general practitioner. In other words, they are not acute care but rather primary care which would normally be dealt with by the family doctor. A short while ago I received the assessment by the Flinders Medical Centre of usage patterns of the accident and emergency department for 1981. It is most interesting to look at comparisons with that year and the previous years and, indeed, to make projections for the current year. I believe the House would be interested in those figures, as I believe they can be related to most of the other teaching hospitals.

The number attending the accident and emergency department at Flinders Medical Centre in 1981 fell by 9 per cent compared with the previous survey. The number of patients attending in 1980 who were assessed as being more appropriately attended by their local general practitioner was 74 per cent, which is an enormous number of people

attending a hospital when they should normally be attended by their local doctor. This percentage reduced to 59 per cent in 1981, indicating that more patients are now being seen by the expanded general practitioner service in the southern areas. This percentage should further reduce with the development and establishment of the new 24-hour, seven-day-a-week practice.

It is interesting to learn that 18.1 per cent of patients in accident and emergency departments were returned to their general practitioner for follow-up treatment as compared with 14.1 per cent a year earlier, again indicating that those who came to the accident and emergency department in 1981 were, as a proportion of a whole, more appropriately in need of that kind of treatment than in previous years. A significant 26.4 per cent of accident and emergency patients were doctor referred (in other words, the doctor sent them there in the first place) compared with the previous range of only 17 to 22 per cent. That data supports the belief that the accident and emergency department is now being used more as it should be used—that is, as an emergency service rather than as a primary care service.

Another interesting statistic is that the average waiting time to be seen at the accident and emergency department has been progressively reduced from 51 minutes in 1979 to 29 minutes in 1981. That indicates that the reduction in numbers attending the service means that more time is available to handle real medical emergencies.

That, of course, is the reason why those departments exist. The high rate of referral by doctors indicates that there is now a much closer working relationship between the Flinders Medical Centre and the various local medical practices, and, if this trend continues, I think we will see in the current year a far more appropriate use, and from the taxpayers' and patients' point of view a far more cost effective use, of the accident and emergency department, while at the same time a far more appropriate reliance on general practitioner services for primary care by people living in the southern areas.

INTEREST RATES

Mr CRAFTER: Can the Treasurer say whether it is a fact that, with Government approval, last week the State Bank increased interest rates on some home loans to low income earners by 3 per cent (that is, an increase from 10.5 per cent to 13.5 per cent), as well as reducing the maximum number of years over which a loan may be repaid from 28 years to 22 years?

I am advised that these very substantial alterations to the conditions under which money is lent by the State Bank to home buyers have eliminated many persons from the State Bank waiting lists, and in particular I am advised that there are some people who have arranged for bridging finance and are currently on bridging finance but do not now meet the new criteria as laid down by the State Bank. Also, there appears to be further confusion within the community concerning this matter and there appears to have been no public announcement of these increases by the Government.

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: There has been a public announcement; indeed, it is the policy of the State Bank to advertise these changes on an annual basis. The relevant advertisements were placed in the press, I think only last week. Perhaps the honourable member has not seen those advertisements. There has been a change in the interest rates applicable, but I point out to the honourable member that this will not change the conditions for existing concessional loans which are in operation; they apply only to those people without dependants. If those people without dependants in fact subsequently have dependants within the

appropriate time, the loans will immediately revert back to the concessional interest rates.

The State Bank is still keeping up a very good record of approximately 55 loans a week; it is a record that has not been easy to maintain in the present circumstances, but it is something that the bank has been determined to do. The impact (and I would agree with the honourable gentleman that there is some impact) is only on those people who, by and large, comprise two income families, without dependants, and they, very properly, are the people who could be expected to find financial assistance in other areas. I repeat: there has been some impact, but that impact has been directed, and the changes have been directed, at making sure that the moneys are available as far as possible to those people who are in real need of it, and particularly to those people with dependants. I shall obtain a full copy of the advertisement for the honourable member and forward those details to him.

STIRLING EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr EVANS: Will the Minister of Education state what is the present position with regard to the new development planned for the Stirling East Primary School? The school community has contacted me and asked whether the Minister can inform the House of the details concerning the date that tenders are to be called for the planned new development, the position in relation to the activity hall that is part of the development, the initial contributions now expected from the school, and about how much annually the school is expected to pay towards that particular building? Also, can the Minister say why there has been a change from the original position which the school believed to be the case when the President of the school council and the Principal signed a document agreeing to go ahead with the plans, but when there was no comment made about the fact that the school council would be expected to contribute to the activity hall. The school community is now concerned that it is expected to contribute to that hall. The school would like the Minister to clarify the position concerning why there was a change in direction with regard to that particular area of financing.

The Hon. H. ALLISON: The final comment of the member for Fisher surprises me a little. The provision of activity halls in renovated schools has not been an Education Department priority for many years and, in fact, it was in recognition of that that the previous Government and the previous Minister of Education introduced the School Loans Advisory Scheme (then called the capital grants scheme) with a view to giving local school communities the chance to establish priorities of their own over the Education Department priority, but on condition that the local community provided a deposit, which was generally a minimum of 10 per cent, towards the construction of the amenity. Those amenities have varied from school halls to swimming pools and a variety of other things which the local people felt they needed.

The Hon. D. C. Brown: The capital assistance scheme.

The Hon. H. ALLISON: The capital assistance scheme, to which the Minister of Public Works has just referred (and he, too, has an interest in this, because we work together in establishing priorities and providing buildings), is generally a means of allocating Education Department funds over a longer term than is usually the case for constructing school buildings. The redevelopment of the Stirling East Primary School was scheduled. There has been some change, even since the original planning of this school, in that the school was planned on an expansionary basis. I believe there were about 290 students when the school was

first planned and that number increased to a peak of 418. Present indications are that the numbers will decline over the next few years, and the honourable member may not be aware of that additional factor.

Generally, a 10 per cent deposit has sufficed as a minimum. The precise amount that a school has to pay over the ensuing 10 or 15 years cannot be ascertained by the Minister alone, because the School Loans Advisory Committee investigates the matter, and it is the ability of the school council to pay which decides the size of the repayments. The average payment has been one-third by the school council and two-thirds by the Education Department, but, in the case of smaller primary schools (and the Stirling East Primary School is certainly a smaller school), the Education Department has erred on the side of generosity. Certainly, there is never any departmental pressure on the school council or the school parent body to increase its commitments beyond what are considered to be its abilities to pay.

I do not believe that the honourable member need have any fear in that regard. However, there was some inference that the school might be discriminated against. I assure the honourable member that that is not the case. A number of schools in the Hills has sought additional facilities under redevelopment and have undertaken to pay the minimum deposit or greater and then receive Education Department help through the Treasurer's and my approval.

The Public Buildings Department and the Education Department were meeting as recently as this afternoon, I understand, to consider the matter further, but the date for tender is November, with commencement as soon as possible thereafter. I do not know that there would be any reason for the honourable member to bring the deputation to me, given the details that I have just conveyed to him; however, if there are any other points on which the honourable member would like clarification, perhaps he could discuss them with me, and I would be only too pleased to give him further assistance.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF VICTOR HARBOR

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: Will the Minister of Environment and Planning say when the District Council of Victor Harbor will have its powers restored in respect of interim development control? If the Minister is unable to give a clear indication in that regard, is he able to explain what requirements would have to be met by the council before the controls were restored? Will the Minister further give a clear explanation why the controls were taken away in the first place, and can he give an assurance that the administrative staff of the council are in no way culpable in the action that the Government had to take.

I think that only the last part of the question requires explanation. This matter was raised in another place with the Minister of Local Government, and the Minister, in his reply, was a little coy, in that he was prepared to table certain documents but did not read from them, and so the contents of those documents are not in the record, nor are they generally available, because they have not been printed. I would like to quote from some of the documents. The first is a comment by Mr Arland, who for a time was the Administrator of the council, regarding a report on planning administration. In part, that states:

I have been disappointed that the suspended members of the council have refused to meet the Chairman of the State Planning Authority to discuss the reasons why the council's interim development powers were drastically reduced. If an understanding of these reasons could be achieved, it could inject confidence into both parties that an acceptable method of planning administration could be introduced. I can understand the expressed attitude of

members that, as they were the ones who lost the powers, they should be seen to be the ones who regained them.

What I cannot understand is members' rejection of the opportunity I created by reporting on the incorrect interpretation of the Planning and Development Act which the minutes of previous council meetings revealed.

Secondly, I will quote from a letter written by the Ombudsman to Mr Arland, as Administrator of the council. I will not read the whole letter, purely because of the constraints of time, but part of it states:

Little more needs to be said about the particular decisions, except that there appears to have been some involvement of a councillor in these matters, which could, perhaps, be construed as an endeavour to mislead council colleagues. In particular, it is believed that the planning consultant's report circulated to other members of council by the member concerned, with the application in 1981, was, in fact, a report prepared by the consultant on a different application in 1976. Such action can only be deplored.

Mr Bakewell goes on:

From the information forwarded by the District Clerk, it is noticed that at the meeting in the month of June 1981 a motion before the council was for the Zerner application to be 'forwarded to an independent planning consultant, for a report on matters pertaining to the parking area'. An amendment was allegedly moved to that motion, seeking to approve the application subject to conditions. It appears to me that the amendment was a completely separate motion, and, therefore, could not be accepted as an amendment to the motion relating to the obtaining of a planning consultant's report. In these circumstances, on the basis of the procedure adopted being wrong, the decision of council is subject to challenge in a competent court.

When I became aware of the fact that the State Planning Authority had withdrawn certain aspects of its delegation to the council because of the above and other planning considerations, I sought the views of the Chairman, State Planning Authority, who has now informed me that certain statements made to him and to some of his officers, together with information provided to the authority, must be seen as misleading.

In conclusion, a brief quotation from towards the end of the letter is as follows:

I believe that the integrity of the Council can also be questioned in respect to an application by Alice Investments Pty Ltd to convert six of a group of eight offices into shops. This matter was, I believe, handed to the council's Planning Officer immediately before a meeting by Councillor Zerner, the father-in-law of the applicant, and was approved at that particular meeting without any report being obtained in respect of the proposal.

Finally, I understand that the Chairman of the State Planning Authority wrote to the Mayor of the council on 16 April 1981, reminding the council of its responsibilities in connection with the delegation of interim development control. Although this letter was acknowledged on council letterhead—on 21 May 1981—it was allegedly not placed before council. I understand that only when a copy of the letter was forwarded to the District Clerk on 18 August 1981 was it received and circulated to the full council.

The Hon. D. C. WOTTON: I would have thought (and, in fact, the correspondence that the honourable member has referred to indicates this) that this matter was purely one that was the responsibility of the State Planning Authority. It was the State Planning Authority that made the decision that responsibilities of the council under interim development control should be reduced. It will be entirely in the hands of the State Planning Authority as to when that responsibility is returned to the council. The honourable member has asked a number of questions and has referred to correspondence between the State Planning Authority and the council.

It would be improper of me to comment on those communications. However, I will bring down a report for the member opposite, and—

The Hon. J. D. Wright interjecting:

The Hon. D. C. WOTTON: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition indicates that I am the Minister and that I should know. He should know—

The Hon. J. D. Wright: I am not answering the question; I do know.

The Hon. D. C. WOTTON: You have just made a silly statement and I am giving you an answer. The Deputy Leader asked a question about—

The Hon. J. D. Wright: Answer the question. That's what you're paid to do.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader will contain himself.

The Hon. D. C. WOTTON: The Deputy Leader has said that I as Minister should know what is happening in this case. What I am saying is that it is entirely the responsibility of the State Planning Authority, just as it was when the Opposition was in Government. Nothing has changed. It is only proper that the State Planning Authority should have that responsibility. I will seek a report from it on the matters raised, and I will give that report to the honourable member who has asked the question.

HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS

Mr BECKER: Can the Minister of Environment and Planning say what activities have occurred with regard to historic shipwrecks along the South Australian coast since the proclamation of the Historic Shipwrecks Act earlier this year? As I understand that considerable interest has been shown in that Act by the Society for Underwater Historical Research, can the Minister tell the House what involvement the society has had in the preparation of the legislation assisting the Government to locate historic shipwrecks?

The SPEAKER: I ask the honourable Minister of Environment and Planning to answer a question in relation to activities relating to shipwrecks.

The Hon. D. C. WOTTON: Mr Speaker, I would be very pleased to answer that question. I am sure that the House and I know that the honourable member would be aware that the Historic Shipwrecks Act was proclaimed in December 1981. There has been a considerable amount of activity since the proclamation of that Act. In fact, earlier this year, some seven shipwrecks were placed under that legislation on the shipwrecks register. The seven that have already been placed on the register are of great significance in regard to the heritage of this State. They include the *Tigress*, which goes back to 1848; the *Grecian* (1850); and another one that has received quite a bit of recent publicity, the *Star of Greece* (1888).

The State has also seen the declaration of three shipwrecks under the Commonwealth historic shipwrecks legislation of 1976. The declaration of those three shipwrecks came about at the time of the National Archeological Conference that was held in South Australia, a conference which attracted delegates from various countries around the world and a great deal of interest from Australia particularly. The delegation of powers under the Commonwealth Act to myself as Minister in this State relates specifically to three areas: first, they provide the power to ascertain the location of historic shipwrecks and relics; secondly, they provide the Minister and the State with power to give direction in relation to custody and access, etc., which is extremely important in regard to future activities involving those wrecks; and also the power is provided to issue permits.

The member for Hanson has referred particularly to the Society for Underwater Historical Research, which has had a great deal of involvement in, first of all, the preparation of the State legislation and, secondly, in regard to consultation. It is only fairly recently that that society has been issued with a permit to carry out work on the *Tigress* shipwreck. I am informed that the work it is doing is quite excellent, and certainly as a voluntary society it is to be commended for its work and the interest it is taking in connection with this legislation.

I intend that the department should continue to work as closely with that society as it has done in the past, because

it is doing valuable work. Since the Historic Shipwrecks Act was proclaimed in this State there has been considerable activity. I am proud of the Government's involvement in that area and of the legislation enacted. In regard to the heritage of this State, it has a high priority, as it will continue to have. I thank the member for Hanson for his question, and I assure him that we will continue to take the interest in that area that we have taken in the past.

PORT PIRIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr KENEALLY: Can the Minister of Education say when it is expected that work will commence and be completed on the construction of the new community college for the Department of Further Education at Port Pirie? I was wondering who was in charge, but—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will come to the explanation or he will be sat down.

Mr KENEALLY: Thank you, Sir. The community college at Port Pirie, which used to be the old School of Mines, is one of the oldest Department of Further Education buildings in South Australia and one that badly needs rebuilding. In 1978 the then Minister of Education in the Corcoran Government and now member for Baudin, when visiting Port Pirie, gave a commitment to the construction of the new college. An educational brief was instituted which has been completed, and the Minister would have been in possession of that now for about 12 months. The people of Port Pirie are concerned that the priority of that college has been downgraded. The community had expected that work would be commenced by now, but no work has commenced, and it does not seem as though the Minister has any idea when it will commence. It would be useful if he could tell this House and the people of Port Pirie just what are the Government's plans.

The SPEAKER: It is with some deference that I ask the Minister of Education to answer the question, he having already been told that he has no idea what the answer is. The honourable Minister of Education.

The Hon. H. ALLISON: The honourable member is following the old Parliamentary adage that one never asks a question unless one knows the answer, and then if the Minister gives the wrong answer all hell breaks loose. The honourable member knows that we visited the college in that area several months ago, and he is quite right in saying that sketch plans were put forward. I agree with him that the college is in some need of repair but, rather than have an *ad hoc* approach to the project, it would be better if it were done on a more substantial basis. The honourable member is also quite right in saying that there is no immediate plan for reconstruction of that college. When I visited the college—

Mr Lynn Arnold: The TAFE Council recommended it, though.

The Hon. H. ALLISON: The TAFE Council commended a number of projects for urgent consideration.

Mr Lynn Arnold: Only two in South Australia.

The Hon. H. ALLISON: The TAFE Council has reviewed its own recommendations several times, including the most recent one involving a \$20 000 000 open college which was not on any agenda until about 18 months ago but which assumes great priority in South Australia because we are the only metropolitan centre without a similar college. There, again, we are trying to redress omissions, not sins necessarily, of the past.

I can assure the honourable member that the priority for his district is constantly under review, and we did point out that a number of colleges in that northern area were being considered in the light of future State needs. For example,

it was being mooted that we might have a Redcliff petrochemical project, a project which actually floated several times from the front benches in the middle-to-late 1970s, and that would have brought the honourable member's project on stream much earlier. Unfortunately, several changes to the State's economy have taken place, and—

Mr Keneally: You've downgraded Port Pirie's priority.

The Hon. H. ALLISON: Port Pirie's priority is still on the Department of Further Education list. It has not been downgraded; it is very much on the department's list. I will bring down a departmental report for the honourable member.

LABOR PARTY MEETING

Mr ASHENDEN: Can the Premier say what benefit there will be to South Australia from the proposed meeting between Labor leaders to discuss closer financial relations between State and Federal Labor Governments? Recently much publicity has been given to discussions between Labor leaders, and I believe that members of this House would be interested to know whether such discussions could serve any useful purpose.

Mr BANNON: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I suggest that that question is out of order. It is asking the Premier to comment on matters that could not possibly be within his knowledge. He is not a Labor leader who will be attending this meeting. If he chooses to fulminate and waste the time of the House, fine, but thank God—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I accept the point of order made by the honourable member in so far as the Premier is not a Labor leader. However, I did detect that the question asked what would be the effects of any deliberations of Labor leaders on the development of furtherance of this State. The honourable Premier.

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: The Leader of the Opposition says 'thank God' that I am not a Labor leader. I endorse those sentiments heartily. I did notice the considerable publicity given to this meeting. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition is claiming great credit for having called together the Labor leaders of Australia to devise more harmonious methods of distributing Federal finances to the States. At least I think that was the idea. I was quite fascinated by that. I well remember nearly two years ago calling a meeting of Premiers in Adelaide when we talked about a substitute for pay-roll tax, some additional or alternative form of tax, and none of the Premiers, including the Labor Premiers Mr Wran and Mr Lowe at that stage, was able to come up with any significant answers. Indeed, we met several times to try to find some other way of managing Federal-State financial relationships.

In spite of what I assume the Leader of the Opposition would agree were expert inputs from those two gentlemen, we were still not able to come up with anything worth while. I look forward to the results of the Labor leaders getting together. Whether any benefit comes to South Australia depends entirely on two things, and in actual fact the answer in either of these two sets of circumstances must be a categorical, 'No, there will be no benefit whatsoever.'

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: What sort of tax do you think Mr Wran would tell us to impose?

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: Mr Wran has a lot of good ideas about lifting the charges and State taxes and increasing the size of the Public Service, but that is something we will wait and see about.

There is no possible benefit coming to South Australia. First of all, this whole proposition depends on a Labor Government coming to office federally and in this State,

and there is just no way at all that this is going to happen. Having said that—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: I seem to be upsetting members opposite for some reason or other. I cannot understand why. I would have thought that they would be fascinated to know that their deliberations will be watched with such keen interest by members of this Government. There would be no possible benefit because we have seen from past experience, when Premier Dunstan was in office in this State and Mr Whitlam was in office in Canberra, that it just did not work then, either. It is absolutely ludicrous for the Leader of the Opposition to suggest that there would be harmonious and close relations with a Federal Labor Government if a State Labor Government were in office here.

From 1972 to 1975, I recall vividly Premier Dunstan being widely reported in the headlines as to exactly what he would like to do to his Federal colleagues from a great height over Canberra.

The Hon. E. R. Goldsworthy: Pretty rude, too.

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: Well, he was dissociating himself from Canberra very thoroughly. I remember at the 1975 State election, when he looked like taking a defeat, he rapidly went on television in the last days and with a tear in his eye dissociated himself from the Federal Labor Government. It was a magnificent performance.

The whole thrust of the Whitlam policy was one of centralised policy making. There was a wide range of Federal intervention in areas that were previously in the State's hands. All Premiers, including Premier Dunstan from this State, in fact said that the States were being screwed down.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. D. O. TONKIN: The Whitlam Government had a great liking for using section 96 grants. It did so to tie the hands of the States. It did so to enable Canberra dictators to dictate the policy of the Federal Labor Party and to impose it on State Governments. I am quite certain that nobody wants to see that happen again. Premier Dunstan was one of the loudest critics of the results of that policy.

The Labor Party used Federal funds to get into ill thought-out and wasteful areas. I could quite easily go through such projects as Monarto, the Land Commission and the railways agreement where we were totally and absolutely taken for a ride. The relations between the State and Federal Labor Governments on that occasion were so harmonious that Premier Dunstan did not bother to get an agreement in writing from Prime Minister Whitlam. They must have been very harmonious relations indeed. It has done this State no service whatever to have that unsatisfactory and unbusinesslike situation.

There has been a great deal of experience of shocking Federal Labor mismanagement. Inflation rose to some 17 per cent in those years. That was despite the fact of what the Leader of the Opposition would call harmonious relationships between State and Federal Governments. The Labor Government had unstable policies. We had a succession of Treasurers, and Mr Cairns was one. The Federal Leader of the Opposition, Mr Hayden, was Treasurer in the Federal Whitlam Government for a short time when Mr Dunstan was complaining bitterly at the treatment he was getting at their hands. We can take no encouragement from the records of Labor Governments interstate.

I am delighted that the member for Hanson, in his speech on another matter, is going through a detailed resume and expose of the Wran Government's so-called deficit and its true deficit. Let us look at the New South Wales Budget deficit, which was \$29 000 000 in 1980-81. It was \$69 300 000 in 1981-82. The *Business Review Weekly* of 24-30 July states quite clearly that this is sleight of hand. It says that the real deficit is about \$306 000 000. Mr Wran has put up charges

and taxes, he says, to make up for the \$38 000 000 that he did not get from the Premiers' Conference this time. He has put up rates and charges to cover the \$38 000 000 which will bring him \$350 000 000. We hear from the Leader of the Opposition that State Labor Governments do not raise taxes and charges. There is no way that South Australia could possibly afford another State Labor Government and certainly no way the people of Australia could afford a Federal Labor Government.

There is one other matter on which I have not touched. There is one final solution as far as members of the Labor Party are concerned. They want to abolish State Parliaments. I took the matter up when I understood that Mr Hawke was in the running for the Federal leadership of the Labor Party. I expressed my concern to Labor Party leaders. Unfortunately, I had omitted (and I freely admit my mistake) to acquaint myself with Mr Hayden's record in that regard. I found, to my horror, after communicating with the Labor leaders, that Mr Hayden also goes along with Labor Party policy to phase out State Governments and State Parliaments as rapidly as possible and concentrate all of its policy on financial management in Canberra. There is no way that these discussions can have any useful benefit to South Australia at all.

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

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

REFERENDUM (DAYLIGHT SAVING) BILL

The **Hon. D. O. TONKIN (Premier and Treasurer)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to provide for the holding of a referendum of electors relating to daylight saving and for other purposes. Read a first time.

The **Hon. D. O. TONKIN**: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

Explanation of Bill

It will enable members of the public to express their views on the continuance of daylight saving in South Australia. Honourable members will be aware of the continuing debate, particularly within some sections of the community, on the issue of daylight saving in South Australia. Prior to the last State election, the Government committed itself to allowing the community to express its wishes on the matter by holding a referendum of all electors of the State. The holding of the referendum independently of the election is not justified because of the cost involved—somewhere in the order of \$3 000 000 to \$4 000 000.

So that the arguments for and against daylight saving should be put as objectively as possible to the electorate, and not be politicised, the Electoral Commissioner has been asked to prepare leaflets, discussing the issues involved, for distribution to every household in South Australia. The Government is confident the Electoral Commissioner is best placed to analyse these issues and place them before the electorate in an objective way. The final clause of the Bill provides for the expiry of the Act one year after the declaration of the referendum results in the *Government Gazette*. This is in keeping with the Government's commitment to remove from the statutes any legislation which becomes redundant after having served its purpose.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides definitions of certain terms used in the Bill. It is intended that all persons entitled to vote at an election for the return of members of the House of Assembly should vote at the referendum. The definition of 'elector' is drawn accordingly. Clause 3 provides that the referendum will be held on the day of the next general election. This will not only save expense but will also reduce inconvenience to electors as they will be able to vote in the referendum at the same time and place at which they vote in the general election.

Clause 4 prescribes the question at the referendum. Subclause (2) requires every elector to cast a vote at the referendum. Subclause (4) sets out the method of voting for or against the question. Clause 5 provides that the Electoral Act, 1929-1982, will apply to the referendum thereby supplying the legal framework within which the referendum can take place. Subclause (2) provides for the application of the Electoral Act, 1929-1982, to specific matters.

Clause 6 provides for the declaration of the result of the referendum. Clause 7 provides power for the appointment of temporary officers to assist in holding the referendum. Clause 8 is a financial provision. Clause 9 provides a regulation making power. Clause 10 provides for the expiry of the Act after it has served its purpose.

Mr **BANNON** secured the adjournment of the debate.

LAND TAX ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The **Hon. D. O. TONKIN (Premier and Treasurer)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act, 1936-1981. Read a first time.

The **Hon. D. O. TONKIN**: I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Leave granted.

Explanation of Bill

It has several objectives, the first of which is to provide that certain kinds of non-profit associations may be declared to be partially or, in some cases, totally, exempt from land tax. The promoters of an equity housing scheme for aged persons at West Lakes have pointed out that the existing provisions are not wide enough to cover their housing project. This kind of non-profit development obviously merits the kind of concession envisaged by section 12a of the principal Act which provides that land owned by some non-profit associations is partially exempt from land tax, and by section 10a which deals with land that is wholly exempt from land tax in particular circumstances.

In order to make it possible for the concession to be granted in this case and in other similar cases that may arise in future, the Bill provides, first, that a non-profit association that is prescribed, or is of a prescribed kind, may be declared to be partially exempt from land tax; and secondly, that any part of the land owned by such associations which is used by members of the association as their principal place of residence will attract the benefit of section 10a of the Act, namely a declaration for a complete exemption, if appropriate.

Another significant proposal in the Bill is a provision enabling intending purchasers of land to obtain a certificate showing the amounts payable or estimated to be payable by way of land tax in respect of the land. If those amounts are paid the purchaser is released from any further liability for land tax which may accrue in relation to the land for the financial years covered by the certificate. Where a vendor

holds other land, the information necessary to enable an exact calculation of multiple holding tax is usually not available in the early months of the financial year. The new legislation enables the Commissioner to estimate the tax for the purposes of a certificate in these circumstances. The proposal has been discussed in detail with representatives of the Law Society and bodies representing land agents and land brokers and they have indicated that it has their support. It is proposed to charge for each certificate, the same fee as is charged for similar information relating to water and sewer rates. As some time will be required to develop administrative procedures, this particular provision will have effect from a date to be proclaimed.

It is also proposed to exempt from land tax land owned by controlling authorities established under Part XIX of the Local Government Act. Land owned by municipal and district councils is exempt under existing provisions and this provision is a logical extension of that exemption. Other minor amendments of an administrative nature are proposed: they include a provision by which the Commissioner may refuse to recognise that land is held in trust until notice of the trust is given; and a provision imposing time limits in relation to the correction of assessments of tax.

Clause 1 is formal. Clause 2 provides that the Bill will be retrospective to 30 June 1982. This does not apply, however, to clause 15 which will be brought into operation on a day to be fixed by proclamation. Clause 3 amends section 4 of the principal Act which deals with the interpretation of expressions used by that Act. A new provision is inserted to bring the definition of 'business of primary production' into line with the definition used in the Valuation of Land Act, 1971-1981. The amendment extends the term to include the propagation and harvesting of fish and other aquatic organisms.

Clause 4 amends section 10 of the principal Act. The purpose of the amendment is to exempt from land tax land held by controlling authorities constituted under Part XIX of the Local Government Act. Clause 5 amends section 10a of the principal Act which deals with land that is wholly exempt from land tax. Section 10a as amended will provide that prescribed associations established solely for the purpose of providing residential accommodation will be exempt from land tax if they satisfy criteria laid down by regulation under subsection (13). The principal criteria to be prescribed under subsection (13) will be that the land be used as the principal place of residence of the occupier.

Clause 6 amends section 12a of the principal Act which deals with land that is partially exempt from land tax. As amended section 12a will provide that land owned by a prescribed association but which is not used as a place of residence of a person may be partially exempt from land tax. This provision will benefit associations referred to in the note to clause 5 in that areas of land owned by such an association that are adjacent to residential land will qualify for partial exemption. Clause 7 amends section 15 of the principal Act. New subsection (2) states the general principle that the value of land owned by two or more persons should not be aggregated for the purpose of calculating land tax with land owned individually by any of the owners or with other land involving different permutations or combinations of owners.

New subsection (3) empowers the Commissioner to choose between various categories of owners in assessing tax in respect of land. Thus where there is a legal and an equitable owner of land, the Commissioner may, at his discretion, tax either the legal owner or the equitable owner. This provision should, to some extent prevent the use of trusts as devices to reduce the incidence of land tax. New subsection (4) protects a trustee from the possibility that the value of land held by him in trust might be aggregated with the value

of land to which he is beneficially entitled. New subsection (5) empowers the Commissioner to aggregate the value of land where there are different legal owners but the land is held subject to the same trust. This provision may be of some limited use where there are discretionary trusts and the identity of the beneficiary cannot be ascertained with certainty. New subsection (6) contains definitions necessary for the purposes of the new provisions.

Clause 8 repeals section 16 which is rendered redundant by the amendments to section 15. Clauses 9 and 10 make consequential amendments. Clause 11 provides that where there are two or more taxpayers in respect of land, their liability for the tax is to be joint and several. Clauses 12 and 13 make drafting amendments to the principal Act. Clause 14 is a consequential amendment.

Clause 15 empowers the Commissioner to issue certificates to purchasers of land as to the amount of land tax outstanding on the land. Where the amount certified is paid the purchaser is absolved from further liability. Because the issuing of these certificates is dependent upon the establishment of a computer system which is not yet complete, the amendment will come into operation on a date to be proclaimed. Clause 16 places a three year limitation on the amendment of land tax assessments. There is an exception to this if a scheme to evade land tax is uncovered, after the expiration of that period.

Mr BANNON secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.
(Continued from 10 August. Page 365.)

Mr BECKER (Hanson): I stated last evening, when talking about interest rates in Australia not declining at Christmas, 1981, as they had done in America, that the answer to that was that 220 banks in America had gone bankrupt in the past 12 months. I should have stated that 22 banks had failed in America this year so far. If time permits, I will return to the international economic scene.

I want to make further reference to an article that appeared in the *Business Review Weekly* in the 24-30 July issue. The article is headed 'Who runs Wran?', and it contains a statement attributed to one of Neville Wran's former staff members who stated:

... tax increases were due in last September's Budget. 'We couldn't do it then because there was an election coming on,' he added.

The article further states:

Then came the Loans Council. Wran returned from Canberra in his chartered jet last month claiming that Fraser and Howard had 'cheated' New South Wales of \$38 000 000. He recalled State Parliament for an emergency mini-Budget which passed a new fuel tax and public transport and hospital charge increases which will actually raise an estimated \$350 000 000. Petrol is to rise 3 cents a litre and diesel fuel 5 cents a litre from 1 August.

The point is (and this point was made previously during Question Time by the Premier) that here was Neville Wran abusing the Federal Government, claiming that he had been robbed of \$38 000 000 from Loan Council (it had nothing to do with the Revenue Account), which finances capital works, and then turning around and increasing taxes in New South Wales by \$350 000 000. Therefore, it can be realised that the people in New South Wales would have every reason to say that they were being ripped off by the Government claiming that the shortfall in its finances must be financed by extra taxes and charges totalling \$350 000 000. There is no doubt that Wran has obviously decided that he does not have any worries about future elections, so he went for the big slug now. Of course, the impact is still to be felt

in New South Wales, and whatever happens will be a tragedy. The article further states:

Fares rose an average 20 per cent on 18 July and hospital bed rates will be up 25 per cent on 1 September.

The article continues:

Several times this winter New South Wales has come within a hair's breadth of disastrous blackouts and the inefficient Elcom announced an average 17 per cent increase on domestic use plus an extra 12.5 per cent in peak periods. One reason for this is that consumption has been down while the Government pleaded for business and households to conserve power. So consumers are now being charged extra premiums for their conservation efforts.

Of course, we in South Australia have the benefit of the foresight of Sir Thomas Playford, who founded the Electricity Trust of South Australia and who ensured that there would be one governing body throughout the State, with one or two exceptions, to supply electricity, not only for industry and commerce but also for private consumption.

The Hon. R. G. Payne: Ten years of Labor Government helped no end, too.

Mr BECKER: The point is that we are very proud of the role that the Electricity Trust has played in South Australia ever since it was formed. An ironic twist of fate occurred when I was in London talking with the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, the counterpart to our Auditor-General, who said that we ought to be looking at our statutory authorities such as our electricity instrumentalities with a view to ensuring that they are profitable and efficient so that they can make worthwhile contributions to the State Treasury. The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee at Westminster is a member of the Opposition. The article to which I refer deals with some of the problems faced because of Wran's economic policy, which was used as blatant politics, and shows how the reserves of the Electricity Commission were manipulated. The article states:

Perhaps the most disgraceful effect is that some county councils are making the increases retrospective for three months to the beginning of winter. A Bill introduced by the Minister for Energy, Paul Landa, to outlaw retrospective price rises from 1 January, has had little effect in easing public outrage.

I have already referred to the point made there, namely, that electricity is supplied in New South Wales via county councils. The fact that those increases were made retrospective to 1 January is disgraceful, and it was certainly before the beginning of winter, so that people receiving their accounts would have been in for a shocking time, because they had no chance to make provision for the increased account and they did not have any opportunity to provide for the additional surcharge of 12.5 per cent for electricity consumption during peak periods. The situation in New South Wales has become quite alarming. The article continues:

The present Treasurer, Ken Booth, recently blamed court-awarded wage increases for the New South Wales financial dilemma. He said: 'The Budget provided for a wages bill increase of almost 13 per cent for 1981-82 and an amount of \$188 800 000 was set aside in the Budget for award adjustments after September 1981. However, the actual increase was \$386 200 000.'

The business community is unimpressed. The executive director of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, David Abba, described the new State tax charges as 'panic fund-raising measures' to redress 'past financial blunders'.

Later in the article we are informed:

It is perhaps significant therefore that Wran dropped the Treasury portfolio after last October's State elections—repeating a practice of distancing himself from problem areas as he did in dropping the Police portfolio in the lead-up to the Allen affair.

We have also heard claims, certainly during the Victorian State election, concerning what the Labor Party would do if it took office and how it would get into the reserves and do exactly as Wran has done during the last 12 months. This was highlighted during the Labor Party's Victorian election campaign with the announcement that it would set

up mammoth funding schemes to rejuvenate Victoria, and of how Cain was going to play the magnificent role of righting all the wrongs by using the hidden reserves that had been accumulated by the various authorities. The article highlights that very point—the hollow logs: in other words, Cain intended to do the same thing, and he predicted that hundreds of millions of dollars would be available.

I note that he has now backed right off from that, obviously following advice from Graham Freudenberg, who, as the article states, has been on loan to the Cain Government in Victoria and who remains a close friend and the sounding board for Wran's political conscience. Of course, Graham Freudenberg was Neville Wran's speech writer and he was in the thick of things. Now he has gone to Victoria to advise Cain, and I certainly hope that he has learnt something from the New South Wales experience, or else Victoria will be in the same position. The article further states:

The lesson of the New South Wales experience however is that a heavy political hand in economic affairs will not work in tight times, and Wran's image as the Labor leader for the middle class and business looks like taking a beating. According to insiders, by far the most influential adviser now on New South Wales economic policy is a former deputy chief economist in the Treasury, Percy Allen, who has become a personal adviser to both Booth and Wran.

Allen, who has been with the Bank of New South Wales in Sydney and London and then with the Department of Labour and Industry in Papua New Guinea, ran as a Labor candidate for the blue-ribbon Federal Liberal seat of Wentworth in the 1960s and had Wran, who was then in the New South Wales Upper House, as his campaign manager. Their informal campaign slogan for the hopeless task of toppling the sitting member, Les Bury, was 'Point Percy at the Parliament'.

I think that sums up the juvenile approach that has been adopted by some of those in opposing political Parties towards the very demanding role of handling taxpayers' money. He comes up with a slogan such as 'Point Percy at the Parliament', and there he is now as the personal adviser to the Premier and Treasurer of New South Wales. The mind boggles as to what the ultimate result will be. The article concludes:

Professor Wilenski, a former departmental head in the Whitlam Government, said that programme budgeting 'would allow Ministers, the Parliament and the public to see more clearly what government does rather than only what resources government consumes, and put decision-making more firmly in the hands of Ministers rather than officials.'

Professor Wilenski has been called in to review the New South Wales Government Administration. Whilst Wilenski and I would be poles apart politically, I would agree with him in some areas. Recently, Wilenski presented a paper to the Public Accounts Committee seminar in Canberra, and that paper was hailed as exceptionally good, full of good ideas and good advice to the administration. Unfortunately for Wilenski, the South Australian Public Accounts Committee has been making the same recommendations and points for some time. The article continues:

Wilenski has also recommended the standardisation of financial accounts presented by statutory authorities, improvements in the New South Wales Budget papers, and the establishment of a capital works unit within Treasury to help the Government evaluate departmental bids for expenditure programmes.

That is the whole sad saga of the track record of the Premier of New South Wales, and there is no doubt that what has happened in New South Wales and what will happen there in regard to the impact of those huge deficits that have been caused, the mammoth rundown of reserves that were built up in the various Government authorities in New South Wales, and the mishandling of the whole economy in that State, will have a tremendous impact on the rest of Australia. New South Wales is not insulated from the economy of the nation, nor is it without considerable influence on the economy of this country, so what happens in New South Wales will affect export opportunities for white goods manufac-

turers, and the organisation about which I am worried at present is Kelvinator. There could be serious ramifications.

However, we have been told for some time that the impact of the current economic situation is being felt not only in Australian States. An article in *Time* magazine of 19 July 1982 sums up, in a roundabout way, what is happening in the Western world. The article states:

Slow growth and swift inflation stymie rich and poor nations alike. Recession—the word no longer seems adequate to describe the relentless turmoil that is shaking the world economy. More and more politicians, businessmen and economists are beginning to have a few haunting fears that this economic decline could spiral out of control, leading to a major breakdown in the economic system.

I have been saying that for some time. It continues:

Said Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at the recent Versailles economic summit: 'We are moving from crisis to catastrophe.' Warns Paul McCracken, former chairman of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisers under President Nixon: 'The world economy is balanced on a knife-edge and could easily plunge into another era of international economic disintegration.'

That is why I warned the member for Elizabeth earlier how finely tuned is the economy not only of this State but also of the nation. It is so finely tuned and balanced at present that any radical decisions by any Government could really upset the whole apple cart. I believe we must be warned at this stage. The article continues:

While nations have struggled with the twin scourges of swift inflation and slow economic growth, millions of people have lost their jobs. Oppressive interest rates have destroyed thousands of businesses. Countless companies have been unable to modernise obsolete factories. The promise of economic expansion, which has always been the driving force of capitalism, suddenly seems in jeopardy.

I believe that what is being experienced now internationally occurred here some years ago. We were in the thick of the whole issue before it really took a grip on other nations. It is further stated:

Despite a wrenching retrenchment, the international economy appears to be no closer to a robust recovery than when the agony began. Indeed, for many countries the problems are intensifying, and Governments that have tried to expand their economies while others were battling inflation are frantically revamping their policies. Rocked by a falling currency, France slapped a four-month wage and price freeze on its economy and devalued the franc by 10 per cent. Beset by near record interest rates and high unemployment, Canada unveiled an austere budget that would limit salary increases for its federal workers to 6 per cent or about half the rate of inflation. Faced with an alarming Government deficit, Belgium took the unprecedented step of prohibiting cost of living increases to pensioners and wage earners now receiving more than \$530 per month.

As virtually every country has been forced to curb its money supply in the fight against inflation, high interest rates have created a worldwide financial crunch. Scores of nations deeply in debt are finding it difficult to meet their payments. Private banks, increasingly reluctant to expand their loans, have cut off credit to whole areas of Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa. Some bankers and economists fear a prolonged contraction of credit that could disrupt world trade. Says Fritz Leutwiler, Chairman of the Bank for International Settlements: 'When all the banks get worried at once, there may be a squeeze. The [international financial] markets are extremely vulnerable.'

The Western world is not the only area to suffer, because the article continues:

Communist nations have fared no better than free-market ones. In the Soviet Union, where factories are increasingly obsolete, annual growth has slowed to less than 2 per cent, in contrast with 4.8 per cent only five years earlier. After a third consecutive dismal harvest, the Soviets this year will have to import a record 44 000 000 tons of grain. The Soviets' East European satellites have run up \$60 billion in debts to Western Governments and banks, including \$25 billion owed by Poland alone.

Perhaps the only oasis in the world economic wasteland is the far-eastern rim of Asia. By selling high-quality products at low prices, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong have garnered prodigious growth and captured hefty shares of the world markets for autos, steel, shipbuilding, electronics and clothing.

I can remember some years ago when we were considering the economic situation in South Australia and Premier Dunstan was making all sorts of excuses that Japan then had the highest inflation in the world (about 8 per cent), and that is going back about eight or nine years. The Japanese Government has made no attempt whatever to reduce that inflation: in other words, it decided to let it roll while all other countries were keeping inflation at a relatively low level. I believe that inflation in Australia was about 3½ per cent to 4 per cent; it was certainly less than the 8 per cent in Japan.

During that time, the Japanese went around the world and bought up all of the resources that they could get their hands on. They made sure that they had two suppliers. For example, if they bought iron ore from Australia, they ensured that they had a back up supply. The Japanese capitalised on that, and there is no doubt that they really benefited in Asia. However, the crunch will come in those areas if the price of oil and uranium is not suitable to enable them to obtain cheap energy resources.

In a previous speech I said that one should watch the activities of the Chase Manhattan Bank, but I do not know whether members opposite or anyone else has bothered to consider the reasons. I still believe that that bank is one of the forces in the world economy that has to be studied seriously. The article states:

Chase Econometrics, a U.S. consulting firm that uses computer models to forecast world economic trends, has projected that between now and 1991, annual growth in most industrial countries will average only 2 per cent to 3 per cent. Worse, Chase predicts that unemployment in the U.S. and Europe will hover around 8 per cent to 9 per cent over the next decade. Such forecasts are shocking and sobering for an entire generation of Americans and Europeans who have lived through the unprecedented period of post-war prosperity.

The article continues:

In the halcyon years between 1950 and 1972, growth averaged about 5 per cent annually and unemployment stayed below 4 per cent. Living standards surged, and world trade blossomed as never before. Business slumps were mild and brief, as Governments gained confidence in managing their economies. Growth seemed easy, almost an inalienable right . . . Says Harvard historian Charles Maier:

Previously, Europe had gone through 500 years of history without a real concept of economic growth at all. Good years and bad years tended to balance each other out. In the 1950s and the 1960s, the Western economies benefited from a great number of conditions which in retrospect seem quite unique.

So now, as we find world leaders trying to grapple with the problem, the real answers are yet to be obtained. The article continues:

Perhaps the most important turning point in the postwar period was the quadrupling of oil prices by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries between 1973 and 1975. Inflation, which was already a budding problem in the West, suddenly raged out of control. In the 1950s and 1960s, prices in the industrial countries had risen on average about 2 per cent to 3 per cent a year. For the 1970s that figure jumped to 9 per cent. In the U.S., Britain, France and Italy, annual inflation had topped 13 per cent by 1980.

Periodically, Governments have tried to cool off prices by tightening their money supplies. The result, though, has been a series of sharp slowdowns in their economies and only limited, temporary progress against inflation. When the Governments have tried to stimulate new growth, inflation surged anew.

That story is nothing new to this country. We have seen it happen over the past few years and, as I have said, the advisers to the Commonwealth Treasury should upgrade their ideas. The article goes on:

It is tempting to blame OPEC for chronic inflation, but that explanation leaves several questions unanswered: Why did jumps in energy costs lead to higher prices and wages in virtually all industries? Why has inflation roared on even after economies have slowed down? Why have the Asian countries weathered the energy crisis better than the West?

I think I have explained that they bought up on long-term contracts, using inflation to support them, and, because Asia is our closest neighbour, I think we have to pay more attention to Asia in future. The article continues:

In the U.S., cheap energy shaped a whole society. Americans took for granted that they could drive cars as big as they wanted, as fast as they wanted and as far as they wanted. Sprawling suburbs snaked out miles away from industrial and urban centres. Builders put up house after house without adequately insulating them for energy efficiency.

By the time the Arab oil embargo hit in 1973, Western nations were dangerously vulnerable. They could not rebuild their factories and homes or replace their cars overnight, and thus had to accept OPEC's quadrupling of oil prices . . . Instead of taking OPEC's action as a sign that increases in Western standards of living would slow down, most Americans and Europeans viewed the event as an outrageous but transitory annoyance. Workers demanded compensation for energy price rises, and wages spiralled upward. Business men hiked their prices to reflect their higher costs. Pensioners and other recipients of Government benefits expected cost of living increases in their cheques. In short, energy price rises were translated into generalised inflation.

There, I believe, is the real key to and crux of the whole issue. When the article talks about the Americans and Europeans being involved, we could add Australia, because we are mirroring exactly what is happening overseas. The article goes on with an interesting point. I think this warning should be given to this Parliament and not only to the New South Wales Government but also to Australia as a nation. That part of the article states:

The Growth of Government. Demands for inflation protection have led to a steady swelling of Government spending. Since 1960, the portion of gross national product consumed by Government in the major industrial countries has gone from 28 per cent to 38 per cent. Though taxes have risen sharply during that period, they have not kept up with spending. Virtually every country is running a record budget deficit. In Italy the 1982 Government short-fall is expected to be an astonishing 13 per cent of G.N.P.

What this all means is the increase in Government benefit in this magnificent era. New South Wales has faced the problem, and South Australia has had the problem and we have set out to rectify it. All I can say to the Opposition regarding the lead up and recent promises is 'Be warned and be careful.' Rational decisions need to be made now to prepare for our future and future generations. We as a Parliament owe future generations more than we inherited. This Parliament must be mindful of its responsibilities, particularly in handling taxpayers' money.

Mr BANNON (Leader of the Opposition): Following on from the contribution by the member for Hanson, it is certainly true that, in developing any programme for government in these difficult financial times, one must pay close attention to the financial resources available and to the efficiency with which those resources are spent, and we have been conscious throughout our period in Opposition of just that responsibility. It often seems to me extraordinary that the present Government, with its abysmal record of financial management of this State, is constantly trying to suggest that we in some way are responsible in terms of financial management in what we are proposing, when we are very careful in what we propose and how we propose it. However, no doubt all that will be canvassed and debated in the course of the coming general election campaign, if not sooner.

This is the fourth Address in Reply speech that I have made as Leader of the Opposition, and I hope that it will be the last. We have certainly had an interesting period of three years since 1979 and the defeat of the then Labor Government after nearly 10 years in office. It is a period that has involved considerable readjustment, and I suggest also a period of learning experience on the part of those of us who have been in Opposition, particularly those who are

in Opposition for the first time. That learning experience, of course, had to be matched by those who had, somewhat to their own surprise, come to government and been forced to put into practice those policies that they had been advocating for a considerable time before that. A lot of mistakes have been made and a lot of problems have been created by the way in which the Government has performed.

In speaking today, I would like to refer briefly again to the news that has been given to the Parliament of the resignation of my colleague and friend, Mr Howard O'Neill, as member for Florey. As I said in the proceedings earlier today, it is a major blow, not only to our Party, in which Mr O'Neill played such a major and key role, but also to this Parliament, because Mr O'Neill was poised at that stage of his career to draw on all that experience and those abilities that he had developed to make a major contribution to public administration in this State. I know how he agonised over that decision on whether he should accept the advice of his medical specialist to stand down.

As the member for Hartley put it, he agonised from the perspective not of his own personal career being in the balance but most of all of what he felt to be his responsibility to his colleagues and his Party and his responsibilities ultimately to the State. It was an appallingly difficult decision for him to make, but he has made it. As we have all said earlier today, let us hope that that decision in itself helps to speed his recovery. Certainly, his resignation is going to leave a gap in our ranks which will be hard to fill. I can only say that, obviously, Howard O'Neill's career in public life will not just be judged by the few short years he spent here but, in looking at the whole perspective of it, he will be seen very much as a man who has made a major contribution most of his life in what one might call a backroom capacity, but he has been involved in key decisions and very important events in the history of this State over that time.

This Parliament and the community it represents stands just a few weeks short of having passed through what I believe will be looked back on as three wasted years of Liberal Government—interregnum, maybe. The Premier's performance this afternoon during Question Time showed this. His Minister would do well to note this. He has probably sat there shifting uneasily in his seat, as many of his colleagues have, as the Premier performed in such a damn fool way as he did, in response to his back-bench Dorothy Dix question today. I think that sort of performance indicates the problems which the Government has had in both developing and delivering a programme and, indeed, in communicating properly to the people of South Australia. It has been three pretty disastrous years for the State. We have become in that time, I would suggest, something of a poor relation of the Commonwealth. The term of office has been characterised by idleness and bluster, many excuses have been produced for failure, and there has been the search for scapegoats. There has been the ultimate inability, apparently, to take responsibility in those areas where a State Government should properly take responsibility. That is made even more amazing in the light of what was said and done in Opposition by the very same people, who at that period sought to heap everything that happened in the State on to the responsibility of the State Government. They got into office and suddenly they discovered it was really not up to them.

I do not believe the Government has ever been prepared to come clean with the community it pretends to represent. Rather than rationally assessing our problems, the Premier seems to seek constantly to walk away from them or cover them up. Boasting and false confidence have been more the order of the day. Instead of the Government's giving rational information on the economic conditions, which I think

these difficult times have demanded, and putting clear proposals and policy initiatives to all those in the community who are struggling to develop businesses, improve their standard of living or maintain their jobs, instead we have had slogans, double speak and pep talks. I do not think that is what the people of South Australia thought they were going to get when they elected the Government, although we who sat in this Chamber and watched them perform before (whether for a long or short time) were pretty convinced that that was what they were going to get. I think it has come as quite a shock and a surprise to the people of South Australia that that was the way in which their new Government (this experiment that they decided to try) was going to perform.

We have sat through all those well-known statements of the Premier, right from the unmistakeable proof of December 1979, that things are on the up and up, and we are on the brink of the new era of development and prosperity. The extraordinary thing about all this is that, while one could excuse some of those extraordinary statements in the early stages of Government, they were still being made as recently as some months ago. The speech about the brink of a new era of development and prosperity was circulated to the State business community in February of this year. In the light of all that had happened during the previous few years, the Premier was still saying that sort of thing.

Mr Keneally: That is all covered in that booklet.

Mr BANNON: That is right—the book of which 100 000 copies have just been published within a few months of an election: 100 000 copies, with a big full-page picture of the Premier and a front cover on Roxby Downs. There it is. It is little wonder that around the traps among the informed the Government is not taken seriously. There may be some individual decisions that have been made and some Ministers who have managed to relate to certain sections of their portfolio, although there are not many of them at different times. The overriding impression and view that the people have of this Government is that it is a Government of bluster, nonsense and non-performance. We are going to face an election campaign where we are going to be told that this is a Government that really has had great achievements to its credit.

These so-called achievements will be things cobbled together in the last few months, and one could easily produce a list of them. They have all been timed to appear towards the end of this year. Some of them are initiatives taken by the previous Governments, and others are things that have emerged over the last few years. All of it will add up again to the sort of confidence trick that has been perpetrated over the last few years. They will not relate to the substance of what is happening in our economy and what is happening to individuals in our economy. I am afraid that most of the Government, particularly Cabinet members who sit in the sort of seats that they sit in, are insulated from the problems of real people who daily are trooping through the electorate offices of myself and colleagues in those areas which are not so affluent and not so wealthy and in which the bulk of people in this State live.

The evidence is becoming overwhelming. We are hearing a bit less of this new era of development and prosperity (although it bobs up whenever the opportunity presents itself), because plainly there is a credibility gap there. We find the Government's response has turned to looking for excuses. 'It is not our fault', the Premier tells us. 'It is the national economy—it is the international situation. It is anything but the responsibility of the Liberal Government.'

Last month in this House, when faced with a no-confidence motion and when given an opportunity to explain his pathetic record, the Premier instead gave us a Cook's Tour of Western European economies and what may or may not be happening

there. Apart from his attempts in Opposition, under that leper colony tag, to denigrate this State and regional economy in South Australia by relating us to Haiti and Chad and so on for his own purposes, the Premier never accepted the argument that it was not in the power of the State Government to do something about these things. I guess we would be prepared to accept it if he got into office and said he realised after getting into office and grappling with the realities just what the problems were and how well the State Government in South Australia through the 1970s had coped with it, but not a bit of it. He still persists in his same scurrilous attack on the achievements of that era with such things as a booklet on 'What a great place South Australia is', in which he reproduces the monument of the 1970s in South Australia. Page after page are achievements of the South Australian Labor Government—the lifestyle and development are all pictured and praised and talked about. It is a fine catalogue of achievements for the Dunstan-Corcoran years, but to the Premier that did not exist. That was a period of malaise and economic hopelessness, and he is setting it all right. If he cannot be seen to have set it right yet, it is not his fault—it is the fault of somebody else or overseas or interstate conditions, or whatever. He did not tell the people of South Australia in 1979 that that was the position and that that is what he was going to do.

He did not tell the people of South Australia then that in the 1980s they would have to accept second best. His message today can quite clearly be seen in its reality as saying that we must forget the 1970s, forget the leadership position that we had for so many years, and just simply batten down the hatches because our days of leading Australia are over. That is costing us plenty: it is costing us plenty in the international scene as much as anywhere. Apparently we must forget the time when South Australia had a Government that believed that every person able and willing to work had a right to a job and was prepared to do something to create jobs.

Dr Billard: You gave us the highest unemployment figures in Australia. What are you talking about?

Mr BANNON: We have to forget about record improvements in education, welfare services, health care, and housing. I do not know whether the member for Newland remembers it clearly, but he should compare the education, health and other standards of living in this State during the 1960s prior to the Dunstan Government and really see what South Australia was like then. If the honourable member was not in this State then, he really will not understand what I am talking about. An extraordinary disintegration has been occurring in those services. We can ignore the legal and electoral reforms. That is the message that this Government is offering, and members like the member for Newland have to sell them in the community now: they must say, Lower your sights, batten down the hatches, forget about it, the Government cannot do anything. We are getting out of the way of business, and we hope that it will come good.'

An honourable member: Doom and gloom again.

Mr BANNON: No, on the contrary. I am not preaching doom and gloom, because I am prepared to say that an active, vigorous interventionist State Government can do something to improve the situation. Unlike members on the other side of the House and their philosophy, I am prepared to offer them some hope, not the despair that is offered by this failed economic policy of the present Government. So, they should remember that.

'Due to circumstances beyond our control' is the phrase that the Premier is going to use throughout the election campaign when anything nasty is brought up. 'Doom and gloom', he is going to say, and in using that expression he has apparently no shame, either. He will not be able to offer anything. We are going to limp along behind the rest of the nation. The Premier is now telling the people of South

Australia that for three years, the bluster, slogans and statements about being on the brink of prosperity were all nothing but a cruel hoax—that it was never on, and it is not his fault. It has been obvious to all South Australians over the past few years that our State has been facing a difficult time.

The figures on unemployment are consistently high.

Dr Billard: They are lower now than when you were in Government.

Mr BANNON: Yes, they are higher than when we were in.

Dr Billard: They are lower now than when you were in.

Mr BANNON: No, they are not. You were right the first time.

Dr Billard: They were 8.2 per cent in February 1979 and they are now 7.6 per cent.

Mr BANNON: I will not waste my time debating statistics. I think I know a little better. For 30 consecutive months we have had the highest unemployment rate on the mainland. That has never happened in our post-war history; it has never happened under a Labor Government. In fact, for the first 20 months of this Government, given the period when they benefited from the 1979 recovery, South Australia had the highest unemployment in Australia as a whole.

I think that in recent weeks it has been dramatically brought home to all South Australians that this record does not merely consist of a list produced by anonymous Government departments or bureaux. The well publicised retrenchments of recent weeks (and there are more coming) have shown clearly and starkly that real people—men and women who are breadwinners for their families—are being hit hard as their jobs are lost, and this unemployment is now reaching into areas that it did not reach before. Those people, because of their age and their type of occupation, felt they were immune from the problems of unemployment that were particularly affecting the young and the older workers in the work force. Now it is coming home to them in dramatic leaps in areas where these people live, and they happen to be marginal seats.

I would not like to be someone like the members for Newland, Morphett or Todd trying to explain to people why for the first time they are facing problems which they knew may have been happening before but which were now really coming home to them in a way that they were having difficulty coping with. All they could be told is that the Government of which their new members form a part had a policy of letting these things take their course, of stepping aside and getting out of the way, and that they could not offer very much, except the hope that the policies would work in the long term. That is not good enough.

Building approvals were down 10 per cent in the June quarter of this year compared to the same quarter in 1981. Finance for new and established housing in this State continues to slide downwards, even though the actual cost of building houses is rising steeply. Finally, at the bottom line we have our appalling record of being the bankruptcy capital of Australia under a Government that claims to be the representative of business, and small business in particular. This is a very interesting statistic indeed, and the member for Newland—

Dr Billard interjecting:

Mr BANNON: Yes, but one would assume that our Government would be like that. I would have thought that that was logic, because he would claim that we are the enemies of business. The honourable member would say that of course there have been major bankruptcies, although it does not happen to be true. However, I do not see why he is suggesting that that is an argument in his defence. Is this not meant to be the Government of business, the Government that is protecting and fostering these people? Government members should listen to this record. From

January 1980 to July 1982 there have been 2 300 bankruptcies in South Australia. That means for every working day during that period more than three bankruptcies were declared in this State, and many of them were small businesses. Many would have been forced out of the depressed building and construction industry, which has been so hard hit by this Government's misuse of Loan funds. So, while we drag behind the nation in most other areas, here, as with unemployment, we are way out in front under the Government of business. Government members should tell their constituents that when they are campaigning in the course of the next election. With less than 9 per cent of the population, our share of all bankruptcies is 18.5 per cent and of personal bankruptcies it is 20 per cent. That is the statistic that relates to the record of the Tonkin Government. That is the inevitable consequence of the Government whose philosophy is simply to get out of the way. Indeed, it goes beyond that: it is an integral part of the neo-conservative economic theory to which the Premier and his Party claim allegiance. That is part of letting the market work.

If someone challenges members opposite about bankruptcies, their response will have to be in terms of their economic philosophy, which is: 'That is how you sort business out: that is the survival of the fittest. If you go to the wall, that is bad luck.' That is a good message of hope and promise to sell to people in this State. I hope that it is treated with the contempt that it deserves.

The Premier, using his tactic of distortion, says that we can ignore all this, even to look at it is to promote doom and gloom, and that we do not really want to know about that. Let us concentrate on increases in employment and what has been happening in that regard. For a start, we must ignore the unseasonal comparison of one month in 1979 with a totally different month in 1982 which the Premier persists in using. However, even that does not help him very much. We must ignore the careful use he makes of August 1979 as a base figure, carefully chosen to ensure the most favourable result.

Dr Billard interjecting:

Mr BANNON: The member for Newland may recall that the election was in mid September. The figures are collected about that time, yet apparently we do not compare it with that: we compare it with August. The latest available figures, the realistic figures, are for June 1982. They show that over the 12-month period from June 1981 to June 1982 employment in South Australia fell by 3 400. That is the reality, that is what is happening at the moment.

Other indicators are equally disturbing. Our share of national job vacancies is only 4.7 per cent, while our labour force is 9 per cent of the total. Our growth rate of retail sales for the March 1982 quarter was the lowest of any State in Australia. At 1.8 per cent, it was also significantly lower than the national average of 2.3 per cent. Even more disturbing is the fact that over the 12 months to March 1982 our retail sales growth was below the inflation rate.

That means that real sales volume fell. That is a fact of life and we cannot walk away from that, pretend it does not exist and make signs and signals about what a great state it is, mate, and so on. Let us face the facts: that is what mature sensible people in our society want. They do not want all the nonsense with which they have been force fed in the past three years. It is little wonder that in South Australia today poverty is becoming an issue of discussion and debate, and not just in the poor areas but in the more affluent and middle class areas, the growing and developing areas of this State. That would have been inconceivable three years ago.

There are the horror stories of people being unable to buy adequate food because of the sheer burden of debt and the now numerous case studies of young couples being unable

to start families because of rising interest rates and the spectre of more families losing their homes. These were not the currency of public discussion three years ago. They were not the sorts of stories that filled the feature pages of the press. However, in 1982, in the third year of office of this Government, they are common place. In the face of this real despair, when confronted with the reality of our economy, the Premier and his Government search desperately for somewhere else where things are worse.

The Government will soon realise that the people of South Australia do not want any Government that will not accept responsibility for maintaining the standards of living of its citizens. It will soon realise that people are tired of being misled and are tired of slogans masquerading as policies. South Australia's unemployed need jobs now and those still lucky enough to have work want to be assured that they are secure so that they will be able to meet their commitments, to keep up their mortgage repayments, to educate their children, and to pay their health bills.

Parents with children approaching school-leaving age want to know that their sons and daughters have a future in this State and will not be forced to leave as so many other people have done—15 000 people since this Government came into office. We need a new approach to economic management in South Australia and we need a Government that is willing to take positive action to protect jobs, to develop new employment opportunities, to carefully assess what is happening in our main job-creating industries, and to develop policies to ensure that employment is protected, not get out of the way or stand aside while that happens. Unfortunately, for purely political reasons, this Government has done nothing over the three years but make speeches about resource development while key manufacturing industries and building and construction sectors have crumbled under its feet.

Dr Billard: There are more employed in the manufacturing industry now than there were in 1979.

Mr BANNON: I am coming to that. I will answer the honourable member soon, in proper sequence. The Government has been in part responsible for the problems faced by the construction industry through the savage cuts made to the public works programme and through the unprecedented use of capital works funds to prop up its Revenue Budget.

Let me give some figures on our manufacturing and construction industries from the 1981 Census that have just been made available by the A.B.S. Employment and manufacturing in South Australia is now only 19 per cent. In 1976 it was 21 per cent. Most of that fall in proportionate terms has occurred since 1980. So much for the statement that was made a short time ago. The relative decline of our manufacturing industry has occurred drastically and mainly under the present Government. The decline in employment in construction is even more marked. It now stands at 5.5 per cent, compared to 8 per cent in 1976. The census evidence, looking at that drastic change in proportionate employment, confirms what the Opposition has been saying for a number of months and shows how urgently action is needed to overcome the neglect of these important job-creating industries. We can no longer afford the sort of Government inaction we have had.

Mr Oswald: We can't afford your job creation.

Mr BANNON: We have to unlock investment funds and resources necessary to create jobs. I am sorry that the member for Morphett has swallowed the nonsense that his Premier has been giving him. It will prove to be his undoing. It does not stand up to factual analysis. I suggest that he take a sober and rational look at the economy and not believe the bluster and nonsense being fed to him. I suspect that it is too late for him to do too much in terms of electoral

performance, but I advise him, before he moves into battle, to reassess some of the so-called facts and figures on which he is being asked to make a case for this Government.

We are prepared to take some responsibility in this area and try to do something about the matter, as we were when in Government, not the whole responsibility as the then Opposition tried to lay at our door, but some, and certainly not none, as the present Government is doing. We have already publicly released the outline of our strategy for economic development in South Australia and identified areas in which a State Government can take action to bring immediate benefits to all South Australians. I have consistently invited the Premier to debate that document with me and we have been offered the time to do so, but he prefers not to take up that challenge but rather to use the protection of Standing Orders and the pathetic device of question from his back bench to malign, distort and misrepresent those policies, while never once putting to the House any alternatives or explanation of why, after three years of his Government, we are in such dire straits. I have made clear in that public document, in debates in this House, during my meetings with businessmen, and in the community, that we regard housing as one of the major problems facing a future Labor Government. In terms of our economic policy, we have singled out building and construction as well as housing as an area in which a State Government can make a direct impact.

Remember, it is this Liberal Government that has withheld nearly \$100 000 000 in public works and construction money in a period when that money was desperately needed by the industry. It is this Government that has regarded the capital works budget as a kind of slush fund to make up for the problems which its costing errors and other financial mis-managements since 1979 built into State finances. It is this Liberal Government that must accept a large measure of responsibility for the problems in which the building industry finds itself. While that industry declines, the housing standards of South Australians are threatened.

The Premier's response to that major social problem on which there is a lot of information and on which, indeed, the coming problems were forecast some time ago if there had been a realistic assessment of the economic indicators, has been haphazard and totally governed by political expediency. At the beginning of this session, faced with a censure motion on housing, the Premier hurriedly re-announced an allocation of Federal money and rushed to set up a mortgage relief scheme. Evidence which has come to my office and to electorate officers of members on this side of the House, and evidence which has been studied specifically by the member for Napier in his shadow responsibility, indicates that there is enormous confusion surrounding the application of that scheme.

Yesterday the Premier was asked what use he would make of the special allocation of the \$8 500 000 for housing made at the Premiers' Conference in June this year. He claimed we would have to wait until the Budget. He has known for seven weeks that these funds are available and has known for some months that housing is a desperate problem for more and more South Australians. Yet, he refuses to tell us how these funds will be employed. I can only conclude that he is trying to keep the money up his sleeve so that he can produce it with a flourish nearer the time of the election and pretend that it is a new initiative from his Government. We have some ideas on how that money may be spent. In the absence of the Premier dealing with that, very shortly we will be announcing proposals in that area.

To play politics in the way he has with both the March package and the allocation from the June Premiers' Conference indicates the cynical survival mentality which the Premier has and on which he is prepared to play politics

with people's houses. I have already made clear that we are going to put forward these proposals and clear schemes. Economic planning is obviously a priority for South Australia. We will not allow things to drift along the way they have been allowed to drift. We will certainly end that confusion and rivalry between the Premier's State Development Department and the Minister of Industrial Affairs' Trade and Industry Department.

That was clearly exposed yet again in another manifesto today when I asked a question about a special consultant study being undertaken: the Premier apparently knew nothing about it and it was left to the Minister of Industrial Affairs to rise to his feet and give us some details of it. Precisely where the Premier fitted in to what is an apparently major ex-overseas marketing function, I do not know. I remind members of the House that last year when we tried to define the difference between trade and industry and State development we were given to understand that State development would be concerned with those extra-territorial activities, and that was one of the demarcation lines. Apparently, that has all broken down and neither the Premier nor his Minister is quite clear about what happens. If they are not clear, how can business be clear on that matter, and that situation must end.

The delays in making decisions that have perturbed the business community have also seriously contributed to the economic downturn and malaise, and I would suggest that it has highlighted the Government's incompetence in this area. I thought it was interesting that the other day Premier Cain of Victoria was talking about that as being one of the major factors of business concern with the former Liberal Government in Victoria; there were exactly the same problems, the inability to make decisions, wafting to and fro between various pressure groups and various interest groups. Premier Cain has devised a so-called fast track method of dealing with major developmental projects that can get decisions quickly, because whether the decisions are yes or no, businesses want to know them quickly.

Mr Oswald: Tell us about the Victorian Development Fund.

Mr BANNON: The Victorian Development Fund is certainly going to make a major contribution to that State.

Mr Oswald: It is a disaster.

Mr BANNON: The member for Morphett professes to know that it is a disaster, when it has not even been set up yet: it is in the process of being set up. The member for Morphett is certainly well informed indeed—it is a disaster, he says, but it has not even been established.

Mr Ashenden: Tell us about Neville Wran and how well he has looked after New South Wales.

Mr BANNON: Don't change the subject—let us talk about the Victorian Development Fund.

Mr Ashenden: Tell us about Neville Wran and about how well he is performing—can't you answer that?

Mr BANNON: Just control yourself, and we will hear about the Victorian Development Fund.

Mr Oswald interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BANNON: Well, I suppose that we must allow members opposite to have their day, as it is drawing so rapidly to a close, which is probably the only reason why I am wasting my time answering their interjections. It is depressing to see people in those marginal areas of the State which at the moment are being so hard hit by an economic malaise being represented by a level of ignorance such as that displayed by the member opposite. It is a bit distressing, but I am sure the electors in those electorates will be able to change that situation in the not too distant future.

We will get a few symbols over the next few months during the lead-up to the election of what the Liberal Gov-

ernment has or has not achieved, such as the opening of Technology Park, which was something that was being developed under the previous Government. That is fine: the initiative was picked up and pushed ahead and the Opposition is not complaining about that: thank goodness that it has been proceeded with, but, of course, absolutely no credit at all will be given to the previous Government for having had anything to do with it.

In regard to the construction of the international hotel, I am sure that the Premier will make that an extra piece of his election debut as he grandly opens it and strolls through it, and so on. That was the project that he said was something out of Alice in Wonderland, a fantasy of former Premier Dunstan. However, that project has been developed and is now going to be developed and completed in precisely the form, site and everything else that Premiers Dunstan and Corcoran had worked on over the years—but they will get no credit for that, and no acknowledgment, because it will be a symbol of the Tonkin Government's achievements, and I guess that, like so many of its symbols, it will be important to remember that that symbol was created by the previous Government, and it is fitting that a Government of interregnum has as its symbols the achievements of its predecessors.

Mention was made a moment ago of the Victorian Development Fund. I have previously announced the establishment of the South Australian Enterprise Fund, which will help generation of investments and lead to job creation and development. It has been suggested on the one hand that this is an unknown and untried concept, and on the other, that it is a disastrous mirror image of things that have been tried elsewhere. To being with, I point out that the Victorian Development Fund has not yet been established, but indeed, it is not the same as our South Australian Enterprise Fund. The concept is not understood by the Premier, but it is one that has been operated successfully in Canadian provinces and in Europe and is one that was even put forward by the former Department of Productivity under a Federal Liberal Government, which is quite interesting. Clearly, it is a concept that would bring enormous benefits to South Australia, and equally obvious is the fact that it is a concept that does not fit in with the Liberal Party's economic ideology, and so therefore it is being ignored.

Another area that has aroused particular frenzy amongst members of the Government concerns job creation. I have made clear that the Labor Party will implement job creation schemes to the extent that it is necessary and financially possible. In other words, unlike the Government, the Labor Party will completely accept its responsibility to help develop jobs in South Australia. I find it incredible that the Government would want to attack that proposition, particularly when it has nothing else to establish in its place. At least the people know that the Labor Party is prepared to do everything possible to help create jobs and that it will not simply hope that someone else will do it. Of course, the Premier harps on about what this may cost, which seems to be a clear admission on his part of a Treasury which has been gutted by his financial mismanagement. Leaving aside the question of what he has done to the resources that the Labor Party will inherit, has the Premier ever thought about the cost of doing nothing?

All of the costs that the Minister of Industrial Affairs invents and assembles do not take into account the cost to the community of increased levels of crime, violence, drug abuse, the demolition of individual and family units, and all those other things associated with long-term unemployment and the pressure of housing and shelter in this society. They are costs and quite direct costs to government and the community, and in any assessment of the costs of a positive scheme to do something about such problems, let

us set off in the ledger those costs as against the cost of doing nothing about such problems. However, the type of Government we now have is not prepared to do that.

Of course, this is the last session of the current Parliament. As I said at the beginning of my remarks, whether the Premier believes that the chances of his Government's surviving will be greater at the end of this year or early in 1983, no doubt we will soon have to face an election. Although, of course, the Premier's track record with the Prime Minister is not a particularly good one, obviously if the Fraser Government opts for an early election, no doubt our own Premier will have to tailor his plan to suit his Federal masters. It was interesting that today he chose to attack former Premier Dunstan on the grounds that he stood up to the Prime Minister of the day, which is unheard of in the Premier's case. I refer to standing up to Mr Fraser, and that is one of the reasons why the State has the problems it faces at the moment.

Mr Oswald: He is the best Prime Minister we have ever had.

Mr BANNON: The member for Morphett feels that he is the best Prime Minister we have ever had; let him tell that to all those in the electorate of Morphett and see what public response he gets to that statement. Whenever an election is called the Australian Labor Party will be ready, with good policies to allow people of South Australia to make a clear choice between the inaction, indecision and failure of the past few years as opposed to new directions and new approach in the future, which the Labor Party is offering. The key to that approach lies in the policies I have outlined today. It is not simply harking back to what happened in the 1970s—that record stands by itself, and, as I have said, that record is well set out in the booklet that the Government produced at public expense to demonstrate its own so-called achievements.

But together with economic policies there are policies in those vital areas of education, welfare, the environment, and so on. I am confident that when it comes to the election the people of South Australia will not allow themselves to be stampeded by spurious scare campaigns of the type that we are well used to seeing from Liberal Governments and indeed such as that which we saw in 1979 from the Liberal Opposition. I hope that the press will act with more integrity on this occasion than it did then, and that the business community, too, will accept its responsibilities as citizens of this State and not as partisan campaigners in the most scurrilous way, as it did in 1979. The Labor Party asks that it be treated in a fair way. We ask for no more than that: we do not ask for favouritism or for support, but we ask for neutrality and we ask for a fair go as far as the media is concerned, in terms of simply letting it be said, letting what we say and what we stand for be known.

The member for Hartley, as Premier, asked for that in 1979, and look what he got—an outrageous betrayal by both the media and the business community, and his Government had taken very positive steps indeed to open its doors and to construct a dialogue and be prepared to tackle in the face the problems of the State and not to try to paper them over, as the present Government has done. Anyway, that is water under the bridge. I hope that we will not see a revival of that sort of campaign and at present there is no evidence that we will. That means that the people of South Australia will be able to make their choice in a clear and fairly dispassionate way. In considering our current economic situation, the community is clearly looking for a Government that will tell the truth and will, above all, commit itself to doing something to solve the problems. We are prepared to take up that challenge and to put it before the people of South Australia at the next election to let them be the judge.

Mr LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury): In responding to the Address in Reply today, I indicate my personal sadness at the announcement that was made today by you, Mr Speaker, that Howard O'Neill has been forced to resign from this place. I personally regard Howard as a very good friend. I have known him for some 13 years in a variety of capacities—in my present capacity as a member of Parliament, he was a Parliamentary colleague; in my former capacity as a member of one of the sub-branches of the Party to which I belong, I liaised, as did other people, with the then Secretary, Howard O'Neill; and I was associated with him in my activities in the anti-war movement. Howard O'Neill was deeply concerned at the suffering that war caused, and his belief that it was wrong and should be brought to an end transcended any other opinions he might have had about certain personalities or events.

Because of our long association, I am personally saddened that fortune has not smiled on Howard to enable him to fulfil what could have been the peak of his career and to put into effect through the Legislature so many of the policies that he held dear, and still holds dear. I wish him well in his enforced retirement and I hope that his present difficulties do not last long and that his health will recover as soon as possible. I also pass on my kind regards to his family through the forum of this House.

The Governor in his Speech referred to the late John McLeay, and I too would like to record my feelings on this matter and convey my sentiments to his family on his death. But I, like many other members on this side, was concerned at the omission of the name of Cyril Hutchens from the Speech. Obviously, it was the Government's, not the Governor's, omission, and I do believe it was an omission and not a deliberate oversight. It was sad that a lack of care was exercised and that Cyril Hutchens's name was omitted from the Governor's Speech.

I want to spend most of my time this afternoon addressing education matters and commenting on a number of issues that are before this State at present. In recent times, the Minister has tried to raise spectres and the image of some grand Machiavellian scheme aimed to unseat him and his Government, that really, in some grand vision of paranoia, he, the innocent victim, the innocent Minister of Education, is being preyed upon by the Institute of Teachers, the Labor Party, and all other things that go bump in the night. He has gone to great lengths to try to build up this image and has tried to raise scare tactics about the Opposition's stand in regard to various education matters.

Indeed, he has twice in recent days adamantly said in this House that I have been running around the child-parent centres of this State saying that those centres will be closed. At one stage the Minister said that I was apparently perambulating. May I say that it is not my practice to take my children with me on visits to child-parent centres. I do so alone, and I travel by vehicle. When I took exception to some of the Minister's comments, he bounced up and down on the front bench opposite in a great deal of excitement while I was making a personal explanation, put his hand up as if he were in a classroom asking for the next turn at a personal explanation, and stated in his explanation that the member for Norwood had issued such information—he was the one who conveyed the information that I had stated that pre-school centres were under threat.

Of course, in due course, the member for Norwood gave a personal explanation of his own and quite clearly put the record straight that the Minister was merely fabricating the situation. Perhaps I should read the pamphlet that was distributed by the member for Norwood in his electorate report. Presumably, this was the document to which the Minister referred. It contains a photograph of me with the member for Norwood and parents of the Trinity Gardens

Child-Parent Centre. What does the caption above the photograph say? It says that we are joining 'in discussions on the future of the Trinity Gardens Child-Parent Centre with worried parents'. That talks about the future, and that is what we discussed.

We talked about whether there would be a phasing out of Education Department control of that and other child-parent centres and whether the centre would be handed over to another authority. We talked about the way in which fee structures may or may not change in the future in regard to the child-parent centre. We certainly did not talk about the centre being summarily closed. So obviously that phrase is not the phrase to which the Minister referred. Let us have a further look at the pamphlet. The second paragraph of the section by the member for Norwood on education states that reduced funds in both the pre-school and tertiary areas are causing specific problems.

That does not say that child-parent centres or pre-schools will be closed down. But perhaps the Minister cannot read. There is just a chance that the Minister of Education cannot read and that he was just guessing what was stated and what the big words were. The pamphlet certainly does not say that child-parent centres will be closed. If the Minister is attempting to tell me or this House that there have not been reductions in funds for pre-school education in this State, I suggest that he provide the figures to back up that statement, because he is the Minister who indicated the difficulties in regard to Federal cuts in funding for pre-school education. So that little exercise has not stood up to examination.

May I suggest that the attempts at raising spectres by the Minister, his Ministerial colleagues and, likewise, his Government colleagues do not stand up to very much support. I believe that this Minister and his Government have attempted to politicise the education arena. It is a very sorry thing that that should happen, because I do not see the classrooms of our schools as being the battlegrounds of the body politic: I do not see the students of this State as being the electoral fodder upon which Governments will rise or fall. It is fine for education policies to be debated in the political arena, but it is not appropriate for one side or the other to claim falsely manipulation of the students of this State for political ends.

We have had a lot of this. We had the example last year when the Premier, while attending some Cornish festival at Kadina (obviously a very pleasant day), was quoted in the press as saying that I, among others, was involved in an insidious campaign to use the children of this State. It would have been better if he had kept eating the pasties, had his mouth full of them, and had not said anything.

I wrote a letter to the *Advertiser* taking exception to the remarks and indicating in a rather polite way that I found the remarks not only unpleasant but also libellous. It is interesting to note that that letter was published by the *Advertiser* much more quickly than had been the case with any other letter I have written to that newspaper. It was published in the edition for the morning after I had written it. I would be interested to know whether the Premier would make those comments again. He is not alone in that. He has his Ministerial colleague who tries to do the same thing and I will read some statements made by the Minister of Education in press releases. On 14 July this year, in a press release, the Minister said:

This campaign—

that was a campaign organised by the Institute of Teachers— is clearly the forerunner of a political fight to support a Labor Government . . . where sweetheart deals were made, with subsequent pay increases.

That last reference was to the alleged Victorian example. The Minister was trying to raise a spectre that there was a

sweetheart deal here between the Opposition and the unions involved in education. This is a cheap, untruthful and irresponsible attitude. On 28 July this year, he said:

The actions of radical elements within Australian teacher unions are stimulating the loss of students from State schools.

There was no comment about the relevance of senior school curricula, the support for curriculum development at the school-based level, or the constant bashing of teachers undertaken by certain quarters in this State, but rather it was an attempt to wipe off the responsibility and, as I have said, make the buck stop somewhere else. If it may seem unreasonable that I am attempting to claim that the present Minister of Education is one who tries to see political bogymen where they are not, I indicate that it is not a late-come attitude for the Minister. On previous occasions, as the former shadow Minister of Education, he took delight in such a pummelling of the system. His comment on 1 December 1978 on a departmental working paper on the treatment of sex roles was this:

Marxist forces within the South Australian Education Department were part of an international concept of social engineering.

What an amazing statement that is! Now I know why he said so little when his colleague the member for Brighton went off the deep end in a lather and froth of excitement about sex in our schools, because he had been doing much the same thing himself nearly four years ago. The Minister claims that it is not he who is criticising the system. I do not know how he justifies that against the quotes to which I have just referred, but perhaps we ought to turn to the analysis of the press. I believe that one report in the *Advertiser* of 16 January this year summed up the situation. The editorial writer wrote:

If Hugh Hudson was the man who took politics out of education in South Australia, Allison is very definitely the man who put politics back in . . . Under him education has become a political minefield.

No truer words have been said. One can make the point that, if he knows so much about what is going on in our system, that it is, indeed, fraught with political manoeuvres, how could he say on 20 July last year, as he did in a press release, that he was more than 'pleasantly surprised with the work being done in schools'? This was a press release issued after he went visiting around schools. Somebody said to him, 'Maybe you ought to go visiting the schools,' and he did. Good luck to him! Full marks! His response: he was pleasantly surprised. For some months he had been beating teachers about their heads saying they were doing all sorts of terrible things and destabilising the system, but when he went and had a look, 'Oh my gosh! I am surprised. How nice.' His comments about criticisms in that press release that were levelled were summed up like this: 'There are pessimists in every staff room.' I must say, having seen the performance of the present Minister, I am not surprised there are pessimists in every staff room: they have every right to be pessimistic.

As I said before, education should not be something where the classroom is the political football ground. We should be debating policies; we should be debating directions. We should be debating what sorts of developments should be taking place in all levels of education both within schools and beyond schools. We should be debating what levels of funding should be made available to the various levels of education. It is true that there are difficulties with funding for any State Government in the present context. It is true that those difficulties must be addressed by any Government of any persuasion. It is not possible to say to the education community, to parents, the teachers, the students and the community at large, 'The growth rates we saw in the middle 1970s will automatically be able to be replicated in the 1980s.' That is not possible. It is not to say that needs are

not there that need addressing; it is just to face a fact of life. It would be dishonest if growth rates that we saw before were promised again. There would be justification for them, but in terms of the budgetary problems it would be dishonest to say they will take place again. What we should be doing; however, is to talk about the level of commitment we have presently reached in education and where in long-term goals we should go from there and how in the immediate term we should spend that particular allocation without eroding it.

We know that at the moment there is a study going on within the Education Department about the application of new formulae. That is quite an important study because it will affect the class sizes that are being faced by teachers and the children of this State. The Minister on 30 July took exception to some comments made in certain quarters about the class size problem. In a press release he said, 'For the Institute of Teachers to say that South Australia will have some of the largest school class sizes in Australia is obviously inaccurate.' I think that it would be useful to the House if we just spent some moments looking at the class size situation.

Recently, the Australian Teachers Federation completed a survey of a sample of schools throughout this country. The survey was done on about 1 000 schools out of the 7 700 schools in this country, and 115 schools in this State responded. The reply rate from schools in this State was 82.7 per cent of the sample, which was about equal with the national average. A number of interesting findings came out of that survey. The statistical data in its great depth is here and members may look at it if they so wish. It would be more appropriate if I were to seek leave to have inserted in *Hansard* three sets of tables that are all statistical, one on junior primary comparisons, one on primary comparisons, and one on secondary comparisons. They are all extracts of the more relevant data from the A.T.F. survey. Accordingly, I seek leave to have these three tables incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading them.

The **SPEAKER**: Do I have the honourable member's assurance that they are purely statistical?

Mr **LYNN ARNOLD**: Yes.

Leave granted.

Junior Primary Comparisons

	Australia	South Australia
	%	%
Single Grade		
26-30	48.8	44.7
31-35	18.1	5.1
35+	1.1	0.0
Composite Grade		
26-30	28.5	29.3
31-35	5.0	0.0
35+	0.5	0.0
Open Space/Grouped		
26-30	28.7	42.4
31-35	9.9	0.0
35+	6.1	0.7
Special/Opportunity		
16-20	4.6	0.0
21-25	1.2	0.0
26+	0.0	0.0

Primary Comparisons

	Australia	South Australia
	%	%
Single Grade		
26-30	53.0	86.4
31-35	33.8	6.1
35+	1.3	0.0
Composite Grade		
26-30	35.5	45.0
31-35	11.1	3.1
35+	1.0	0.0
Open Space/Grouped		
26-30	37.2	73.0
31-35	24.8	6.4
35+	7.9	1.0
Special/Opportunity		
16-20	9.7	0.0
21-25	4.2	0.0
26-30	5.9	30.7
31+	2.1	0.0

Secondary Comparisons

	Australia	South Australia
	%	%
Up to Year 10		
26-30	45.9	30.6
31-35	8.5	6.8
35+	0.1	0.0
Years 11-12		
26-30	8.3	20.5
31-35	0.6	1.4
35+	0.0	0.0
Open Space/Grouped		
26-30	36.1	n.a.
31-35	10.9	n.a.
35+	1.0	n.a.
Special/Opportunity		
21-25	1.8	0.0
26-30	0.0	0.0
31-35	2.2	0.0
35+	0.0	0.0

Mr **LYNN ARNOLD**: A number of points should be made about those figures. They refer to the percentages of classes in the survey group that are within certain size limits, and it is true that in a number of areas South Australia certainly does fare very well. I believe that that is a tribute to the very solid foundation laid for education in this State in the 1970s, and I hope that that will continue. However, in some areas there is cause for serious concern. First of all, I am very concerned at the breakdown of those figures for open space-cum-grouped classes to find how South Australia compares with the national average. In the primary area, for example, 80.4 per cent of all classes are in excess of 26 students, and the national situation is nowhere near as great as that. The national figure is 69.9 per cent of classes with more than 26 students.

In the junior primary area for open-space classes, one finds that the situation is not as bad as that and, indeed, that South Australia is about equal with the national average. However, it does lead me to wonder whether for the senior primary grades the open-space model is either inadvertently or by design being used to mask a greater class size load than could be considered to be desirable.

Another situation that ought to concern us is the senior primary years with regard to single grade classes. When members read the figures they will note that 92.5 per cent of single grade primary classes are in excess of 26 students, whereas only 88.1 per cent of the national total falls into that same category. Likewise, another area of significant

concern is in the 11 and 12 years. We are all very concerned about the retention rate problem at senior level, and I hope that when the amendment to the Public Examination Board Act comes before the House we will all treat the subject of retention rate in a serious and sober way.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: Well, class sizes have quite a lot to do with that. The Australian average is 8.9 per cent of year 11 and 12 classes with over 26 pupils, whereas 21.9 per cent of South Australian classes are over that size. That should concern us all.

In coming to the Australian figures we should recognise that they are national averages of all the States in Australia, and, although a breakdown of those figures was not immediately available to me, I understand from other analyses it indicates that there are some serious bad spots in the education in Australia that drag those figures down.

One State quoted was that of Queensland, which apparently pulls the figures down very badly. Therefore, if one excludes those bad spots, one finds that, even in those areas where South Australia is comparing well at the moment, it does not compare as favourably after exclusion of that one State, for example. So that, with compared to South Australia's four fellow mainland States and Tasmania, any improved South Australian position deteriorates relatively.

Another more significant factor is the change from the 1980 survey to the 1982 survey. Some figures there are worth quoting. For example, if one looks at the number of junior primary classes in South Australia over 20 students, one sees that in 1980 it was 56.8 per cent, and in 1982 it was 74.9 per cent. If one looks at the number of year 3 to 7 classes with over 25 students, one finds that in 1980 it was 67.4 per cent and in 1982 it was 76.7 per cent. So, there has been a deterioration in both those areas of primary schooling.

I believe that primary schooling is an important foundation of a child's education. I know that the Minister himself has stated that because, when he was shadow Minister of Education, he told this House as much. Yet, in both those areas there has been a deterioration from 1980 to 1982. It may be that in some areas we are the best in the nation. That is fine: it is not my intention to bad-mouth any achievements that we have made. However, let us not gloss over changes that may be taking place or areas where we may not be as advanced as we may like to think we are.

When we discuss the matter of class sizes, the point is often made that it really does not matter that much. People say, 'I can recall the day when I was in a class of 40, or whatever, and look at me. I came out of that system okay.' Well, a number of comments should be made about that. First, over the years a changing role has been attached to classroom teachers.

Although I can say that in my first year of high school I was in a class of 52 (and I hope that there are no classes of that size now), I did not expect, nor did the community expect, my teacher of the day to provide a very important counselling and social worker role. That was never expected then, but it is today. It is quite a significant part of a teacher's role today.

The other point is that we blithely overlook those who are the failures of past class sizes. One needs merely to point to the fact that we must have an adult literacy unit in this State that addresses itself not merely to those who come from another culture or language, but also to those who were born and bred in the English language. The fact that they exist is a commentary that they were the ones who suffered from the classes of 52 in years gone by. Surely we do not want to continue with one section missing out all the time.

Another point should be made in regard to a study which was done by Professor Jack Campbell of the University of Queensland and which was completed last year. He analysed the effect of increasing a class from 21 to 31 students and the task time available to students if that takes place. Professor Campbell reported that the task time available to students reduces from 80 per cent of the total time table time with a class of 21 to 68 per cent for a class of 31 students. He projected that, and said 'Let us look at that if this is over a full year.' The finding was that if we reduce from a class of 31 to a class of 21 (going the other way), we gain the equivalent of 24 days of education in a school year. Twenty-four extra days of learning is quite significant. Those in this House who have had experience teaching will realise how significant that figure is. So, the class size question is of some importance.

I repeat the point that ideal figures that have been set for class sizes by various bodies in this country must, in the present climate, be regarded as goals only. We are not able to say that in this Budget or the next Budget we will get to those goals, but we should be saying that that is where we are heading if we believe that they are educationally sound. We should be saying that we will do what we can as soon as possible, within the limited funding that we have available to apply what we all agree to be the best class sizes. Indeed, we have some opportunity for that. The opportunity arises by virtue of the declining enrolments that we know will take place in the system within the next four years. They will liberate notional positions and, by so doing, the Government or the community must decide what it wants to do with those liberated notional positions. They are liberated if we keep ratios constant, as they are at present.

Do we hand them back to the taxpayer as a tax saving or do we keep them and not charge the taxpayer one red cent extra, but use them to address needs that still exist within the education system, including the more pressing class size problems? There are still in this State classes of over 30 students and significant numbers of classes of over 25 students in the junior primary area. This is not a case of scaremongers asking where the money comes from, because it is coming at the moment. The Treasury is making that commitment at the moment.

However, by taking advantage of these declining enrolments for the next four years, we can, by keeping the Treasury commitment constant, use those liberated positions in the way that I have suggested. Of course, the situation beyond four years is a different matter. We have had a number of projections about population. We can be reasonably accurate for the next four years, because most of those children already exist in South Australia. Of course, some others will come in by migration, but most are already here, and their numbers can be ascertained.

Mr Hemmings: Some will be born shortly.

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: Yes. It is not true that I am trying to undermine the Keeves Committee's projections on figures; I have quite a long way to go to seriously dent those figures. It would be worth while for me to table in this House the figures contained in various projections about the change in student numbers between 1981 and 1991. I seek leave to have the table inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it, with the assurance that it is purely statistical.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Billard): With the assurance that it is purely statistical, is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Projected change in student numbers, 1981-91:

Source	Primary	Secondary	Total
Keeves First Report	-13 400	-13 300	-26 700
Keeves Second Report	-19 700	-19 400	-39 100
Question on Notice 537, Third Session			
High	+5 300	-11 700	-6 400
Expected	-7 300	-15 800	-23 100
Low	-18 300	-19 400	-37 700

Mr Lewis: What is the source?

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: I am about to refer to the source; it is three-fold. The first Keeves Committee Report, issued in February 1981, contains one table concerning change in student numbers expected during that period. The second report, issued in January 1982, contains another table; it involves the same group of people but a different table. Thirdly, I refer to the answer that the Minister gave to my Question on Notice No. 537 last session, and that contained different figures again. So, we have five projections about what is going to happen up to 1991. Keeves 1 states that the system overall will lose 26 700 students. Keeves 2 had a fit of the blues and stated that we were going to lose 39 100.

Mr Hemmings: A big difference.

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: Yes. The departmental officers, in supplying the details in answer to my Question on Notice No. 537, wherein I asked for the high estimates, the low estimates and the expected estimates, stated that the most optimistic projection was a loss of only 6 400 students, based on presumptions that were reasonable. The most pessimistic estimate was a loss of 37 700 students—not as bad as Keeves 2. But, most significantly, the most expected was a loss of 23 100—quite significantly less than either Keeves 1 or Keeves 2.

The significance of that is that beyond four years we have some major doubts about just how accurately we can project our student population numbers. If we begin making fundamental changes and running down our system now, we will really be caught short when maybe the most optimistic projections come true. Then we will be back into the crisis planning stage—response by crisis rather than response by forward planning.

In this State we have very poor senior school retention rates, as exist in other States of Australia, and they compare very poorly with the Western industrialised world at large. If we are to tackle this problem seriously—which I hope the relevant Bill does—then hopefully we will improve the numbers of students staying on at school, thus improving their chances for better fulfilment of their own lives.

Yet, what is the present situation? We have a Federal Government that chooses to blame schools for high unemployment, maintaining that it is the fault of schools; we have a general malaise about the relevance of senior school programmes for students, which affects both parents and students; and we have very low tertiary entrance rates. However, we do not have any active response to that. What, for example, exists in the way of programmes at the State level to encourage children to stay at school? What effort is made to encourage them? What in-service work is provided for teachers to talk about ways in which they can encourage students to stay at school and, in fact, to encourage teachers to want children to stay at school longer?

What work is done to persuade parents about the value of their children staying at school? What work is done to persuade students about the value of staying at school? Unfortunately, it is a sad situation that some teachers, embattled by the stress of the job (and it is a very stressful job), seek an easy solution by encouraging some of their

senior school students to leave so that the number of students will drop and they will not face such a big problem.

In other words, those teachers are taking a short-term option to ease their own immediate problem and merely pass out into the community a student who has not had as many educational opportunities as could have been possible.

That is a serious problem. I believe we must address the problem of stress in teachers. We must look at its impact and how we can solve it. However, we should discourage the practice of making students an easy remedy for the problem. We should discourage the tendency by some people to try to encourage students to leave school to make it easier for teachers in a stress situation. That is not a good solution: not good because it does not benefit the individual student; not good because it is not of benefit to the community; and not good because, in the long term, I do not believe it is the best way to resolve a stress situation within a school.

One other matter of considerable concern is the growing tendency to have contract appointments within the education system, not only in certain programme areas but also in the general teaching load. Many schools find large numbers of contract appointments amongst their staffing allocations. I believe there will always be a need for some contract positions, to take account of bleeps in the education personnel situation. That situation will continue.

We do not need to increase the number of contract positions relative to the number of permanent positions, and that is what has been happening. Between 1981 and 1982 there was an increase of 300 full-time equivalents in the number of contract positions, while the number of new permanent positions decreased. That is happening all the time. It is destabilising. How can teachers on 12-month contracts plan ahead in terms of their educational commitment to one school? How can the school itself plan ahead in terms of knowing what skills and resources it has available to it? This is taking advantage of a large number of people in the teaching force.

When I asked the Minister of Education about contract appointments within the multi-cultural area he made the point that, because of uncertainty about Commonwealth funding, we have to employ people on contract. If the Commonwealth bails out, we would be left with the need to continue paying these people. Even if that situation is correct, there is no substantive reason why we cannot consider three-year contracts. We know from Schools Commission advice the sorts of directions that the Federal Government is likely to adopt for a three-year period. The Schools Commission has given a commitment that the multi-cultural area will have some significant priority in relation to Federal Government funding allocations. Whatever else we may say about it, the Federal Government at least pays some credence to that commission. Therefore, we can quite safely give some security, at least for a three-year contract period, and enable programme development to proceed more soundly than it does at present.

The other point I want to make is that Bob Fordham, the newly elected Minister of Education in Victoria, analysed the situation and found that a very large number of contract positions could be converted to permanent positions without unsettling the personnel structure of the education system. The same thing was happening in Victoria as has been happening here. I do not believe there is any substantive reason why that cannot be done here as well. I have been pushing the contract situation as I go around the community (or, as the Minister would have it, as I perambulate around the community), and I have been talking to teachers about this matter and raising questions in various places.

Perhaps we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, although it is a very small and dim light. There seems to be some light, however, because, surprise of sur-

prises, the tide may just be turning a little. I have been advised that in the next Budget there is a proposal to increase by 10 per cent the number of permanent positions in multi-cultural education. That is a pretty dim and poor light, but it looks like an increase. I am hoping that that means a relative increase and that the relativities of permanent to contract positions will improve to the extent that there will be an increase by 10 per cent in the number of permanent positions. I do not know: we will have to wait and see the Budget papers, as the Minister delights in repeating. Perhaps the point is at long last being taken. I am pleased if that is the case, but it is nowhere near significant or good enough, and much more will have to be done in that regard.

I wish to refer now to some other matters in the education area. I have placed on notice a significant number of questions to the Minister, because I believe that we have to find out a lot of information if we are to look at the whole picture. I do not believe it is wise to go off without having information provided, and I am pleased that at least some of my questions have been answered relatively quickly so that sound decisions and contributions can be made.

I could but wish that the same applied to the Keeves Committee. I was told by one of the members of the Keeves Committee about some very damning information, and it came in response to a question that I asked of a member of that committee as to why the committee had not gone through all the areas of education and analysed what educational thought believed was necessary to bring it up to a standard that was acceptable to educators, how much it would cost, and what manpower commitment it would need.

The first response was that the committee thought the Government would laugh it out of court and say that, with the present financial constraints, that would be ridiculous. I would criticise the committee if that was the attitude it took, because the judgment about whether or not the money that was considered necessary is or is not spent is a political decision that should be left to the political forum, namely, the Minister, the Parliament or the Government. They are the ones who have to make those decisions, not a committee appointed by them.

Of course, the Government has to justify its position, and the previous Labor Government did that. It did not accept all of the recommendations of the Karmel Committee: it made decisions that were not as generous as Karmel might have thought necessary, and it had to justify and live by its decision. When I made that retort, the comment came that members of the committee were not given access to all of the information that they would have needed to do such an analysis about where needs still exist in the education system. They were not given access to the information, and that is shocking. To my mind, that is a damning comment, and I believe almost singularly it does a lot to undermine the worth of much of the report. If the committee did not have the proper data base on which to operate, how could its recommendations truly be considered as a blueprint?

In the fullness of the session (however long the session goes on for), I plan to raise a large number of matters. As honourable members have been aware, I have put on notice a number of motions that I will move in private members' time, so that matters can be aired before the House and we can give members on both sides the opportunity to contribute and raise the level of educational debate out of the little dirty political pool in which the Minister wants to keep it, and put it into other areas of educational interest. I hope that members of this House will take up this opportunity and debate those issues as they come up.

Mr Lewis: Hear, hear!

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: I look forward to the member for Mallee participating in that debate. In the few minutes left to me I want to raise quickly a number of matters which I will be taking the opportunity to raise on other occasions but which also have some immediate importance. One specific matter relates to the Daws Road High School. Many metropolitan high schools that previously did not have metal workshops have had them installed (either new ones or by conversion of other craft shops). Daws Road High School has been wanting such a conversion on its campus for 10 years, and it has now become the last school in this State that applied for such a conversion to be converted.

In fact, I believe that the conversion is now complete, but that facility cannot be used, at least not now. It cannot be used because there has not been an allocation of furniture for that room. Other school conversions have had a furniture allocation provided, yet when Daws Road High School wanted a furniture allocation provided for its conversion of a metal workshop it was told that there was no money available in the central southern region.

Why has that school been so treated, when all other schools were not subjected to the same situation? The reduced furniture order that has gone in amounts to only \$4 200, which is not a large amount. That is all that is needed to make the room a viable metal workshop, to complement the machinery which is in that room and which is worth \$38 000, yet that machinery sits grandly gathering dust for want of a small amount. I hope that the Minister's officers will examine that situation and find out why it is so, as an erratic professor of media fame would say.

Another matter I wish to raise briefly relates to school buses. I have been approached by people from a number of areas in this State about the school bus policy and about seeming anomalies in that policy. I acknowledge that it is a very tortured area, and that there is the danger of a Pandora's box situation applying if unplanned or ill-considered changes are made. Some time ago I approached the Minister regarding a school bus problem that exists in the Mid North. People had approached me and alerted me to what they believed were serious anomalies existing in the application of the bus policy in that area. The Minister replied and they have, since that time, sent another letter saying they believe he has not addressed himself to those anomalies. These people have asked me to arrange a deputation to see the Minister. I am still waiting for a reply to the request I put to the Minister to see him about this matter. I repeat that request now in the hope that his officers will pick up the point and arrange for that deputation to proceed as soon as possible so that these anomalies are fully examined.

While mentioning school buses, I should raise the point that South Australia is the one State out of line in this nation regarding provision of aides on buses conveying mentally retarded or otherwise handicapped children. All other States do this in one way or another, but we do not. Just today I had somebody ring me about a problem concerning the Elizabeth Special School. There is a bus that travels from Freeling via Two Wells and Virginia to the Elizabeth Special School. It leaves at 8 a.m. and does not return the last child to its home until after 4.30 p.m. There is nobody on that bus other than the driver.

My colleagues, the member for Albert Park and the member for Price, have raised similar issues on earlier occasions in this Parliament regarding the Woodville Special School, and just how serious a problem is involved, but still nothing has been done. What, for example, is the situation if that bus were to break down in the middle of nowhere on its way to the Elizabeth Special School? What is the driver to do? Is he to stay there until somebody may happen to pass by who can take a message to someone else goodness knows

where? Is he to handle children who could be getting into a state of distress, a driver who may not have the skills to deal with such a situation? Is he to abandon the bus and the children to their fate so that he can more quickly get help? Obviously there is a very serious problem here, serious in this situation, and serious in other situations, such as the Woodville one, where contact with houses would be quite close. The matter was first raised in this place in 1980, yet we have not had significant action responding to that.

Mr Lewis: What happened before 1979?

Mr LYNN ARNOLD: I am not saying that this is the result of the perfidy of this Government and I think it is irresponsible to suggest that that is what I am saying. I have said at a number of places in the community that I believe that special education has been a poor relation for a long time, and not because of the people working in it—I give full credit to them for their ability and their desire to help the children concerned. However, I believe this area has tended to be forgotten about. That criticism applies not only to this Government but to past Governments as well. This tit for tat business—“What did you do before?”—is a childish response to the debate.

I now turn to the Teacher Housing Authority. I asked Question on Notice No. 2 about the ratio of interest paid to total rental income. I had believed that the situation was that the Teacher Housing Authority was as much a victim of high interest rates as were individual home purchasers, and that it was being limited in its capacity to maintain its homes because of increasing interest pressure and to provide special rent subsidies in certain situations. Indeed, the answer I have received (and other members will be aware about it when they see it printed in *Hansard* next week) confirms that. It confirms that in 1976-77 only 9.3 per cent of rental income went out to pay interest on loans outstanding, yet in 1980-81 that figure climbed to 25.9 per cent. I believe that is the seat of much of the financial malaise that is plaguing the Teacher Housing Authority. I think a policy response should be directed to the interest rate question. It is the proposal of my Party to so tie a response.

Time flies quickly. Much like Pope Gregory sought to steal a day from the people of Europe many hundreds of years ago, you, Sir, by virtue of the malfunctioning of the clock (I am not being critical) have stolen seven minutes from me according to the reading of the meter. I realise the difficulties we have had with that clock. I want to make this final comment and repeat it now that the Minister is in the Chamber. I do not think we advance education by using the classrooms as political battle grounds. I do not think we advance it by saying there are grand Machiavellian schemes around. I believe that expresses nothing other than a paranoiac attitude to the situation. I hope that in the coming election campaign education will be debated for its philosophy and broad policies.

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

Mr RUSSACK (Goyder): I support the motion that the Address as read be adopted. At the outset, with pleasure, I extend to His Excellency the Governor congratulations on being appointed as Her Majesty's representative in South Australia and wish His Excellency and Lady Dunstan all that could be wished them for the best in their tour of duty in South Australia. It is, indeed, excellent that we should have such a notable South Australian return to occupy such a high office in this State.

In the speech delivered by His Excellency mention was made of members of Parliament who have passed on. I make special reference to Sir John McLeay, whom I did not know personally, but it is obvious according to his record and his outstanding achievements that he was not

only a great South Australian but a great Australian and did much for this city, this State and our nation. I would like to refer also to the late Hon. Cyril Hutchens. I did know Mr Hutchens personally, and I always appreciated a talk with him. I remember just before coming into the South Australian Parliament speaking to Mr Hutchens in the district where I lived. Then on numerous occasions when he visited the House I had the pleasure of having discussions with him. There is no doubt that he was a gentleman, someone who contributed much to this Parliament and to South Australia.

I also refer to the late Hon. James Dunford. I knew the Hon. Jim Dunford to speak to and found him a very friendly person. He also, before coming into Parliament, had done what he saw right in assisting those in the work force. He made a contribution in the Legislative Council to the best of his ability, which was a great contribution on behalf of his Party and to the people he represented.

I extend sincere appreciation for the service of those gentlemen and extend sincere sympathy to the members of their families. I consider it appropriate that I have the opportunity today to say how much we regret the necessity of the resignation of the previous member for Florey, Mr Howard O'Neill. I am sure that I am voicing the view of all those who knew him, that we are very sorry that through his state of health he has found it necessary to tender his resignation. With others who have already spoken today, I extend to him good wishes for the future and a speedy recovery, so that he may spend many years in the future together with his wife and family.

Last night in this debate the member for Napier said that he agreed with some comments made by his colleague, the member for Playford, when that honourable member said that the Address in Reply debate was far too long, that it takes up the business of the House, and I think he also said that after the first two or three speeches it develops into an extended grievance debate. The member for Napier then went into a tirade of abuse at the Government for his full time of one hour. Perhaps one could challenge the honourable member with the statement, ‘What you do speaks so loudly, I cannot hear what you say.’

The member for Napier criticised the Government on many issues, mainly unemployment, housing and those in need, and I do not think he presented anything constructive. I am sure the honourable member said that he would become the Minister of Housing if, by some chance, he ever belonged to a Government. The honourable member followed the pattern that has been adopted by most speakers on the Opposition side, of accepting the opportunity of this debate with an attitude of just plain politics. I consider that the Opposition is expressing an attitude purely of politics, whereas the Government is adopting a statesmanlike attitude. The difference is that a politician looks to the next election, but a statesman looks to the next generation and the State.

It will take some time for the initiatives of the present Government to become as effective as it is confident that they will. The Opposition seems to be so anxious to take over the Treasury benches of this State that its vision goes only to the next election and not to the next generation. The Government in South Australia over the past three years is to be complimented on what has been achieved.

This afternoon the Leader of the Opposition said that it had been a wasted three years in the political life of this State. I would deny that emphatically. It has also been said that members on this side of the House have not mentioned unemployment and the needs of disadvantaged people. I would suggest that this Government has been sincere in endeavouring to assist in both those fields.

Mr Lynn Arnold: Tell us what it has done.

Mr RUSSACK: I will take the position of unemployment for a start. In February 1979 the unemployment figure in this State was 8.2 per cent. The unemployment figure for last month (June 1982) was 7.6 per cent, and that is a definite improvement. We realise that this percentage is unacceptable but certain initiatives were taken by this Government when it took office, and if it were not for those initiatives I would venture to say that the position today in South Australia would be much worse.

We have heard members on this side claim that thousands of jobs have been created. That is true: thousands of jobs have been created, and the situation would have been far worse today if that were not the case. Those initiatives or some of them were a matter of relief as far as pay-roll tax is concerned both in the city and in country areas to encourage decentralisation.

I know in my own electorate, in the very town where I live, that great benefit was given to a secondary industry in regard to pay-roll tax. It enabled that business to remain in existence for as long as it did. I must accept that recently, because of dry seasonal conditions and because the company manufactured agricultural plant, there has not been the demand this year and the business has had to retrench some employees. Over the past three years, the business has been able to keep men employed because of the assistance in regard to pay-roll tax. In the city areas special emphasis placed on young persons under the age of 20 years—again a consideration in relation to pay-roll tax. That assisted the situation. South Australia is not alone in this respect. There are unemployment difficulties throughout the world.

Mr Kenneally: You have only just realised that. When we were in Government you blamed us for world unemployment and inflation. Now your story has changed.

Mr RUSSACK: I realise that interjections are out of order but could I just parry the answer given by the member for Salisbury just now when he said it was a childish interjection when a member on this side suggested the same thing to the member for Salisbury. One cannot relate it back to the previous Government—that is what the member for Salisbury said. Recently I was in Cardiff, where I spoke with the Deputy Director of Education.

Mr Kenneally: Cardiff won the cup in 1925.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not think the member for Goyder needs the assistance of the member for Stuart.

Mr Kenneally: But I was right, Sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not wish the honourable member to continue to answer the Chair back.

Mr RUSSACK: I was referring to my discussion with the Deputy Director of Education in Cardiff, where there was a steel works. We all know that there is a trough in the steel industry at the moment right throughout the world, and a steel production plant at Cardiff had closed and the unemployment percentage in Cardiff amounted to 17½ per cent. For the age group of 15 to 25 years, the Deputy Director claimed that the unemployment percentage was 50 per cent. I do not know whether those figures are factual, but that is what the Deputy Director of Education imparted to us in Cardiff in May. Therefore, it is a problem not only throughout this State and this country, but throughout the world, and this Government is doing whatever it can to improve that position.

Over the years, members opposite have suggested that, if members on this side say anything about wage conditions, industrial determinations or awards, or mention anything concerning unions, we are union bashing. Members opposite have also said that we know nothing about unions, that we have not been involved with them, have not had the experience, and therefore we have no right to discuss these

matters. By the same token, I would say that not many Opposition members have been involved in business or in the administration of a business. However, Government members would not say that they do not have the right to make a suggestion, although I venture to say that perhaps members opposite have not had the experience in the managerial field that some of the members on this side of the House have had. I consider that members on this side of the House have a right to express their viewpoint and to point out difficulties in relation to working conditions.

I do not want members opposite to interpret what I am saying as meaning that people who are employed should not have the conditions that they have: I want to suggest that the conditions that prevail today in business make it difficult for employers to put on additional employees. I refer mainly to small business.

Mr Abbott: Should the hours be shortened?

Mr RUSSACK: A reduction of working hours is one of the major difficulties that will be experienced by small businesses. I made inquiries to obtain a definition of 'small business', and what is determined to be a small business. I have found that the accepted definition of a small business is that in retailing it employs up to 20 people, and in manufacturing up to 100 people. Further, in the opinion of the Small Business Advisory Bureau, a small business necessarily involves owner operation.

Mr Kenneally: Small business people are workers.

Mr RUSSACK: I am glad that the member opposite considers that I am a worker. Small business means involvement of the owner in the day-to-day running of the business. Further (and this is the important part), it is believed that about 60 per cent of the private sector work force is employed by small businesses.

Sixty per cent of those employed in South Australia are employed by small businesses. As an example, I refer to a small retail business. I understand that at one time there were a few thousand small businesses in the metropolitan area which employed four people or less, including the employer or proprietor. The main stay of a country town is the small business. I will endeavour to illustrate and apply the conditions that make it difficult for employment in a small business.

An adult wage for a shop assistant today (it is the same for a male or female; there is no discrimination) is \$225 per week. When that person takes his entitlement of four weeks holiday, he receives \$1 057.50, which comprises \$900 for four weeks pay and a loading of 17.5 per cent. So, the owner of a small corner delicatessen who has one adult employee must hand that employee a cheque for \$1 057.50 for four weeks holiday. Obviously it must be necessary for that employee to be there; otherwise he would not be employed. So, the employer must do one of two things: he must work twice as hard or employ someone else.

If he employs someone else it would be a casual, and with the loading the rate for casual employees is \$6.75 per hour. That amounts to \$1 080 for four 40-hour weeks. Therefore, for those four weeks it would cost a small business \$2 137.50. A normal permanent assistant must also receive every second Saturday morning off. Normally, such a person is replaced by a casual, who works from 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m., but the minimum pay must be for three hours. Therefore, at \$8.40 an hour Saturday rate, such a person will receive about \$25 for a Saturday morning's work. I repeat that I am not saying that it is wrong for these people to receive this wage; I am merely saying that this is making it difficult for small businesses to cope with the cost of employment.

Mr Kenneally: A small business should not exist purely on depressed wages, either, should it?

Mr RUSSACK: They are not on depressed wages. Another point is stock. Supposing a small business has to stock, say,

1 000 units valued at \$50 000, next year those same units might be worth \$60 000. Therefore, when the stock is taken its value has increased by \$10 000, which is regarded as profit by the Taxation Department. Therefore, the proprietor is obliged to pay income tax on the increased value of his stock, despite the fact that it is not liquid and that he does not hold it in ready cash. That also presents another difficulty.

These are some of the reasons why there is not greater employment in this area. It is the same situation in the United Kingdom, and it is the same anywhere that one goes. Years ago a shop assistant would rush up and personally attend to a customer. Now, almost invariably, a customer must pick up an article and take it to a cashier. Because of all the costs in the retail business area, there has had to be a curtailment of employees, particularly in the small business area.

These are some of the problems that we face and some of the reasons why businesses cannot employ more than the bare essential number of staff. A lot of people are being employed in the retail trade on a casual basis during busy hours. The loading for a casual worker is financially better for the management in comparison with the salary of a full-time employee who works a full week. That person is entitled to long service leave, sick pay, holiday pay, and all of the other things that go with them. This is one example of the difficulties that face employers and industry.

However, one thing has happened. I have heard members opposite say that there has been a polarisation: the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. I think the same thing applies in relation to those fortunate people who have work: the better the conditions, the worse the situation becomes for the people who cannot get a job. That makes things more difficult, and I hope members opposite will understand what I mean.

Mr Lynn Arnold: I understand, but I don't know whether I agree.

Mr RUSSACK: It is more difficult for some people to get a job. The better the benefits for those employed, the more difficult it is for the unemployed to find a job, and it is sad when a person cannot find employment. Unfortunately, a member of my family on a couple of occasions has found himself without a position, but has been fortunate enough to find employment. Because of his experience in the intervening weeks without employment, I have a full appreciation of this kind of situation. I come back to the fact that it is wrong for members opposite to say that the Government and Government members do not care about the situation. The Government stated in its policy that it would introduce measures which, in its opinion, would provide lasting employment. It is not easy to bring these measures to fruition overnight.

The member for Peake referred to the stamp duty exemption for a person who is purchasing his first home. His Excellency, in his Speech, stated:

My Government's stamp duty exemptions have assisted more than 21 000 home buyers in the past two-and-a-half years with an average rebate of about \$490 each, costing more than \$10 000 000.

The member for Peake suggested that he could not accept that until he saw the list of names of those people who have received an exemption. I know of quite a number of people who have received that exemption, and I can give an example. A farm employee in my district had been employed in the same position for many years. When he reached the age of 65 years, he wanted to retire. He is a bachelor and he bought a home, and he was delighted because he was able to participate in this scheme. He is one of the 21 000 people who have been helped with an average rebate of \$490 per person.

I refer now to the land tax exemption on the principal place of residence. The member for Peake said that the worker does not own any land, but I do not believe that the honourable member really understands this provision.

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

FLOREY BY-ELECTION

The SPEAKER: I wish to advise members that, after consultation with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Flinders, due to the regrettable resignation of Mr H. H. O'Neill, a writ will be issued on Monday 16 August, with nominations closing on Tuesday 24 August, and that the poll for the by-election will be held on Saturday 4 September 1982. Writs will be returnable on 20 September 1982.

SUPREME COURT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ENFORCEMENT OF CONTRACTS) BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption (resumed).
(Continued from page 404.)

Mr RUSSACK: The land tax exemption on the first residence purchased has been of great assistance to many purchasers in South Australia. From 1 July 1981, when this measure was introduced, to 31 July this year the amount saved in stamp duty by those purchasing a first home was \$11 112 627.99. That saving has been of considerable benefit to many people in this State. True, it could be said that it has benefited greatly those who have higher priced land, and that is obvious. However, it has also benefited many people who have very modest homes in areas where land values are not particularly high.

The next point that I wish to raise concerns those people who are in need or who are disadvantaged. I say without hesitation that Government members often receive approaches from constituents, and we do our best, just as members opposite do, to overcome problems in an understanding and compassionate way for the benefit of those people who are in need. Some years ago I represented a district that contained a township of which 70 per cent of the residents of which did not vote for me. However, I say sincerely that the majority of people who came into my electorate office would be from the area of those who did not support me at the ballot box, but there was no difference or discretion as far as assistance was concerned on a personal basis.

I say again that this unfortunate circumstance exists throughout the world. In the early part of May I was in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. There was a beautiful building that had been a beautiful cathedral, a very tall building with a number of levels. Out of the windows, which were broken, were chimneys or flues, obviously to convey smoke from fires. Upon inquiry, I found that people who had no

homes, no accommodation, were taking advantage of this building and they were using these fires to protect themselves from the elements. Whilst I am not suggesting that we should not do everything that we possibly can, I am saying that the same situation exists throughout all countries at the present time.

Time is going on, and I would like to say something about the electorate that I represent, the electorate of Goyder. The main interest in Goyder is, of course, agriculture. There is a diversity of interest as far as this industry is concerned. In South Australia 62 per cent of our export earnings is from primary products, whereas, by way of comparison, in the Commonwealth it is 42 per cent. There is a diversity of production in the electorate of Goyder, and I have mentioned this on numerous occasions. We have grain, poultry, eggs, market gardening, stock raising, fat lamb raising, beef and many other products involving the primary industry.

There have been some problems. This year we know that as far as the season is concerned in some parts of the electorate it is doubtful. In other parts it is quite reasonable. Parts of Yorke Peninsula have been fortunate and have had good rains. Other areas, particularly in the Mid North around such places as Snowtown, are badly in need of rain. Then we find the difficulties surrounding the market gardening area in the Adelaide Plains. There is the difficulty of fruit and vegetables being grown in Queensland and other States and, through fast freighting, finding their way into markets that were once supplied by the gardeners on the Adelaide Plains.

However, the Government has endeavoured to assist wherever possible. I recall very vividly when the Minister of Agriculture went immediately to the Adelaide Plains in November 1979, when there was a severe hailstorm, and the Government assisted in the best way possible at that time. Then it followed that by stationing an officer from the Department of Agriculture at Virginia so that there would be advice and assistance at all times and immediately.

In Goyder there is also secondary industry. I speak of two major industries, one at Price, on Yorke Peninsula, where over this last weekend they celebrated their centenary. The major part of the work force at Price is occupied in the salt industry. Some 80 000 tonnes of salt is harvested there annually and despatched from Price. In the early days, from 1917 to the 1930s, that salt went away in ketches, but nowadays it is transported by road and some 70 people are occupied in the harvesting, preparation and packaging of salt products at Price, on the Yorke Peninsula.

In the Stansbury and Keil's Point area, on the southern part of the Peninsula, the Brighton-Adelaide Cement Company extracts limestone, which is one of its principal basic materials. Its new ship, *Accolade II*, was launched some months ago and commissioned two or three months ago. It makes a daily trip across the gulf to the processing plant at Adelaide. This company finds another principal basic material, gypsum, at Stenhouse Bay and in other parts of my district.

The work force at Keil's Point consists of 11 or 12 people, but that is a helpful small industry for the district. There are also the plant manufacturers, Maitland Engineering, Vogt's at Tarlee, and manufacturers in other parts of the district. Unfortunately, because of the seasonal conditions, there has been a downturn in the need for the products of those companies.

Yorke Peninsula is becoming more and more popular as a tourist resort. This has been brought about by the Department of Tourism 'Hit the trail' scheme and, also, by the virile tourist organisation on the Yorke Peninsula, the Yorke Peninsula Tourist Development Association. That association is very active. Also, the Southern Yorke Peninsula Tourist Promotion Committee is very active on the southern

Yorke Peninsula. The Director of Tourism is at a function tonight at Edithburgh, where a pamphlet is being launched that has been produced by the Southern Yorke Peninsula Tourist Promotion Committee, so tourism is an expanding industry on the peninsula and, for that matter, in places right throughout my district. I think of Riverton where places of historic interest have been developed, caravan parks established, and where the industry is improving.

I turn now to the fact that I, and some other members of this Parliament, have not nominated for future endorsement for our districts. The Hon. Boyd Dawkins, M.L.C., who has served for over 20 years in the Legislative Council, the member for Hartley (Hon. Des Corcoran) and the member for Unley (Mr Gil Langley) have decided not to renominate for their districts.

This will be my last speech in an Address in Reply debate. I have enjoyed to the full my Parliamentary experience, although it is not as long as those gentlemen to whom I have referred; they have all served for over 20 years. I have served for about 12 years. In 1970 I was elected in a by-election to the Legislative Council and I served there for a term of 2½ years. At that time, the Legislative Council had 20 members, four members from each of the five districts, and the Hon. Boyd Dawkins, the Hon. Ross Story, the Hon. Les Hart and I were representatives of the District of Midland.

I am a firm believer in the bicameral system of Parliament. This belief was strengthened because of my experience in both Houses. I could say that I am the only member in this House who has served in both Chambers. I found both experiences totally different and both very interesting and satisfying. While I am speaking of my concern that the bicameral system should be retained, I also would say that I believe there should remain State Parliaments. We often hear it said that there should be a centralist Government in Canberra, with a comparison made with the United Kingdom. I heard only this week a very prominent talk-back personality say that he was a centralist and he compared Australia with the United Kingdom. I have had the good fortune to visit the United Kingdom twice, and to have a look at their local government system twice. County councils there have a very similar responsibility to our State Parliaments. One major difference is that we have a sovereign constitution in our States. If there were no State Parliaments I firmly believe that the major representation would be from the heavily populated eastern seaboard, and that is the area that would get consideration and attention.

I would also say that that is one of the advantages of the Senate in Australia. Irrespective of the population of the State, whether Tasmania, with under 500 000 in population, or New South Wales and Victoria, with up to 4 000 000, there is the same representation in the Senate, which is a safeguard for all the States in Australia. I see no real comparison between Australia and the United Kingdom. There is a vast geographical difference. In England, one can go from county to county in a very short while. In Australia the distance is vastly different. Because of that geographic consideration, I say we should retain our State Governments and bicameral system.

The member for Stuart has referred to Queensland. In Queensland, the Upper House was abolished in the early 1920s with the intention of reconstituting that House. It has never been done. In Queensland, there is a style of city council that would be as costly as any second Chamber in any other State in Australia. If there were a second Chamber in Queensland, possibly the present Government would not have remained in office as long as it has. A Government in that State can arrange the boundaries to its liking while it has the majority, so that is another reason why there

would be an advantage in having a bicameral system in Queensland.

I enjoyed my sojourn in the Legislative Council. In 1973 there was a call for nominations for the seat of Gouger, which was later abolished. Gouger covered an area around the townships of Kadina, Wallaroo, Moonta, Snowtown, Bute, Balaklava, Blyth, Riverton, Tarlee, etc. I felt justified in nominating for that seat. In 1968 I stood for the seat of Wallaroo, which we nearly won. We only needed 120 votes the other way and we would have had that seat.

That gave me the urge to come into this House. I recall the previous member for Ross Smith in this place referring to me, when I was elected to the Legislative Council, and he named all the Legislative Councillors who had attempted to get into this House and said, 'Now we have that latest acquisition, if you can call him such, who was ignominiously defeated in his home town: now he is ensconced safely in that haven of rest!' I did not agree with his reference to that place, because a member of the Legislative Council, according to my experience, can fill all in his time attending to Parliamentary responsibilities, as well as anyone in this House.

Every honourable member in this Chamber is gaining good information at the moment. I told the honourable member that he had challenged me to come into this Chamber. So, I nominated for the seat of Gouger and was successful, serving that electorate from 1973 to 1977, when it was abolished. In 1977 I again nominated—

Mr Hemmings: That's when the Liberals dropped you.

Mr RUSSACK: No, they did not drop me—my word they didn't. There was a clause in the constitution which allowed me to stand and still remain as a full member of the Liberal Party, and that is what I did. The people selected me to represent them in this House.

Mr Kenneally: Whose preferences got you in?

Mr RUSSACK: I was asked that question by a very well known political commentator. He said, 'How do you feel being elected to the House of Assembly on Labor preferences?' I said, 'I feel all right. The last incumbent was elected in that way twice!' So, I was quite happy to be in this House.

I have been the member for Goyder since 1977 and have enjoyed that immensely. I take the opportunity now of expressing the pleasure that I have had in representing these people. I have mentioned my history as far as representation in the Legislative Council, the electorate of Gouger and the electorate of Goyder, because, for the whole of that period, I have represented at some time all those people. The District of Midland took in the present electorate of Goyder and the old electorate of Gouger, so it was not new to me to represent those people in the House of Assembly.

I am grateful for the opportunity that I have had. There are some really excellent citizens in that electorate. I know every member feels that his constituents are outstanding, and I feel the same way.

In the last Queen's Birthday Honours List three people in my electorate were given recognition. One was Mr Ron Baker from Virginia. He has served many years in local government. Apart from that, he has taken an interest in the Virginia area. There are something like 13 different nationalities residing around the Virginia area. Mr Ron Baker has taken a keen interest and has always done his best to assist whoever has come to him for help and advice. I am very pleased to think that he was acknowledged in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. I refer also to a lady at Balaklava, Mrs Bakes. She is an elderly lady and has done an immense amount of community work in that area. I congratulate her. The third person is a gentleman who has been in local government for many years in the Bute District Council. He was Chairman of the council for a long period and has served in the capacity of justice of the peace. I refer

to Mr Lionel Daniel. Those people are to be commended for the work they have done. They are typical of many people in the electorate of Goyder who work untiringly to assist their communities.

There are about 16 local government areas in Goyder, including 11 councils fully within Goyder and four or five councils partly within Goyder. A country electorate is so different from a city electorate. I have found the last three years more demanding than previous years. I find that the members for Eyre and Mallee, who have bigger electorates, are busy people. I travel some 90 000 miles by road each year, apart from other travel. It is not so much the travelling but the time it takes. If one works out how many hours of travelling that is per year, one finds that it is very time consuming. I have had the privilege of serving the electorate but where there is a privilege there is always a responsibility. I would hope I have accepted that privilege in the right spirit. I would hope that I have accepted the responsibilities that have gone with it. I would hope that I have done my best in the discharge of those responsibilities. I have enjoyed to the full being involved in the Party which is in Government.

I have enjoyed to the full my additional duty and responsibility as Chairman of the Public Works Standing Committee. I would like to pay tribute to members of that committee; they come from both sides of politics and from both Houses. Without exception, we have had a pleasant experience. We approach our responsibility in an apolitical way and believe we come to correct decisions. I pay a tribute to those members of the committee as well as to the Secretary and the stenosecretary. Mr Lloyd Hourigan has been the Secretary of that committee for some 18 years. Miss Lindsay Brooks has been the stenosecretary for some time now. They are most able officers and I commend them for the work they have done. I commend the Government for the public works that have been carried out and recommended—most of them put into effect at the moment.

The current report indicates that the committee has looked at something like 30 references, valued at about \$130 000 000. In the Governor's Speech mention was made of just a few, as follows:

Major projects planned to commence during the next six months include the Adelaide College of Technical and Further Education, estimated to cost \$25 000 000, the new Fire Brigade headquarters worth \$17 000 000, the first stage of the museum redevelopment at a cost of \$15 000 000, the new Remand Centre, Automatic Data Processing Centre, the redevelopment of several schools, and cultural centres at Whyalla and Renmark.

For the first time during the past two or three weeks the committee had referred to it a proposal for the Ororoo Hospital where Government expenditure was to exceed \$500 000, which sum was made available for the extensions to that hospital which are to cost \$1 005 000. I thank those who have served on that committee and I thank those responsible for giving me the pleasure of being a part of the Public Works Standing Committee.

In conclusion, I would once again like to pay respect to my electorate for giving me the privilege of service. Years ago when I first nominated for Parliament a lady who was the Assistant Secretary of the then Liberal and Country League said to me, 'If ever you become a member of Parliament, remember that you represent not only the people who put you there but everyone in that electorate.' I do hope that I followed that advice, and I can honestly say that I have endeavoured to carry out my duties accordingly. Charles William Elliot once said, 'To be of service is a solid foundation for contentment in this world.' I feel that all members of Parliament are elected to Parliament acknowledging the fact that they have a duty to serve. In executing those responsibilities and in the discharge of those duties, every member derives a lot of contentment and satisfaction:

to assist someone to achieve an aim is satisfying. I thank all with whom I have been associated. Possibly this is not the last speech I will make in this place, but it is the last speech I will make during an Address in Reply debate. I would like to express my appreciation for the way—

Mr Hemmings: Apologise for what you said about me before dinner.

Mr RUSSACK: Previously I made mention of the late Cyril Hutchens, and I am sure that he would not mind my repeating what he once said. He said, 'It makes me a little sad when I come into this place. I was here for 20 years or thereabouts and I can honestly say that I did not personally abuse anyone at any time. I took the opportunity, as far as policy was concerned, to speak my mind.' I would hope that I have followed the advice that Mr Hutchens gave. I do not think that the member for Napier could say that I attacked him personally; I attacked only his views concerning policies and what he had to say in that respect. I support the motion.

Mr KENEALLY (Stuart): Before addressing myself to the motion before the Chair, I think I should respond to at least one of the points made by the member for Goyder. He addressed himself to the bicameral Parliamentary system and referred to Queensland. He said that if Queensland had an Upper House perhaps the gerrymander that presently exists and so blatantly helps the Country Party in that State may not exist. I find that rather strange coming from a Liberal member who was once a member of the Legislative Council in South Australia. That Chamber used its power for almost 100 years to ensure that democracy did not prevail in this State. Unfortunately, as a member of the Upper House, he used his vote to ensure that the one vote one value principle, which is the basis of democracy, did not apply in South Australia. Therefore, it is rather interesting for the member to point out that an Upper House could ensure fair and even boundaries in Queensland. However, it was the member for Goyder himself who helped prevent that from applying in South Australia. Luckily, the forces of reason in South Australia were able to overcome that situation.

I now wish to pay a tribute to a number of members of Parliament. Sadly, some of them have passed on, but others are still with us. I think all members would agree that it is better to pay a tribute to someone when he is able to appreciate it. Much has been said by previous speakers about honourable members who have served in this place and who have served the community and the State very well in their own way for a number of years. I did not know many of those gentlemen. I knew some of them very well, and I knew one particularly well. I refer to the Hon. J. E. Dunford, who had a rather endearing term to describe me. As I do not think it could be regarded as Parliamentary, I am unable to have it recorded in *Hansard*.

Jim did have a way with words. As I have said, I will always remember the particular phrase he used when addressing me. I am absolutely certain that he could not have been serious but, even if he was, it was humorous. Of course, the passing of Jim Dunford was a real tragedy not only for the Parliament and the people of South Australia but also for his colleagues and the Party that he served for so many years.

That brings me to the most recent tragedy, that is, today's announcement that the member for Florey, Howard O'Neill, has tendered his resignation from this place because of ill-health. I think it is extremely sad that a man at the height of his intellectual ability, who has worked for so many years for the working class people of South Australia as a union representative, as a member and official of the Labor Party (both as Secretary and President for two terms) and as a member of Parliament, just when he is able to use all that

experience and ability for the good of South Australia as a member of Parliament, has been forced to resign because of ill-health. It has been a particularly tragic time, not only for Howard, because he lost his son in a motor cycle accident a little over 12 months ago, but also more particularly for his wife, Pat. Not only did she lose her son a little over 12 months ago but also she lost her mother only recently, and now she has a husband who is ill and must leave this Parliament. I join all members in wishing Howard all the very best and a quick recovery.

I am sure all members on this side would like to see Howard back here sharing some of his experiences with us, because we need his assistance, guidance and vast experience. I think it was the member for Hartley who said that Howard O'Neill had the reputation of being a gruff, strong personality. He is a strong and gruff personality. He is also a man with a highly developed social conscience, a very compassionate man. As I said earlier, this Parliament will be much poorer for having his resignation before it.

I also wish to pay a tribute to three current members of Parliament. I suppose I should begin with the member for Goyder, because he was the last speaker in this debate. I am sure all my colleagues agree that the member for Goyder is one of the finest men to serve in this Parliament. He is a very honest, ethical and generous person.

I happen to believe that the honourable member's politics are totally wrong, and I agree with very little of his basic philosophical position. However, I agree with the man's humanitarianism and I accept him as a very kindly person and a gentleman who would be as good a local representative as any electorate could hope to have. I hope that the member for Goyder enjoys his retirement: he has justly earned it. I was pleased to hear the honourable member acknowledge that his continuation in this Chamber was due to the preferences that my Party gave him, and I can say that we were quite pleased to do that, because we recognised the qualities in the man.

There are two other members of this House who I suppose can jointly be termed the fathers of the House—the member for Hartley and the member for Unley. Both those gentlemen have not only served South Australia in their own distinctive way but also they have served the nation in a notable way. The member for Hartley was a member of the Australian armed forces and served with distinction overseas, in Korea and Malaysia. He was a very highly respected member of the armed forces.

In South Australia, as a member of Parliament, Des Corcoran was the Premier, Deputy Premier for many years, Leader of the House, and, I would suggest, the best Minister of Water Resources that this State has ever had. If anyone disagrees with that, I would like him to go interstate and ask the Ministers and departmental officers in other States of Australia for their views about Des Corcoran: he will find that Des Corcoran is held in the highest regard. In fact, a senior member of the New South Wales water commission (who was recently due to retire) said in front of his own Minister that he had met only one politician in his life for whom he had the utmost respect, and that was the Hon. Des Corcoran from South Australia. I do not know what the New South Wales Minister thought of that.

It is well known that the member for Hartley and I, on occasions, have had differences of opinion, because we both hold strongly to individual views. I think it is fair to say that the member for Hartley has more reason to be unhappy with my views than I have ever had to be unhappy with his views. He has been a great South Australian and a great Parliamentarian. We all know that fate has not been kind to Des Corcoran and that he is retiring not in the best of health. We wish it were otherwise, and we hope that he has

a long and happy retirement when this Parliament comes to an end.

I also want to pay a tribute to the member for Unley. I have a very soft spot for the honourable member because, as a young man, I looked to Gil Langley as my sporting idol. I had books about Gil Langley: I know as much about Gil Langley's sporting record as Gil Langley knows. When I came to this House and was introduced to him, I was so pleased that it embarrassed the man, and, as members know, he is of a modest manner and does not want people fussing around him.

The member for Unley is a great South Australian. He was one of the greatest sportsmen ever to don sporting togs in this State. He captained the Sturt team and played for Essendon in a V.F.L. grand final. He is also a world record holder as a cricketer. Very few people know that not only was he a great wicket-keeper but also he made many centuries as a batsman for South Australia. I can recall Gil Langley making 165 not out against New Zealand in an international match. Few people are aware that Gil Langley's sporting talents were extreme. I know that he would prefer that I talked about bowls or snooker, because he does not really want to talk about those things that have made him great.

Gil Langley is also a significant Parliamentarian. He was a Speaker of this House. When the story of Gil Langley is written (if it ever is—and I do not know that Gil aspires to that), he will be seen as one of the great individuals that this State has produced. I doubt whether there is one person in this Chamber who can aspire to the eminence of Gil Langley. Having paid tributes to those people to whom I believe tributes are due, I want to refer to a group of people who deserve no tribute collectively, and that is the current Tonkin Government.

The current Government has been in office for three years—three long years. It is relevant that the promise with which this Government came to office and its performance should be judged, and there is no more appropriate time or debate than the Address in Reply debate, three years after the Government's election to office, for that to be done.

I have found this debate to be particularly amazing, because there has been just one Government member—I must pay tribute to the member for Goyder for this—who has tried to address himself to defending the economic record of the Tonkin Government. In regard to the remaining Government members, one would think either that the Labor Party was still in Government or that they acknowledged that they were the failures that the community sees them to be, because Government members have spent their entire time either criticising what they believe to be the Labor Party's policies or expressing some strange view that they may have about what the Labor Party may do.

The Tonkin Government is in office in South Australia. Its members should be responsible to the electorate. It is the Tonkin Government which is presiding over the worst economic conditions that have applied in South Australia since the Great Depression, yet it is Government members who are seeking to blame anything or anyone but themselves. They are the Pontius Pilate of politics: Government members want to wash their hands of any responsibility, and they seek to blame Governments that were in office elsewhere up to 10 years ago. They are not prepared to accept that in any way they could be responsible for the tragedy that has been wrought in South Australia.

The Labor Party and members who have spoken from this side of the House have acknowledged that State Governments, and particularly small State Governments like South Australia's, are not all that effective in combating major world economic changes. We also acknowledge that to a degree Federal Governments in Australia suffer the tragedy of economic downturn more than what they them-

selves are able to effect. We acknowledge that, and we do not seek to make political capital from the inabilities of Governments in Australia to effectively overcome all of the economic difficulties that the world scene creates for us.

That is quite contrary to the performance of the Liberal Party in South Australia when in Opposition. The member for Mallee and his colleagues who entered Parliament in 1979 cannot be held responsible for that, but members who have been here much longer know the dramatic change in attitude that has occurred among his colleagues. The thoughts and beliefs they had three years ago are quite contrary to what they are telling the House now. They are saying that the State Government in South Australia is a pawn, in a sense, in world economies.

Four years ago they were saying that the Dunstan and Corcoran Administrations could directly effect all the economic problems that this State was faced with. Since 1972 until today we have had members of the Liberal Party here and elsewhere saying that Gough Whitlam as Federal Prime Minister invented inflation: that the whole world inflationary problem was created by Gough Whitlam. They are still trying to perpetrate that myth, because they do not want to blame themselves: they will find anyone else to lay the blame on. They have not the courage of their convictions.

If members of the Liberal Party and members of the Government in South Australia genuinely believe that the free-enterprise system and the capitalist system had the answers to the problems we face in South Australia and Australia, let them stand up and say why they have failed miserably since 1975, when Malcolm Fraser became Prime Minister, and particularly since 1979, because the Fraser-Tonkin nexus has wrought economic disaster upon this State.

Not one member opposite has been prepared to defend his Party's political system. We have had enough of this hypocrisy. The people in South Australia had had enough of this Government, and they will show that well and truly at the next election. The Tonkin and Fraser Governments have much to answer for. The degree of their culpability is increased by the fact that both these Governments led the people of Australia and the electorate to believe that when they obtained office many of the ills that faced the electorate would be overcome.

We have all heard the catchwords. We hear them time and time again. The resources boom was going to provide all the answers that Australia needed to take it into the 1980s and 1990s. We do not hear much about the resources boom now. We do not even hear the likes of Doug Anthony or the Deputy Premier trying to defend what they have been trying to perpetrate on the community of Australia and South Australia for so long. They were advised by eminent and sensible economists that the resources boom was a farce, yet, having that knowledge, they went ahead with their plan to bemuse the electorate and cloud the issue, hoping that a short-term political advantage would return them to Government—and they have been successful.

We have heard the phrases 'jobs for all', 'getting out of the way of business' and 'lower taxation'. We have heard about the Liberal Party's adherence to free enterprise, but here again the practice is different from the promises. Because the Liberals in Australia have led people to expect a better deal, that makes their crime even more heinous. We have just suffered three years of the combined mismanagement of the Fraser and Tonkin Governments, and I suggest that the electorate of Australia is ready to change those Governments and, as I said, the sooner the better.

We were told in 1979 that there would be jobs for all, that taxation would be lower, that there would be houses for people and that low interest rates would be maintained. We were told that if this Government got out of the way

of business there would be an inflow of private capital to stimulate the economy and that if we were able to reduce Public Service jobs the stimulated private sector would pick up those jobs, and so there would be an expansion within South Australia. We were told all that, but the performance does not match the promise.

Let us look at taxation as the first issue. We were promised by the Liberal Party before the September 1979 election that it would reduce the incidence of taxation in South Australia. The statistics show quite clearly that this is the highest taxing State Government that South Australia has ever had—the highest taxing State Government that has ever been in office in South Australia—yet we were promised a reduction in taxation. What did take place was that, immediately upon assuming office, the Government abolished certain wealth taxes—succession duties, gift duties and certain land tax. It abolished those because they were the taxes that were more likely to be paid by people who supported the Liberal Party and were friends of the Liberal Party. Those particular taxes would not have affected 5 per cent of the people whom I represent. The overwhelming majority of people in South Australia would never have been called upon to pay succession duties under the changes made by the Dunstan and Corcoran Governments—changes I might add, to legislation introduced by the late Sir Thomas Playford, a much honoured and revered member of the Party opposite who introduced succession duties, which were modified under a Labor Government.

All that this Government has done (because taxes have increased) is transfer the tax burden from its friends and supporters in districts like Bragg and Davenport into the district I represent and to the towns of Port Augusta and Port Pirie, and the Districts of Gilles, Port Adelaide and Elizabeth. They are the people picking up the tab. If anyone disagrees with that, he should read the editorials in today's newspapers, editorials not noted for their socialistic leaning or for supporting Labor Party philosophy. The editorial in, I think, the *News* said that it was tragic that the working people and underprivileged in Australia are expected to pick up the tax slug for the wealthy, the tax dodgers, and the friends of the Liberal Party (the people for whom they are doing favours and who obviously contribute to their coffers).

The promise of taxation reduction made by this Government has been a farce. It is a farce because all that has happened is that the tax burden has been shifted and those least able to pay are now paying more than they should reasonably be asked to contribute to the well being of the community in South Australia. Any political Party can make a grab for power at any time by promising to reduce taxation. In a State Government, I suggest that that is nothing short of irresponsible. Bjelke-Petersen did it in Queensland. He abolished succession duties, much to the horror of his colleagues elsewhere.

It was the old domino theory: it happened in Queensland and then other States demanded it, because every citizen believes that he or she benefits from a cut in taxation, so Bjelke-Petersen abolished it in Queensland and that flowed through all the other Parliaments in Australia. We are now the only country of this type in the world that does not have a wealth tax. America has one, all the European countries and the United Kingdom have wealth taxes, but we have done away with wealth tax in Australia.

Governments can perform services only if they have income, so if they do not get that income from one source they must get it from another. If we stop taxing the wealthy we have to tax the poor. That is the plain truth of the matter. Any time anybody is conned by a State Government with limited resources, saying it is going to reduce taxes, that person must know that if the Government reduces taxes in one area it must increase them in another, and that

is what has happened here. Unfortunately, once a tax is reintroduced it can never be abolished again and politically that is a fact of life. It is no good talking about reintroduction of wealth taxes in South Australia, unfortunately. It is certainly not a policy that my Party now has, but those taxes should never have been abolished because the result is that those people less able to afford it have now been asked to pick up the tab.

The ordinary working person in South Australia has been required to pick up the tab in another form of State taxation, an insidious form; that is, increases in the cost of Government services. This is shown in the increasing costs of Government services such as electricity, rates, water rates, sewerage charges, rent, and interest rates. All of these things have gone up much more quickly than the rate of inflation. All of these things impact heavily upon the average person trying to make his or her way in the world.

While one of the Opposition members was speaking this afternoon, I received a telephone call. I have the gentleman's name and number in front of me. While his name is important to me, it is not important in this debate. He is a young man with a family and earns \$240 per week, or \$12 000 per year. He is purchasing a house. In fact, he is a member of the building trade and is building that house but has had to get a bank loan. Currently, because of the depressed state of the building industry, he is sitting at home with no job. He has had his water rates, gas, rates and electricity charges increased. He is paying more for oil and more for car registration. The whole gambit of State charges is impacting on this man's income.

He said he has only recently started to wonder what is going on. He has always been able to meet his commitments, but now, with the incredible movements in interest rates and movements in State charges, they are impacting upon him. He said to me, 'I have never been political in my life. I have to become political because I want to know what Governments are doing with the money they are taking away from me in taxes and charges.' He said, 'I would like Mrs Fraser and Mrs Tonkin to go shopping with my wife any day of the week, any week of the year. I do not believe they have any idea what people in my family situation are putting up with.' I say, 'Hear, hear!' to that.

It is very difficult frankly for members of Parliament, and I am one of them. I come from a working class background. The best way to make a working class boy or girl into a middle-class citizen is to put him or her into Parliament and start paying the person well. It is difficult to keep in touch with those people who are trying to exist on \$240 a week, or less. This is a one-income family. He said that he is likely to lose his house. It is his life. He has spent years building the house up. He is not going to let a lending institution take it off him. He is not going to give it back to a building society or a bank, wherever the mortgage is. He said he would burn the house first because that is his life, but it is slipping away from him. He can do nothing about it because week after week he falls further and further behind.

Why? Why is the building industry, of which he is a part, depressed in South Australia? The Leader of the Opposition pointed out to this House earlier today that one of the reasons is that the Tonkin Government has taken \$100 000 000 of building funds and Loan funds out of construction in South Australia to balance its Revenue Account and Revenue Budget. When the Dunstan Government took about \$6 000 000 out of the Loan Account to balance the Revenue Account and then put it back into the Loan Account immediately in the new financial year, we were subjected to the most virulent criticism by the Party opposite. Now that it is in Government, when things are different they are not the same. Almost \$100 000 000 has been taken out of

the building industry in South Australia. So we get people telephoning us up.

It was not one of my electors, I might add, but a resident of Adelaide, saying not only that he cannot get a job but because of his limited savings and his desperate situation, his whole life is slipping away from him. That story is told time and time again. It is more often told in the electorates that we represent, but I warn honourable members opposite that this creeping poverty that this community is suffering is now presenting itself in the marginal electorate and it will present itself in the more affluent sections of the community in South Australia unless something constructive is done to stop this depression into which we are quickly slipping.

I just want to mention one example of how this Government has increased charges. I think this says it all. There is a small yacht club at Port Pirie, the Royal Port Pirie Yacht Club—

Mr Oswald: A good club.

Mr KENEALLY: The member for Morphett knows it well. The club has a small piece of land on the Port Pirie River the lease for which rental was \$71.50. It has been paying lease rental of that nature for many years. This year the club got its account from this Government, which cares about the community, for \$850! That was a 1 200 per cent increase in the charge of the lease rental for a small club at Port Pirie. The club made representation to the Government, and I have made representations to the Government, and the Government quite callously wiped the club off.

What did the premier say a fortnight ago about charges? He said the previous Labor Government was irresponsible because it did not keep State taxes up with the rate of inflation. We were irresponsible because we did not increase State charges at the rate that inflationary pressures would insist on. The fact that we were good bookkeepers and ran the State well did not receive any credit. The Premier is cross because he comes in, bankrupts the State, slugs the community in South Australia with outrageous increases in taxation and service charges, and then tries to say, 'Look, I am Pontius Pilate. It is not our fault; the fault belongs to the Labor Party because it did not increase charges in the 1970s'. It is about time the Minister for Health and her colleagues stood up to be counted and accepted that they are the Government of South Australia, and, if the South Australian economy is suffering, it is suffering because they are responsible as much as any of the other areas where they want to lay blame.

There are many things that the Federal Liberal Government and the State Liberal Government could do, but they are not prepared to do them. All we hear are slogans and catch-cries, and while this is happening the State is slipping down the gurgler.

Mr Oswald: We're paying off your debts.

Mr KENEALLY: The Labor Party left a surplus for the honourable member's Party and that surplus has been squandered. We were promised jobs for all: vote for the Liberal Party and there will be jobs for all. Go and tell that to the unemployed of South Australia. South Australia has the highest level of unemployment now since the depression years. That is the record of the Tonkin Government in South Australia. Unemployment seems to display itself more in the electorates of the Labor members, so we have a greater appreciation of the problems unemployment brings about, but unemployment is also displaying itself elsewhere. There was a 3 400 loss in jobs from 1 June 1981 to 1 June 1982, in addition to the jobs the Government brags about taking away from the public sector.

The Government said that if it did away with jobs in the public sector the private economy would expand to fill that gap. In Port Augusta 70 per cent of male employment is Government related. When there is a policy of cutting down

on the public sector, one can imagine the result that has in a city like Port Augusta. Of course, it is a disaster. We see the result in Port Augusta, with the loss of jobs in Australian National and elsewhere.

There is also the housing crisis. I do not want to enumerate the many tragic examples that now exist amongst young people and not so young people, people who have tried to maintain a household for many years and who have now been forced to leave their homes. A lifetime's work goes up in dust and somebody else gets the advantage of it and these people are living in caravans, cars, living anywhere but in what is reasonable accommodation. There are thousands of people living like this. I ask that the Government acknowledge this.

I do not blame the South Australian Government for interest rates, but I blame it for supporting a policy that allows interest rates to expand in the way they have been doing. It is the capitalist system which is failing. The Government's Federal colleagues support this system and tell us that competition will bring down the interest rates. One does not see much example of this. Candidly, one can see plenty of examples where this fond system has been a total failure, of which interest rates and housing are classic examples.

There are record bankruptcies in South Australia: it is the bankruptcy State, and this Government says it is a friend of small business. Well, what about the performance, which clearly shows that small business in South Australia is also going down the gurgler, despite the many promises of Government members.

There is record emigration: people are leaving the State in record numbers. I can remember the member for Coles, who used to come running into this House with statistics, saying that so many furniture vans were leaving South Australia and coming back empty. She had names and places. I do not know where she got those statistics, but some of the people she exported were back in South Australia in a short time.

I can give the honourable member the name of a number of people from Port Augusta who went to Queensland looking for jobs. Some of those people left good jobs because of the propaganda from the conservative Parties in Australia. Those people are still up in Queensland with their lifesavings gone and no jobs. There are not many jobs in Queensland; there are some jobs in mining areas if a person has the skill. However, there is high unemployment in Queensland.

People are leaving this State and because they leave this State we lose their skills and our unemployment numbers are down. When we talk about unemployment in South Australia, we are not talking about those people who have left, who no longer appear on the State records.

We have spent seven or eight years fighting inflation and now the inflation is double digit and on the way up. Despite the 17 per cent nonsense going on with the Government saying this is what it inherited from the previous Government, the fact is it inherited a 13 per cent inflation rate at the change of Government. I have already mentioned the massive transfer from Loan funds: that was a crime when Labor Treasurers did it but obviously it is fair play when conservative Treasurers do it.

I am particularly concerned about some of the pre-election promises that have not been fulfilled. I spoke about jobs for all. It is difficult to tell those people who are currently unemployed that the Liberal Party has the answers to the employment situation. It frankly does not. The Government ought to admit it, take the people into its confidence and seek bipartisan attitudes towards overcoming the problems we are facing.

Lower taxation is also a farce. This Government is the highest taxing Government in South Australia's history.

One thing that concerns me is the law and order campaign that was run by members of the Government. We can remember the stockings faces and the slogans that said that if we wanted our daughters to safely walk the streets, or wanted a reduction in crime we should vote for the Liberal Party. We know that the Liberal Party and its conservative friends have always tried to promote the Labor Party as being tough on police and soft on criminals and the Liberal Party as being tough on criminals and supportive of the police. We support the Police Department; we believe we have the best Police Force in Australia and we are doing our best to ensure that it stays that way. I realise that it is not all that difficult for ours to be the best force but even if some other States forces were very good we would still have the best in Australia.

What is the record at the moment in terms of crime? We have an increasing crime rate. We do not have the member for Coles coming in here now asking questions about the number of rapes in South Australia, or about the rate of criminal and sexual assaults in South Australia. She has suddenly become disinterested. It seems that under a Labor Government we should all be concerned about serious crime, but under a Liberal Government it is something that we should all accept. We do not blame the current Administration for the crime rate in South Australia: it is not responsible for it. There are many social and economic factors that contribute largely to the crime rate in South Australia. I am fed up, after 10 years in this Parliament, with being told that the Labor Party was responsible for the crime rate in South Australia and that if one votes for the Liberals it will all disappear. We know that it has not disappeared.

We hope that when the Liberal Party is in Opposition after the next election it will have learned many lessons, one being to be responsible in Opposition and not to be making wild irrational charges about its political opponents. I believe that all members in this House are as equally concerned as I am about the crime rate in South Australia. I believe that all members in this Parliament would seek to do all they could to ensure that the crime rate is reduced. However, I am prepared to say that there are members in this House whose record has clearly shown that they are prepared to make political capital on the lowest common denominator—the basis of serious crime.

Mr Slater: What about the election advertisements?

Mr KENEALLY: I have mentioned that. That is one of the reasons why the member for Florey, when he came into this House, was very seriously concerned about the ethics of the people opposite, because he, as a genuinely honest man, felt very badly smeared and he felt that his integrity had been reflected upon due to the type of advertising that went on in 1979. I hope that the Government has learnt a lesson, and I point out that the Labor Party during the past three years (and we have had plenty of ammunition to do so) has not slipped to the depths that the Liberal Party did in 1979. Personally, I feel very cross about what happened in 1979, but I am not prepared to participate in that sort of politicking.

Members in this place ought to be able to get together in order to do something to assist those who are fighting crime in South Australia; we ought to be able to come together to do something to better the conditions in which crime flourishes; to be able to forget political differences, because the community depends upon us. However, at the moment we have one section of the Parliament trying to suggest that another section of the Parliament is less interested in the crime rate and is actually responsible for increasing the crime rate. That attitude reflects badly on all Parliamentarians, and more particularly on those people who lay that charge.

In the few minutes that I have left I want to refer to matters that are more particularly my responsibility. I refer to the construction of a remand centre in South Australia. Everyone acknowledges that for 60 years or more the correctional services system in South Australia has been neglected. It was neglected by previous Labor Governments and also by previous Liberal Governments. Liberal Governments have been in office for a longer period of time, so I suppose, if anyone wants to apportion the blame, it could be said that Liberal Governments had more opportunity. However, it was not until 1973 during the Dunstan period that a committee was established to look into law reform in South Australia, and I refer to the Mitchell Committee. That committee has rendered signal service to legal and penal reform in South Australia. In my view the priorities given for introducing reform, in retrospect, were a bit unfortunate, because it was not until 1977 that the Hon. D. W. Simmons was given a charter by his Premier to introduce the Mitchell recommendations on penal reform. Mr Simmons went overseas to look at modern penal methods; he sent his Director and his officers overseas. When the Labor Government lost office in September 1979 there was a draft Bill almost ready for presentation to Parliament which would have introduced those reforms. More particularly, when the previous Government lost office in 1979 a remand centre was a reality.

Let us be clear on one thing: no reform of correctional services can be effected in South Australia (and I am referring to the institutionalised part of correctional services) until we have a new remand centre. That fact was acknowledged by the previous Government, and we did something about it. When the present Government came to office the site for the remand centre had been selected: the community had been involved in that decision—it did not like the decision, because the nearest residence was only 550 metres away, but the community had become attuned to the decision and the money had been funded and the concept plans were in the process of being finalised. An architect had been sent overseas to look at remand centres elsewhere, who was to come back and make recommendations.

However, the present Government for some reason, of which I am totally unaware, changed that decision immediately upon coming into office. I refer to a question asked on 3 March 1981 of the Minister of Public Works by the member for Glenelg. For goodness sake, I do not know why the Minister of Public Works was the gentleman involved in this matter—it ought to have been the Minister in charge of correctional services who was involved in determining where and whether a remand centre was needed, and not the Minister of Public Works. In his question Mr Mathwin stated:

Will the Minister of Public Works inform the House why the Government rejected the proposal of the previous Government to site a remand centre at Regency Park?

The Hon. D. C. Brown replied:

The reason for the remand centre's being relocated from the proposed site at Regency Park was simple. Since coming into office, this Government has successfully negotiated with the Federal Government for a standard rail link from Adelaide to Crystal Brook as part of a national link-up—a great achievement for the Government.

I point out that the first piece of legislation dealt with in the Parliament in 1970, for those members who are still here and who still remember, was the standardisation of the Adelaide to Crystal Brook railway line. However, the Liberal Government and the Hon. D. C. Brown are taking credit for it. He continues:

The proposed site for the remand centre was required for the standard rail link and the associated goods yards, and it is of far greater importance to the State that we make sure that the rail

link and the associated goods yards should proceed as soon as possible and on the most suitable land available.

Quite clearly the Minister said that the land set aside by the previous Government for the remand centre at Regency Park was needed for the new standard gauge rail link and also for the associated goods yards.

If I was able to say that that was a downright lie, I am sure you would call me to order, Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. That is one of the gravest, most misleading mistruths this Parliament has heard. That land, which was set aside in 1979, is still vacant and it is still available. The railways never impacted on it. In fact, there is a large flood drain between the railways and the Regency Park remand centre site. There is no way that the railways could impact. The Minister deliberately misled this Parliament.

We are now three years down the line and not one brick has been laid for a remand centre in South Australia. What did the Minister do? He said the Government needed that land for industrial development. The land is still available. It was the most perfect site for a remand centre in Adelaide at that time. It is in a Labor Party electorate and, in fact, it was in a Minister's electorate. However, the Liberal Minister, as is his wont and the wont of all of his front-bench colleagues, overturned all the decisions made by the previous Government, merely because they were made by the previous Government.

After much searching for an appropriate site the Government determined that it should be in the Bowden-Brompton area, in the middle of a residential area opposite the civic centre and a primary school and alongside an area where people have lived all their lives. That is where this Government has determined the site should be: in the middle of a working class area, in a working class suburb and Labor electorate.

What did the Minister say about this particular centre? I cannot believe that he was being anything else but absolutely facetious. I cannot believe that he did anything else but treat the people of this area with contempt—contempt, incidentally, with which he treats everyone in this Parliament and in the community. In answer to his colleague, the member for Glenelg, the Minister said:

The Brompton-Bowden area needs to be redeveloped. I would say to the member for Spence, in regard to his concern for his own district, that he must take into account, first, that a remand centre, built on a modern design, as indicated by the photographs I released last Friday, can have the appearance of an office building; it need not have the appearance of the Adelaide Gaol-type complex. Secondly, it can fit in, blend with and encourage commercial development in the area, because a great deal of commercial activity is generated from a remand centre.

I cannot believe that a Minister could be so facetious as to make that suggestion. If that building was environmentally attractive and if it generated commercial activity you can bet your bottom dollar that it would be in Davenport, Bragg or in the Minister of Health's electorate. That is where it would be located. However, they know that everyone is worried about having a correctional institution located nearby, close to them, so what did the Government do? It put the remand centre in the area that it has the least regard for.

I believe that that choice was disastrous, and I ask the Government to be reasonable and not proceed with the construction of that building, because the Labor Party, in Government, would be opposed to it. If it is at all possible, we will find another site, despite the fact that that means another delay, because we are concerned for the feelings of people. We selected a site that impacted less on the community than any site in Adelaide: this Government has selected a site that directly impacts on the community.

What do members opposite think the people who are sending their children to the school directly opposite the

remand centre will do? Will they say, 'We are delighted that the Government has provided an attractive building that will develop commercial activity'? Of course they will not say that: they will be concerned about their children attending that school. It is the nature of human beings, and those people will transfer their children to another school. I believe that would be a tragedy.

This Government has contempt for the City of Bowden/Brompton and it is showing its contempt by this action. If possible, we will cancel that decision. I give that clear undertaking to the people in the area. If those people are able to maintain their fight and prevent the commencement of that building, we will support them. I ask this Government to show reason on this occasion. I am sure that, if the matter was left to the Chief Secretary, that would happen, but I have no confidence that the thug who occupies the position of Minister of Public Works will be as easy to deal with.

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON: I rise on a point of order. The honourable member has just used what I believe is a non-parliamentary word in reference to the Minister of Public Works, and I ask him to withdraw it.

The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD: What was the word?

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON: The member for Stuart described the Minister as a thug.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lewis): In the circumstances, as the Minister at the bench has drawn attention to the word to which she has taken offence, I ask whether the honourable member will withdraw.

Mr KENEALLY: Are you directing me to withdraw or asking me to withdraw, Sir?

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking the honourable member with good grace as a member of this House to withdraw.

Mr KENEALLY: You, Sir, have put it very well, and I accept your guidance. I will withdraw the term 'political thug'. There is another area of correctional services to which I wish to briefly direct attention, and that is this Government's decision to go ahead with a maximum security prison. I believe that that decision is wrong. A maximum security prison is not the main priority of correctional services in South Australia. We need to get prisoners out of the Adelaide Gaol and we certainly need to get minimum and medium type prisoners out of Yatala Labour Prison.

The maximum security people should be left at Yatala, and appropriate minimum and medium security prisons should be built elsewhere, because one of the worst facets of our prison system in South Australia is that we do not have the facilities to separate hard-line, experienced, long-term criminals from the new, impressionable, young people, who, unfortunately, find their way into prison.

Mr Oswald: Where would you build it?

Mr KENEALLY: I am pleased with the Chief Secretary's initiative: he seems to be quite progressive. He suggested that areas such as Gladstone should be considered. In government, I would certainly look at a wide range of options. It is not my place to tell this Government where it should build prisons. The Government should have the capacity to research that matter. I am pleased to say that the new super Executive Director of Correctional Services in South Australia will add enormously to the thinking and decision-making of that department.

But, as a priority we do not need a maximum security prison in South Australia, if we ever need one. I doubt that we will ever need to build a Katingal or a Jyka-Jyka—and I have visited those places. Yatala is a maximum security prison, and with surveillance and the appropriate staff it can be secure. We need to keep the worst type of our criminal element secure in prison: there is no doubt about that.

The decision that was made to go ahead with the maximum security prison is wrong, and I plead with the Government to change its priorities, have a rethink, and develop a total concept towards prisons in South Australia that has more regard for modern penology thinking and less regard for the old incarceration attitude that unfortunately seems to be a part of conservative thinking in South Australia.

People who go to prison have to come out again and be part of the community. One hopes that they come out able to fit into the community. Certainly, we should not be doing anything to ensure that that does not happen. Inevitably, these people will come out. We do not keep people in gaol for 50, 60 or 70 years, as used to be our wont. Frankly, gaols do not serve a useful purpose in rehabilitating prisoners. Gaols serve only to penalise prisoners for the crimes that they have committed.

One does not argue that certain people must be taken out of the community and put away for their own good and that of the community, but overwhelmingly I believe that those people who find themselves in gaol for a long period would probably finish up better citizens, better able to fit within the community, if alternative sentencing options were available. I am pleased to say that this Government, as with the Party to which I belong, shares that view in common.

In my remaining four minutes, I would like to point out to the House what happens in a very small community that seems to be powerless to get this particular Government to do anything for them, as is the case at Port Germein. Port Germein is an important community in my district. Since this Government has been in office, Port Germein experienced a severe storm which destroyed its jetty. It has been subject to a decision, not this Government's decision—Port Germein inherited it—so that the highway by-passed Port Germein; and it has had applications in for sport and recreation grants. I have prosecuted those requests for my electors with all the energy that I have.

The Labor Party in Government repaired the Port Germein jetty because it is an historic jetty. All honourable members here who cast their minds back to their primary school days would have learnt about the important role of the Port Germein jetty, the longest jetty in the southern hemisphere and the role that it played in the development of South Australia. It is an historic jetty and is acknowledged as such.

Mr Oswald: It's good for snapper fishing.

Mr KENEALLY: Yes, and it is acknowledged as such by authorities in South Australia. Yet that jetty is lying in disrepair. The longer this Government leaves the jetty, the more costly it will be to repair. The former Government spent almost \$200 000 on the jetty and this Government refuses to spend one cent.

Port Germein has been by-passed by the highway, and traffic no longer goes in or near Port Germein. I have asked this Government to look at providing Port Germein with the same access and egress that exists at Snowtown, Virginia or Two Wells, which were also by-passed by the highway. I have sought a dual entrance so that, if people come from the south and Port Pirie and travel north, they do not pass Port Germein before they get to the turnoff. Many people do not go into the town, so the business houses there suffer.

Despite a long war almost with the Highways Department, the town seems to be losing. Townspeople have cut fences, made their own roads, and filled in ditches to insist that their old traditional access to Port Germein remains. Port Germein citizens have in fact been breaking the law and the Highways has been coming to repair things. This situation has been prevailing for too long. It should be resolved, and Port Germein citizens should have adequate access. When the Minister visited Port Germein about 12 months ago he agreed, but his department disagreed.

Why cannot the people of Port Germein have access to grant moneys to enable the small community to provide for the needs of its sporting youth and the not so young people in that community? Not one request for sporting assistance in Port Germein has been granted by the Government, and the Government should be condemned for that. Small communities in South Australia are as important as large communities. If no-one is there to support small communities, people might as well pack up and go home.

The ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lewis): Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

The Hon. JENNIFER ADAMSON (Minister of Health): I move:

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

Motion carried.

Mr SLATER (Gilles): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, but in doing so I add immediately that that does not indicate that I agree with all the comments contained in the Governor's Speech. Governors' Speeches are supposed to indicate the Government's legislative programme for the forthcoming session, but on this occasion the Speech gave little or no indication of any legislative measures that will be of great benefit to the general populace of South Australia. Instead, the Speech endeavoured to portray a somewhat misleading picture of achievements of the Tonkin Government, and it certainly contained a number of inaccuracies associated with the current economic climate in this State. One classic inaccuracy appears on the first page of the Governor's Speech, as follows:

The United States and European economic communities have now been experiencing severe economic downturn for the past two years. Australia first felt the effects of this international recession earlier this year.

I challenge that statement, along with some of the other statements made in the same paragraph, for example:

Despite these economic difficulties key economic indicators continue to show that the South Australian economy is faring better than other States.

Another comment was:

Employment in this State's manufacturing industry has increased by four times the national average during the past year.

I challenge those statements and, despite all the huffing and puffing by the Premier, this State is certainly facing serious economic problems. I have to admit, of course, that Australia and South Australia do not stand alone. We are tied to the world economic and trade situations. However, the State is facing a rather difficult situation that has been exacerbated by the policies and philosophies of the Fraser Government, to which this Government is inextricably tied. We have record unemployment. Despite what the Premier and the Minister of Industrial Affairs may say, no matter what excuses they may put up and no matter how they juggle the figures on unemployment, we have the highest unemployment of all mainland States—

Mr Ashenden: When your lot were in power it was the highest in Australia.

Mr SLATER: —and the future for many of us does not look bright. I include here the member for Todd, this probably being his last opportunity to speak in an Address in Reply. So the future does not look very bright for the populace of South Australia or, indeed, for the member for Todd.

I might point out also that our manufacturing industry is suffering severely from a downturn in spending and consumption. Consequently, we have seen many people leaving the State to find employment elsewhere. This is confirmed

by Australian Bureau of Statistics figures. No matter how Government members try to juggle the figures, it is clearly indicated that people are leaving the State, and we have a situation that has been exacerbated by the philosophies and policies of both the Commonwealth and State Governments.

Also in the Governor's Speech—and my colleague the member for Stuart has referred to these matters, so I will not deal with them at any great length—we see the following statement:

Although the impact of large wage increases and the current economic downturn are both having a detrimental impact on my Government's budgetary situation, the policy of lower taxation will be maintained.

As I say, my colleague the member for Stuart has dealt very effectively with this matter. I find it difficult to accept a claim by any Government that it has lower taxation at present, because here again the figures speak for themselves.

There has been a tremendous increase in State charges to the ordinary person in the community. As my colleague also mentioned, the tax burden has been shifted from the more affluent members of society to those who cannot withstand, to any great degree, increased charges and State taxes. All in all, one would have expected this Government, particularly when this is the last session of this Parliament prior to an election, to come clean and at least make a statement containing some element of truth about the current situation prevailing in this State. I am glad that the Minister of Tourism is in the House because tourism got a mention in the Governor's Speech.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: The most impressive mention it has ever got.

Mr SLATER: That may be the case. I will not quarrel with that, because I cannot recall the comments made on previous occasions. Here again, however, I challenge some of the comments made in this Speech. If one closely examines some of the claims made by the Minister and the Government regarding tourism it will be seen that the results achieved so far have not been anything extraordinary.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: Oh, come on, Jack!

Mr SLATER: I am glad the Minister says that: some of the figures she has been using have been misleading. The Minister has made great play in recent weeks of the South Australian March tourist figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for room occupancy rates in hotels and motels. I turn, first, to the Minister's comments that the number of visitors to South Australia rose by 8.1 per cent in the March quarter compared with the same period last year. I quote, as follows:

The Minister of Tourism, Mrs Adamson, said yesterday that the figures issued yesterday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics represent an unprecedented increase in the State's tourism industry.

The same comments were made in the Parliament in reply to a question, I think from the member for Brighton, regarding these statistics. I recall mentioning by way of interjection that factors need to be considered regarding quarterly figures. One factor is that the Adelaide Festival of Arts is held in that particular quarter. In addition, the January/February/March months are the high tourist season in South Australia, so we must take the figures in perspective. I am not saying that the figures are wrong: they are correct, and I have used similar figures previously when they were not as favourable as those for this quarter may have been. However, we need to take the figures over a 12-month period to get a more realistic assessment of just how significant are the figures the Minister used.

I will give the House and the Minister the comparative A.B.S. figures for room occupancy rates in South Australia over the past 12 months, compared to 1980-81 figures. In March 1981—

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: We've got them.

Mr SLATER: The Minister has quoted her figures: I should now like the opportunity to give them correctly. The A.B.S. figures show that there was a 57.1 per cent room occupancy in South Australia in the March 1981 quarter.

In March 1982 it was 60.1 per cent. In December 1980 it was 53 per cent, and in December 1981 it was 53.5 per cent, an increase of 0.5 per cent. In September 1980 it was 51.1 per cent and in September 1981, 52 per cent, an increase of 0.9 per cent. In June 1980 it was 54.6 per cent and in June 1981 it was 53.5 per cent, a decline of 0.1 per cent. So, taking the figures overall for the 12 months there has not been a significant increase as the Minister has endeavoured to convey to the people of South Australia that there has been. To obtain a real picture of the situation one needs to compare the figures over a period of time.

In addition, it is important to look at yearly statistics compared with previous years to try to obtain a true picture of South Australia's tourist development. For the information of the House and the Minister, I refer to visitor arrivals in South Australia. I point out first of all that these sources of figures are the survey of Australian travel, the domestic tourism monitor, and the international visitors survey. They relate to statistics for visitor arrivals in South Australia, comparing from 1973-74 through to 1980-81.

We find that in 1973-74, 1 004 000 visitors are recorded as coming to the State. In 1978-79 the figure was 1 192 000, an increase of 18.7 per cent. In 1979-80 the figure was 1 217 000, an increase of 2.1 per cent. In 1980-81 it was 1 239 000, an increase over the previous year of 1.8 per cent. I point out again—

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: If you use effective figures, that was a 35 per cent increase.

Mr SLATER: No, it is not a 35 per cent increase at all. What I am saying is that from 1973-74 to 1978-79 there was an 18.7 per cent increase for the whole of those years. The figures that I am quoting are from good sources. They have been supplied by the Department of Tourism. They will be quoted in another report which will come into this House shortly. What I am saying in actual fact is that the claims made by the Minister of the great upsurge in tourism that the Minister tries to portray is more a myth than a reality. I challenge the Minister to dispute the figures I have quoted and—

Members interjecting:

Mr SLATER: You can interject and argue all you like. As far as I am concerned, the figures I have quoted are from reliable sources. They are figures quoted by the Minister from time to time and the true figures show that we have had an increase, but it is not comparable to other States, and it is a publicity gimmick to boost the Government's stocks to indicate to people generally that it is doing a wonderful job in the area of tourism. All we have had is a lot of campaigns, and this leads me to another matter. An interesting matter that came to my attention recently was the fact that the Department of Tourism did not renew the contract of its previous advertising agency, Wearne and Associates. The Minister confirmed this in a reply to a question I asked yesterday.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: I announced it a couple of months ago. You don't read the newspapers. I issued a press statement a couple of months ago.

Mr SLATER: I was not aware of the press statement. I asked a question seeking information on the matter, even though the Minister may have issued a press statement, which I accept I may have overlooked. I placed a Question on Notice seeking information as to the reason why the previous advertising agents' contracts had not been renewed as the previous advertising agent had been responsible for some of the campaigns which the Minister had publicly

praised, such as 'Hit the trail' and 'VISA'. I wanted to know the reason. The reason was not given in the reply to me yesterday. I asked a question and wanted to know whether the advertising agency was changed and the answer was 'Yes'. I also asked who the new advertising agency was and the answer was that it was Clemenger Adelaide Pty Ltd. I was then advised that the previous agency contract had expired on 30 June 1982. I also asked whether the terms and conditions in the contract were different and received a vague answer which said the terms and conditions of the contract varied very little from the basis of the terms of the previous agency. If that is the case, why were they changed? I want to know why the change was necessary. If the campaign had been successfully undertaken by this advertising agent, why did the Minister and the department change the advertising agents?

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: We called tenders in accordance with the original contract and Government policy.

Mr SLATER: If it is Government policy that is a weak excuse. I believe that Wearne and Associates, the previous agents, have now closed their business.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: They did that before tenders were called.

Mr SLATER: No, they did not. I have been in contact with the person who is a principal of that company and he was most cross that he was not given an indication. He expected the contract to be renewed and had employed additional staff and, as a consequence, those staff have now been dismissed. I think that it is incumbent on the Minister to give a further explanation as to why the advertising agency was changed.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: You are very late in the game. This all happened two months ago.

Mr SLATER: You can make up all the excuses possible. As far as I am concerned, I will not accept that. If an advertising agency had a contract and was successful in that contract, why should it not be given the opportunity to continue?

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: It was given the opportunity to tender.

Mr SLATER: I doubt it. Being given an opportunity to tender is different.

Mr Becker: Your Government threw open this advertising of tenders.

Mr SLATER: That may be the case, but as far as I am concerned I expected the agency to be given the opportunity to continue. I am not satisfied that the correct procedure occurred in this matter and I am not satisfied that the true reasons were given to me in answer to my question. This particular agency was the sponsor of campaigns and those campaigns were, to a degree, successful. This was confirmed previously by the Minister, both publicly and in this House.

I want to now turn to another aspect of tourism, the international airport. I am sure that the member for Hanson will be interested in this matter. The Government is claiming a great deal of credit, which is no doubt part of the lead up to the next election, for the development of new facilities at Adelaide Airport.

I refer to both the upgrading of domestic services to cater for the wide body jets (the A300 airbus) and the provision of international facilities. I believe that it is necessary to look carefully at the whole concept of domestic and international air travel to fully assess benefits which may accrue to South Australia and its travellers with the provision of international flights. I noted recently in a report appearing in the press that the Qantas General Sales Manager for Australia, Mr John Schaap, made certain comments in regard to air travel at the Australian Federation of Travel Agents Convention in New Zealand. The report states:

Australians are responding to the economic recession in their droves by avoiding air travel—domestic and international. Direct results of this trend include: a swing-back to cruising as a cheaper form of holiday; enormous declines in the number of Australians visiting European destinations; an increase in hotel, motel and caravan park occupancy rates, as Australians switch to surface travel; and a sharp drop in people taking holidays to popular destinations, such as the Gold Coast and the Queensland islands. Qantas's General Sales Manager for Australia, Mr John Schaap, spelt out the gloomy realities at the Australian Federation of Travel Agents Convention in New Zealand. Describing the Australian travel industry state as a 'depression', rather than a short-term recessionary period, Mr Schaap predicted some travel agencies would 'go under' in the next 12 months.

'We are all trying for a bigger slice of the cake at a time when the cake is getting smaller,' he said. Mr Schaap presented passenger figures showing between 1980 and 1981, travel from Australia to southern Europe had dropped 25 per cent, to the United Kingdom and Ireland by more than 22 per cent and to northern Europe by more than 14 per cent. He also warned the great white hope of the travel industry—the short-haul market to South-East Asia and the Pacific—was slowing.

That is a comment by a person greatly involved not only in the tourist aspect of travel but also involved in the airline industry. The airline industry at present, both Qantas and overseas airlines, is suffering from an economic down-turn. We want to think carefully about the Adelaide Airport and whether we will get the benefits stated by both the Premier and the Minister of Tourism.

Last week the member for Brighton asked a question, and in her reply the Minister talked about the boom that might occur in regard to international travellers coming to Adelaide simply because we had an international airport. The reality of the situation is that there is intense competition between all airlines for the available business. The decline I have quoted as stated by Mr Schaap shows that that competition will get keener. Adelaide will need to be in the market to make the Adelaide Airport at least a viable proposition.

Mr Becker: That will never happen.

Mr SLATER: As far as I know (and I am not able to confirm this), the only airline that has firmed up for any flights at all is Qantas. It was reluctant to do so, because it realises it is in the business not for the good of its health. If it does not make a profit, it is in the business of at least trying to get as close as possible to balancing the budget. It is suffering from very intense competition in regard to the international travel market. As I understand it, British Airways has not as yet made a decision, and because of the situation that prevails at present, I doubt that it will. However, one airline that is interested in coming into Adelaide is Singapore Airlines.

Mr Becker: Since when?

Mr SLATER: Singapore Airlines, of course, is interested in coming into Adelaide, but there is a problem. When I was in Singapore last week, I took the opportunity of discussing this situation with the principals of Singapore Airlines.

Mr Becker: Did you stay at Raffles?

Mr SLATER: No, I did not stay at Raffles, but I stayed at another hotel that was quite adequate. I point out that in Singapore there is an open skies policy; they welcome the business and the airline welcomes the competition. It is a most efficient and effective airline, and I would welcome the opportunity to have flights operating to and from Adelaide, because I believe that in the future such operations are where our travel market lies. From a geographical viewpoint, Singapore is a stopover and a jumping off place for the rest of Asia, and probably the rest of the world, or for Europe, anyway.

Mr Becker: Would it be flying direct or coming via Perth?

Mr SLATER: That question was talked about. We have to convince the Federal Department of Transport and the Federal Minister in regard to an allocation of flights. I think the allocation of Singapore Airlines is 10 flights a week into

Australia, with three flights into Perth and the rest into Sydney and Melbourne. Therefore, Singapore Airlines would have to have an extension of one of those flights or be allocated an additional one. The obvious solution would be to extend one of the Sydney-Melbourne flights which would at least give Adelaide people an opportunity to fly out without suffering the time and cost consequences as has happened to us all in the past.

I believe that such an arrangement would no doubt be in the best interests of South Australian travel generally, for people going out of the country and for those coming in. As I pointed out, geographically the situation of Singapore gives Singapore Airlines an advantage. There is intense competition in the market at present, and I do not want to see Adelaide Airport become a real fizzer from an international point of view. We need these flights to firm up the market.

I believe that what should be happening is that the extensions to the airport that are taking place at present and the building of the international facility should be regarded as only a temporary arrangement. Adelaide Airport has certainly outlived its usefulness: there is no doubt that it may have been the best site when it was chosen for an airport some 30 or 40 years ago. One must take heed of what has happened since then. No-one could visualise the extent of technological change, the size of aircraft and the boom that has occurred in regard to air travel in that time. There is no doubt, as the member for Hanson would agree, that people living in the western suburbs certainly suffer an inconvenience and annoyance from both noise and environmental pollution. Therefore, I advocate that we ought to be looking 20 years ahead, rather than five, and we ought to be heavying the Federal Government as much as possible to relocate both the domestic airport and the Adelaide international airport outside of the metropolitan area, preferably on the Northern Adelaide Plains.

Mr Hemmings: Not in the Elizabeth area.

Mr SLATER: It would be a long way from Elizabeth, so the member for Napier need not be concerned. I am aware that there is always apprehension about the location of airports.

Mr Becker: What about Singapore?

Mr SLATER: Just a moment. For the interest of members, while in Singapore I had an opportunity, as a guest of Singapore Airlines and the Department of Civil Aviation, to look through the new Changi airport, which was opened in July last year. It would be the most modern airport in the world. I give them credit for their foresight, not only for the present airport but for the duplication of facilities, which means there will be two main runways, a supplementary runway and about 60 berths for aircraft. It is a large operation. I was also impressed with the fact that it is located on reclaimed land. It is a marvellous engineering feat. I was also impressed with the facilities available for passenger comfort and the organisation and efficiency of arrivals and departures.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: Do they pay their construction workers the same rate of pay we have here?

Mr SLATER: I am pleased that the Minister has interjected with that question. We always worry about wage costs. Does the Minister expect the Australian worker to accept the wage structure and standard of living that exists in Asia?

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: No, but do you expect us to build airports like that with the costs we have to pay?

Mr SLATER: They can build airports like that because they have a Government which has the will and determination to do it. It may be that they also have reduced labour costs compared with Australia, but I do not believe that is a significant fact. We seem to dither. I can remember the

previous Singapore airport at Paya Lebar. That airport was certainly nothing to write home about. However, the Government of Singapore looked ahead. They did not expand that airport on an *ad hoc* basis as we are doing in Adelaide. It was done properly from the start by building a completely new airport. There is a lesson to be learnt; we should be doing the same thing.

Mr Becker: How far is it from the city?

Mr SLATER: At a guess it is about 17 miles from the centre of the city and it probably takes about 25 to 30 minutes to get there on the new highway. In all major capital cities of the world there is a trend to locate airports away from the major civilian population areas. That is being done for a number of reasons, not only because of the noise and pollution, but from a safety point of view. As I said, I believe there is a lesson to be learnt. We should be thinking very seriously about this matter and we should do whatever we can to relocate the airport in the Northern Adelaide Plains area. I also point out in passing that the passenger traffic at Adelaide Airport at the present time is much higher than it was at Essendon airport when it was decided to relocate the Melbourne airport at Tullamarine. I understand the lead time for a new airport is anything from 10 to 12 years, so if we are going to do anything, it must be done now.

I received a reply to a Question on Notice yesterday from the Minister of Transport in relation to the State Airfields Committee, and I understand from that reply that recommendations have gone to the Federal Department of Transport. I hope that does not mean that the matter will be buried, because we need to prove up the market in Adelaide from an international point of view. In addition, we must ensure that in years to come we are not disadvantaged as we have been in past years by not having flights into Adelaide.

Mr Becker: Which overseas airlines can afford to come here?

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: You are not suggesting that we have nothing in the meantime?

Mr SLATER: There must be a rationalisation of airlines on the international scene at some time. I do not know about a rationalisation of airlines in Australia; perhaps that is a different subject. Over a period I believe that there will be a rationalisation, particularly of some of the American airlines, which will mean that air travel will still exist and we will not have to turn our backs and say that there is a recession in the industry.

At the same time we must be sure that we have the opportunity to offer that sort of facility at the appropriate time. I do not want Adelaide Airport to be a fizzer, and I want to encourage those airlines that wish to have flights into Adelaide to get around the red tape and give the people who want to come here the opportunity to do so. People will benefit because of the time factor and the cost will be less.

I refer now to a matter that was one of the most glaring omissions from the Governor's Speech. Sport and recreation was mentioned only once in the Speech, and that was in relation to the establishment of the Sports Institute. I am a supporter of the Sports Institute, and I believe that we should provide opportunities for the development of excellence in sport. Perhaps we should be doing a bit more in that field. The most glaring omission from the Governor's Speech was that there was no mention at all of the proposed aquatic centre. That rather surprised me, although one comes to expect surprises from this Government. I believe that this Government has bungled the concept very badly in its handling of the financial situation and in its choice of a site.

The aquatic centre was the subject of a feasibility study 2½ years ago. The final report was presented in October 1981. The study arose initially from a commitment by the Federal Government to provide \$3 700 000 on a 50/50 basis with the State to finance the building of the centre. Construction costs have already escalated to \$9 000 000. The sum of \$3 700 000 is a tied amount offered by the Federal Government for capital costs involved in the centre. Another big question that has been raised not only by me but also by local councils which presently run their own swimming pools is what effect the proposed aquatic centre will have on those swimming pools.

The other big question concerned running costs and administration of the aquatic centre. As I have said, there is considerable apprehension by some local councils which believe that these costs will militate against attendance at their pools and consequently their position in relation to the cost of running and maintaining their own swimming pools will deteriorate further.

The present situation is that swimming pools are a financial burden on local councils, and any moneys diverted to other sources, say, to the proposed aquatic centre, will further deteriorate the financial viability of such councils. I believe that the apprehension of some councils can be justified. First, we ought to look at the costs involved from a State point of view for the aquatic centre.

As members may remember, the commitment made by the State was to be financed from the soccer pools fund: \$650 000 for five years. It is interesting to note, from the figures provided to me by the Premier, that soccer pools are in a rather difficult and disastrous situation. When the legislation was introduced into this House, we were told that \$1 500 000 (on occasions \$2 000 000 was quoted) would be provided to recreation and sport. That has turned out not to be the case. Figures given to me yesterday cover the five months from February to June and deal with the moneys paid out of the Soccer Pools Fund. In February 1982 the Government received \$55 861.20; in March it was \$51 602.55; in April it was \$44 122.14; in May the figure was \$49 124.46; and in June it was \$35 641.35, a total for the five months of \$236 351.70.

On that basis, and if the situation continues in that way, soccer pools will not even make the \$650 000 that was going to be allocated from the recreation and sport fund to the aquatic centre. As I said, that situation has misled the sporting public of South Australia who believed that soccer pools would provide a significant boost to recreation and sport in this State. It has not turned out that way.

This House passed legislation to provide that opportunity, and I supported it. Indeed, I was one of few members on this side of the House who did so, because I believed that there was an opportunity for more money to be directed to the important aspect of recreation and sport. However, in addition to the information that I have just given the House, I also have information that Australian Soccer Pools Pty Ltd has submitted a proposal to change the game. It wants to change the entry to a new form which will contain a series of game panels in which there are 36 numbered squares, and a subscriber will be required to cross only six numbers for an entry fee of 50 cents, compared with the previous system of 11 numbers chosen from a total of 55 for the same entry fee. If that is not another form of X-Lotto, I will eat my hat.

This House voted for a particular form of operation. I have examined the Act (although not in the great detail that I would have liked), and I believe that the Act should be amended, rather than the soccer pools people being able merely to put up a proposal to change the rules, which may seriously affect the operations of the South Australian Lotteries Commission.

That was one of the arguments that I put up in the first place regarding this operation, namely, that the Lotteries Commission of South Australia had conducted a very clean, efficient and effective operation for the benefit of the hospitals of this State. In regard to this organisation, we are getting about 30 per cent of the allocation going into the Soccer Pools Fund. The rest of the profits go to private enterprise. The leading persons involved, I understand, in Australian Soccer Pools Pty Ltd are the Sangster Organisation and Mr Rupert Murdoch, so they are not doing all that well. The public of South Australia has not responded. They want to change the rules, so that they can be in competition with the lotteries conducted by the State Government's Lotteries Commission, and I believe that that matter ought to be considered more seriously by this House.

I want to study the Act to see what power the Minister has in determining their change of rules. I believe that we ought to be looking very closely at the legislation that we passed two years ago, particularly in regard to soccer pools. Section 11, which relates to soccer football pool rules, provides:

(1) A licensee may make rules not inconsistent with this Act for or with respect to the promotion, conduct and operation by him of soccer football pools.

(2) A rule made pursuant to subsection (1) shall, if it is approved in writing by the Minister—

(a) be published in the *Gazette*;

and

(b) take effect on and from the date of publication or a later date specified in the rule.

In retrospect, I do not think that that clause is strong enough. We ought to have stronger powers in the Act to control the operators changing the rules. Therefore, I believe that the aquatic centre that is being proposed (we have heard nothing about that in the Governor's Speech) will be another fizzer by this Government. It is becoming noted for these so-called projects that, in fact, are not coming to fruition, and the aquatic centre is a classic example of this problem.

I also point out that the Government's record, particularly in the area of recreation and sport, certainly leaves a lot to be desired. The capital assistance grants scheme, for one, is in tatters. The Budget allocation to recreation and sport is regarded as mean and miserly by sporting organisations, and it certainly has not been given priority in the Budget. I will be looking to the State Budget that will be presented by the Government shortly to see what sort of considerations have been made in regard to priority for recreation and sport and what allocation has been made in the Budget for this year.

I think that the South Australian Government is following the example and principles of its Federal colleagues in recreation and sport matters, because its record in that field can only be described as abominable. The Federal Government by way of sales tax, I might add, receives something like \$60 000 000 a year in revenue from sales tax on sporting goods and puts back \$20 000 000—less than one per cent of its Budget—in regard to recreation and sport. I think that that is a fair enough indictment of a Government, and indicates very clearly the Liberal Party's philosophy in regard to recreation and sport. It receives some lip service, but, when the real crunch comes, it is found wanting in respect of the allocation of Budget money for this important aspect of people's lives.

As I said previously, the Governor's Speech offers little or no legislative assistance to the community at large. One would have expected, particularly in a year leading up to an election, that at least some ideas for the general benefit of the community would have come through. This clearly shows just how bereft of ideas the Government is. On the other hand, I think the Gallup polls indicate very clearly how the public is reacting to this Government's performance.

However, there is only one poll that ever counts, of course, and that is the one held on election day. The public of South Australia will judge this Government's performance at the next election.

Although we are not in a position to know when that is likely to be, I have made the assessment that the State election will be held as late as possible, because this Government will want to stay in office for as long as it can. As I think we can expect an election in March 1983, the member for Todd will be with us for a little longer, although I believe that there will be a number of new faces in the Parliament after the next election.

Mr Ashenden: On this side. We will probably pick up Unley and Norwood, so you will see a couple of new faces.

Mr SLATER: Hope springs eternal, of course, in the human breast. I know that there are serious difficulties internally in the Liberal Party and that there are problems involving certain sections of that Party which probably have not hit the deck yet, but will do so in due course. There will be many new faces in the Chamber after the next election and some other faces will be missing. The member for Henley Beach is a goner; he is a oncer. The member for Brighton is a goner, and the members for Mawson, Todd, Newland and Morphett are all in shaky situations.

Mr Ashenden: What about the member for Davenport?

Mr SLATER: He will probably lose about 5 per cent and end up with about 75 per cent of the vote.

The Hon. H. Allison: What about 1975, Jack?

Mr SLATER: I am pleased that the Minister of Education has drawn my attention to him because he, as the member for Mount Gambier, is also in a dubious position. He ought to be the most concerned of all those members I have mentioned, because he knows that the Labor Party has a very good candidate in his district who I have great expectations will be the member for Mount Gambier after the next election. I am glad that the Minister drew himself to my attention, because I had overlooked him. I am working on winning about seven or eight more seats to form a Government after the next election. As I have said, the Governor's Speech indicates clearly that this Government is bereft of any constructive ideas. However, when the Bannon Labor Government occupies the Treasury benches after the next election, we will have a Governor's Speech and not just a long, weary dialogue.

Mr Ashenden: It was a monologue; a dialogue involves two people.

Mr SLATER: You are probably right, we will call it a monologue. The Speech is not written, of course, by the Governor; it is just spoken by him, so it could be a 'tripalogue'. Anyway, it was certainly bereft of any constructive policy ideas that would generally benefit the people of South Australia. The Address in Reply becomes a very long and weary exercise. We, as members, like to take advantage of the opportunity to speak at length on matters in which we have a particular interest. I would have liked, if Standing Orders allowed, to have my speech put in *Hansard* without speaking, and that would apply to many other members.

In fact, I believe that the Standing Orders Committee ought to consider reducing the time allowed for the Address in Reply, and I would hope that this matter could be considered next year. In conclusion, I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, although I repeat that I do not accept many of the comments contained in the Speech.

Mr ASHENDEN (Todd): It is with pleasure that I rise to support the motion and, for the fourth time, speak in an

Address in Reply debate. As much as it is going to upset members opposite, I feel quite confident that I will be here for a large number of Addresses in Reply to come.

Before I go into the main body of my speech, I would like to pay a tribute to the previous member who announced his resignation from the South Australian Parliament today, Mr Howard O'Neill. Howard and I were elected to this Parliament at the same time. Initially, I think all members would know that we felt a considerable antipathy existed as far as Howard was concerned, but due to a circumstance which I would not wish on anybody I came to admire Howard as much as I admire anyone on the other side of the House. After his son died, I wrote to him expressing my sympathy for him and his wife. The next time that he saw me he went out of his way to come up and speak to me and tell me how much he appreciated the letter that I had sent. From then on the grounds on which Howard and I knew each other changed completely. I have never seen such a change in a man. I think it takes tremendous courage for a man to come out as he did to me and state that he regretted very much the antagonism that perhaps he felt for members on this side of the House following his election.

I was terribly sorry to learn of his ill health, and when I saw him some months ago I was really disappointed, because there was a man who obviously was a big man, a strong man, a man who had enjoyed good health, who had worked his way up through the Labor Party and who obviously would have contributed greatly to the South Australian Parliament. I genuinely feel sorry that Howard O'Neill has had to resign from this Parliament. I certainly hope that it is a step that will lead to the restoration of his good health and that he is able to continue to contribute to the Labor Party, because he can undoubtedly contribute a tremendous amount. I wish him well indeed in his retirement.

I would now like to move on to an issue which is of vital importance in South Australia, Australia, and throughout the world. It is unemployment. I look at this problem, however, quite differently from the way in which members opposite do. First, I would like to lay to rest some of the allegations and untruths that have been perpetrated particularly by the Leader of the Opposition in the unfortunate circumstances that presently face the unemployed in South Australia.

There is no doubt that the Leader of the Opposition has attempted to play politics at its worst in relation to unemployment. He has attempted to use scare tactics, has misused figures, and has dreamt up figures and made statements that are patently false.

If honourable members refer to an article which appeared in the *News* recently and to statements attributed to the Leader of the Opposition, which he has never denied, and to statements he also made in Parliament, we find that the Leader has been caught in his own web in that he has contradicted himself a number of times.

Let us look first at what was said in this Parliament by the Leader of the Opposition during an answer by the Minister of Industrial Affairs to a question I asked about unemployment. I believe that these statements show exactly the types of untruth that the Leader has caught himself in. The Minister of Industrial Affairs said:

The only way to accurately assess what has occurred regarding unemployment in this State is to take overall figures supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and those figures show that in the last year unemployment in South Australia has increased by 2.9 per cent, not the 25 per cent that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to suggest as a representative figure.

Mr Bannon interjected:

I said, 'In those suburbs'.

The Minister continued:

The Leader has tried to suggest by expressing his figures in such a way that Holden Hill, for instance, is suffering from unemployment amounting to about 26 per cent.

Mr Bannon interjected:

I didn't say that.

Well, let us now look at what Mr Bannon had to say in the *News* under a banner headline, '15 per cent unemployment hits 25 suburbs'. The article says:

Twenty-five Adelaide suburbs have been hit by increases in unemployment of more than 15 per cent in the past year, the Opposition Leader, Mr Bannon, claimed today. In some areas the increase in people receiving unemployment benefits had been higher than 25 per cent, he said. Many areas which previously had low unemployment were now showing a steep rise in jobless figures.

Now, let us look at what the Leader then says:

Suburbs hardest hit include Holden Hill, 26.3 per cent and St Agnes, 32.4 per cent.

Yet, in *Hansard*, the Leader said that he did not say that, but he has never denied that he made that statement to the *News*. We then find that the Leader of the Opposition goes on in a personal explanation and says:

Apparently members opposite are not aware that those figures are broken down into postcode districts, which means that, in fact, based on those postcode districts, suburban counts could be obtained.

First, the Leader says that he did not say these suburbs had that unemployment, then he says that they did, and then he admits that he never had the suburban figures, he had postcode figures.

I have checked with both the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Social Security and both organisations stated categorically that no figures are available which show unemployment in suburbs. Not only are there no figures showing unemployment in suburbs, but no figures are maintained to show relative changes in unemployment, even by postcode. How much is the credibility of the Leader of the Opposition worth? Absolutely nothing. The Leader of the Opposition has tried to utilise figures and mislead the public in an attempt to scare them into believing that unemployment is far worse than it is.

The other thing is that the Leader of the Opposition picks on a suburb called St Agnes. This shows how ignorant the Leader is. He states that unemployment has grown more rapidly in St Agnes than anywhere else. For the Leader's benefit, that suburb is probably the most rapidly growing suburb anywhere in the Adelaide metropolitan area. So, if there are more people living in that suburb, one does not need to be an intellectual genius to work out that pro rata one must, at the same time, expect a growth in the number of unemployed. I guess that is beyond the capacity of the Leader to understand.

Dr Billard interjecting:

Mr ASHENDEN: As the member for Newland has said, of course he knew that. He deliberately wanted to mislead, purely for what he sees as his own political gain. Not only is the Leader of the Opposition trying to perpetrate those figures but so is the Labor candidate in Todd, who quoted verbatim the Leader's statement. But, how embarrassing it must have been for him to have got headlines on the front pages of the *North-East Leader* quoting the figures his Leader had obviously given him, after the Leader had stated in this House that the figures were not based on fact. What does that do as far as the Labor Party is concerned in my electorate?

I am delighted to be able to respond to my opponent in this week's *Leader* and point out that he has had the ground cut from under him. The figures he used in his article a week ago have been denied by his own Leader. How does

that make the credibility of the Leader and my opponent appear?

I know how the electors in the electorate of Todd feel about this type of situation. My opponent has not only been misled by the Leader in that area: he has even gone on to raise other so-called facts which are so misleading that it is incredible. The point coming loud and clear from the people in the electorate is that if he wants to throw up that sort of material that even his own Leader denies, what is he like?

Not only has he got into the subject of unemployment: he has also tried to blame the Tonkin Government for other things. He carries on the Leader's story that the Tonkin Government is to blame for interest rate rises in South Australia. If that is the calibre of the person coming up in the coming election, it does not speak highly of the Opposition. He cannot appreciate that interest rates have got absolutely nothing to do with the South Australian Government.

There is no doubt that interest rate rises are having a serious effect on many home buyers. I have long been an advocate not of control of interest rates, because one cannot do that, but of the provision by the Federal Government of a taxation deduction to be claimed by all persons purchasing their home utilising a mortgage loan. That is the fairest way out. No Government can control interest rates. If it does it will have a disastrous effect on the money supply in this country. However, what the Federal Government can do and what I plead with it to do in the coming Budget is provide taxation relief to all persons purchasing their home who are forced to borrow money to do so, and that includes most of us.

Returning now to unemployment. The candidate only raises the good old hackneyed point of the Labor Party that we must get rid of the Tonkin Government, as it has done nothing. He overlooks the \$1 000 000 a day that has been invested in this State since the Tonkin Government came to office 1 000 days ago. Only \$1 000 000 000 has been invested in South Australia. He says that nothing has happened. He also says that unemployment has risen since the Tonkin Government came to office. He overlooks the fact that in the last two years of the Labor Government, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, 20 000 available jobs were lost in South Australia. Since the Tonkin Government came to office 8 000 new jobs have been created. He says, 'Let's get rid of this Government and reintroduce a Labor Government'. When the figures are so much against him, those statements are incredible.

He also says, 'Bring back the good old job-creation schemes of the previous Labor Government'. Millions upon millions of dollars were spent and not one permanent job was created in South Australia. When it comes to the choice in the coming election what are people going to decide: a pie in the sky scheme which was used before and created not one job and which will cost the State millions of dollars, or to re-elect a Government which has proven it can attract industrial and resource development in this State, and the jobs that go with it.

What else does my erstwhile opponent do, but raise the hoary old issue that more people are supposedly leaving South Australia now than ever before. What nonsense! The Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show quite clearly that during the life of the previous Government far more people were leaving South Australia than were entering. Figures show that not only has that trend been stopped, but there are now more people entering South Australia than leaving—so much for the credibility of both the Leader and my Labor Party opponent in my electorate.

There is no doubt that unemployment is an extremely serious problem confronting not just the South Australian Government, but the Australian Government and govern-

ments worldwide. However, the Opposition in South Australia is trying to make political capital out of this unfortunate situation. I believe that the editorial of the *News* of 4 August sums up perfectly what it is that the Opposition is doing and the fear that it is trying to engender in the people of South Australia. Under the heading 'Recession Mentality', the editorial states, in part:

A spate of reports about that current obsession, the state of the economy, provides some pleasant surprises for South Australians. Last week the respected Australian Chamber of Commerce-National Bank survey reported that business men in this State were a lot more confident about trading prospects in the immediate future than most of those elsewhere.

That means more jobs for South Australia. The editorial continues:

Almost two-thirds looked to good or satisfactory trading. Now the South Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry with its own survey has found that the down-turn here in the June quarter was not as marked as that elsewhere. Times are tough. There is no mistake about that. But, as the Commonwealth Bank says in a third study, there is a danger that the recession mentality can be taken too far.

That is exactly what the Leader of the Opposition is attempting to do. The editorial further states:

It would be insane to suggest the end of the recession is imminent. But it is also insane to go around dolefully proclaiming that the sky is falling on our heads.

In other words, the doom and gloom preached by the Leader of the Opposition is a deliberate attempt by him to raise fears about non-existent bogymen in an attempt to create in South Australia a feeling that a Labor Government, if ever we had to put up with one, would be able to do something about it.

I now refer to an article in the *News* of 3 August under a banner headline stating that the South Australian economy is the best in the country. The article states:

South Australia's economy fared better than the other States in the June quarter, a major survey released today showed. The State was maintaining a 'better than average' performance, despite a deterioration in the economy, the South Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry survey indicated.

What does the Leader of the Opposition have to say about that? The article further states:

In a separate development, Opposition Leader, Mr Bannon, told a press conference unemployment in South Australia was almost double the officially recognised level.

In other words, even when independent surveys and figures are pointed out to the Leader he still wants to go off on his good old beaten path of using his phoney figures to try to show that there is doom and gloom. He just cannot or will not admit that in fact he is barking up the wrong tree.

Dr Billard: The official figures are inconvenient for him, so he makes up his own.

Mr ASHENDEN: That certainly sums up the point I was trying to make. There is no doubt that that is exactly what he is doing. Unfortunately, what he is also doing is stating, when he releases his figures, that they are based on official figures, but as soon as he is challenged he has to admit that, 'No, we did not take the official figures; we sort of got some figures and this is what we came up with.' The article continues:

The Chamber's President, Mr Lyle Miller, said it was evident from the survey that South Australia's economy had an underlying strength which would be likely to cushion the State from the worst of the decline.

Once again, that is proved by the Australian Bureau of Statistics unemployment figures which show that unemployment in South Australia over the last 12 months has grown by only about 3 per cent, whereas throughout the rest of Australia it is growing at about 25 per cent. In New South Wales, the home of 'nifty Neville', it has grown by almost 50 per cent. The Labor Party in South Australia is saying

that the Labor Party should be returned to Government in this State. Look at what that Party has done in New South Wales and what it is doing in Victoria. Let us then look at what this Government is doing in South Australia, which has by far the smallest increase in unemployment of all the States of the Commonwealth. The only reason for that is the industrial and resource development programmes that have been deliberately undertaken by the Tonkin Government.

As members opposite take great pains to point out how much they are at the behest of the trade union movement, I will now concentrate on one aspect that members opposite have ignored very much indeed in relation to unemployment. Before members opposite start screaming 'union basher' I make it quite clear that my following comments are not directed at the ordinary union ticket holder but at the hierarchy within the union movement, those people at the top of the tree who, having got there, completely forget the reason why they were elected to be there. Once they get there, they are no longer interested in the welfare of their members. They are interested only in their own self-preservation and in attempting to do all they can to bring this Government down and reinstate a Government which they know would knuckle under to them and provide all of the cream on the cake to them.

I now turn to some of the results of union action in this State. Let us see whether or not this has had a lot to do with unemployment, not only in South Australia but throughout Australia. When I have raised a number of points in relation to this area, I will compare the trade union movement in Australia and what it is doing with the industry union movement in the United States and what it is doing. The trade union movement in Australia appears to be hell bent on creating as much unemployment as it can, whereas the union movement in the United States has the common sense to realise that one man's wage increase is another man's job. We find in the United States union after union, industry after industry, where the workers are not only accepting but are offering reductions in their pay to ensure the retention of as many people on the pay-roll as possible.

Let us look at what the Australian trade union hierarchy is doing in a number of areas. First, it is trying to introduce a 38-hour week and even a 35-hour week. What does it think that will do to the cost of production in this country? It is sending it skyward. This country cannot live in isolation. We must compete with international companies and in markets overseas. Whenever we reduce working hours to a 38-hour week or 35-hour week we increase the cost of production in Australia, and we become less competitive in overseas markets and in our own markets. If we are less competitive, it means we produce less. If we produce less, we require fewer workers. Therefore, a reduction in working hours must mean a reduction in employment in this country.

I now turn to another area involved in this reduction, and I refer to the recent bank dispute. The Australian Bank Employees Union stated quite proudly in the *Advertiser* that it has more than 75 000 members and is seeking a nine-day 72-hour fortnight. Once again, what will that do for Australians but increase the cost of banking and reduce the facilities that banks are able to provide. In case members were not present when I mentioned this earlier, I stress that when I refer to the union movement I am referring to the executive or the hierarchy and not the ordinary card-holding members.

As I said before, I would not mind a dollar for every trade unionist who has come to my office and said, 'For goodness sake, can't you or your Government do something to control the people who are doing so much to us and causing the loss of jobs?' They are probably hitting the nail right on the head. This shows quite clearly that union

executives are not representing either the interests of their members or what their members want.

The movement by oil unions to seek the payment of medical benefits is unforgivable. Certainly, they have hit an industry which perhaps can afford to give that benefit. The oil companies immediately pass on the cost to the consumer and, therefore, the price of petrol increases. This must affect the cost of living and inflation. The oil companies are in a position to pass on such costs. Unfortunately, we find that that is not the end of the matter, because we see the headline in the *Advertiser* 'Unions see health pay as pace-setter'. In other words, now that the oil industry will pay those costs, everyone else will be in for his chop. That article states:

Unions welcomed the decision as a pace-setter and described it as a major victory for Australian workers.

What utter nonsense! It will be one of the greatest disasters that the Australian worker has ever had thrust on him, because once again the employers' costs increase, we become less competitive, and we produce less and, therefore, there will be fewer jobs. The article further states:

The Assistant National Secretary of the country's biggest metal union, the A.M.W.S.U., Mr Laurie Carmichael, said the union movement as a whole had to pursue the claim.

I wonder how many of his union members Mr Carmichael asked before he made that statement. I would say absolutely none, because, if he had asked them, he would know that his members are very worried about this matter and they do not want to move in that direction. The article further states:

The Federal Secretary of the Federated Ironworkers Association, Mr Laurie Short, said workers were expected to push for benefits such as paid health insurance instead of pay increases.

Again, I wonder how closely Mr Short consulted his members. We find that employers are unanimous that the decision by the oil industry to pay these costs was devastating. In a recent edition of the *News*, under the heading 'Employers to fight \$167 000 000 health bill' an article stated:

A devastating \$167 000 000. That's the bill employers face if all South Australian workers win health insurance cover as part of their wages. Industry leaders warned last night such a massive increase in the wages bill could cripple the State.

Does the union movement care? No Sir! It was further stated:

It is demonstrable lunacy, the general manager of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr Arnold Schrape said last night. And Mr Michael McCutcheon, the executive director of the Retail Traders Association said: 'It is time for ordinary workers to begin telling union leaders their priorities—payment of sickness benefits or continuity of work and wages.'

It could not be summed up better than that. In a recent edition of the *Advertiser*, I believe that Mr Colquhoun, in his inimitable fashion, showed only too clearly the stupidity of this latest move by the union hierarchy. His article stated:

I didn't mind giving the old derelict a dollar, but then I had to listen to his story.

'It all started on 4 August 1982,' he said.

'I was running a factory producing can and bottle openers. I'd designed 'em myself when I was a young bloke, and they were damned good, even if I do say so myself.

'I started off making them in the backyard, then took on a couple of blokes, then 10 and then 100. They were selling like hot cakes, very cheap, and I even set up a little export department.

'Then on 4 August 1982, the oil industry employers agreed to pay health insurance costs for their workers. In no time flat, of course, every union in the country was on the bandwagon, and I ended up having to pay health insurance for my blokes.

'The unions said they wanted more of these kinds of benefits because they didn't have to pay tax on them like they did with their wage rises.

So before long they're pushing for the bosses to pay for their house insurance. And we did. And then we had to pay for their car insurance, too. Well, I suppose all that was OK. I just added the cost to the price of the can and bottle openers. Then the unions campaigned for the employers to pay the workers' house

mortgages because interest rates were so high. And then the cost of educating their kids.

'So I whacked these costs on to the price of the openers, and cancellations of orders started falling on my desk like autumn leaves. Then the unions said income tax levels were intolerable, and so we bosses had to pay their taxes, too. I pointed out to my blokes that our openers were now so dear that we just couldn't compete with cheap imports from all over the world, but they said that times were tough for them, too, and they had to live.

'Well, the crunch came when they won a campaign to have the employers pay for their annual holidays—only within Australia, mind, but do you know the cost of air fares to Cairns for a family? Well, by then I would have had to charge \$100 each for the openers just to break even, so I called the staff in and told 'em the company was broke and I was closing down.

'But what about us, they said. What about our health insurance, they said. What about our house insurance, and our school fees, and our income tax, they said. Who is going to pay them, they said. 'Brothers, I said as I put on my jacket, I don't know and I don't care. But if you want to come with me, we can all discuss it in the dole queue.'

I think that exactly sums up what it is that the hierarchy of the trade union movement is trying to bring about at the moment. It just does not realise the disastrous effect that these demands are having upon unemployment.

Members opposite have roundly castigated this Government for what they say is its fault in the present unemployment situation. Of course, they conveniently overlook the fact that under their Government unemployment reached 8.2 per cent, which is much higher than it is today. Opposition members never say that when this Government came into office this State had the highest unemployment in the country. They conveniently forget figures like that.

Opposition members try to twist and turn as the Leader of the Opposition has done, and do anything they can to blame the Tonkin Government for anything that they can think of. Not once have I heard 'unreasonable wage demands' given as a reason for employers reducing the number of employees. I can assure members opposite, having come out of the hard world of private enterprise, that I know only too well that at the bottom line one must have a 'plus' figure in front of the dollar sign because, if one has not, one is out of business.

If one is out of business, there are not too many jobs that one can offer employees. Therefore, unless we are able to compete, and unless our industry is able to compete and is able to come up with a reasonable profit figure and at the same time sell its goods at a reasonable cost, we will not have much employment to offer. Do we hear this matter ever raised by Opposition members? No! They know jolly well that, if they were to get stuck into the union hierarchy, their preselection would be well and truly over and they would not have to bother about the forthcoming election.

Until people stand up to these union executives in their ivory towers and point out clearly that their own members do not want what it is they are doing, we will continue to have these problems. I was at one conference recently which involved both employers and union executives. At morning tea I was staggered to hear a senior trade unionist in this State say to me, 'Look, I am judged on the pay rises that I get, and not on the jobs that I save.' That is what he said. There can be no doubt at all where his priorities lie. Regardless of jobs that we are going to cost, we will go on and fight for higher and higher wages.

I wonder how many members opposite saw the *60 Minutes* programme on Channel 9 on Sunday last. It included an excellent discussion in relation to a Tasmanian industry which could easily close down, and we heard why it could close down.

The Tasmanian company has found that it is not competitive and, therefore, suggested to its employees (as so many unions have done in the United States with success) that perhaps they would be prepared to take a cut in their wage in order for the company to be competitive and con-

tinue its operation. The company suggested that the over-award payments be removed and that the workers be paid the straight award rate. What did the Secretary of the Tasmanian Trades and Labor Council say to that? 'Under no circumstances,' he said. 'There is a principle to uphold,' he said. 'We cannot have this,' he said. 'We will have it spreading through the country like wildfire,' he said. 'We must not allow any company to reduce its wages, even if it costs jobs,' he said.

The general manager and owner of that company is not drawing a cent from the business, so he is not asking his workmen to do any less than he is doing. He has asked those workmen to accept a wage which is the accepted wage as far as the courts are concerned. It was obvious that a large number of members of his work force wanted to do what he asked. They preferred a reduction of \$20 a week to getting no money at all. But what has the Trades and Labor Council in Tasmania done? It has blackbanned that company so that no new project can be undertaken by it.

There can be only one end result: gradually there will be less and less work, employees will have to be put off and eventually the company will have to close. A total of 70 jobs will be lost. Why? For a principle, as the Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council in Tasmania put it. What a principle! It will cost 70 jobs but, he said, 'We have to try to protect workers' wages'. As a workman so succinctly put it on the programme, 'We would rather have an award wage than get the dole'. But not so the Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council in Tasmania, no Sir. He says, 'We will close the company down and cost this State (that is, Tasmania) 70 jobs.'

That is the mentality of senior leaders of the trade union movement. It does not reflect the ordinary trade union ticket holder's view. Senior members of the trade union movement should wake up to the damage they are wreaking. Perhaps they are not so silly, know what they are doing and are deliberately trying to bring society as we know it to its knees and perhaps to reinstate the type of society that so many of the socialist left would like to see. Perhaps, therefore, it is not so innocent after all; I do not know. However, I do know that the activities of those senior executives in the trade union movement are costing job after job. Have we ever heard a member opposite raise that point as a possible reason for unemployment?

Let us look again at the credibility of the Leader of the Opposition in the area of unemployment. The Leader has stated categorically that he and his Party are opposed to the development of Roxby Downs and the mining of uranium there. He has said that it is pie in the sky, is not worth anything to this State and will not create any jobs. Members opposite must have been severely embarrassed with the announcement recently by Western Mining which put figures on the extent of the Roxby Downs deposit. An article appeared in the *Sunday Mail* a week ago written by Tony Baker, who I think I am right in saying was a press secretary to the former Premier, Mr Don Dunstan. I do not therefore think that anyone could say that his politics could be the cause of this statement:

The figures are staggering. At today's prices—and note that today's prices reflect the international economic down turn—the copper is worth \$48 000 000 000, the gold \$14 000 000 000, and the uranium \$79 000 000 000. Roxby Downs contains minerals worth a mind-boggling \$140 000 000 000.

Australia's richest copper mine is Mount Isa. Roxby Downs reserves are six times larger. Australia last year produced 16 tonnes of gold. Roxby Downs has reserves of 1 200 tonnes.

What they add up to is that all the talk about Roxby Downs or Olympic Dam, as it's better described, being a mineral deposit in the global big league was not a politician's promise after all. It was a literal description.

Where does that leave the Leader of the Opposition and his antipathy to the working of that deposit? Already 1 000

persons are employed because of Roxby Downs. In a few years time we will have up to 15 000 people employed, yet the Leader of the Opposition is doing all that he can to stop that development going ahead. So how sincere is he in wanting to fight unemployment? With a strike of one vote, as he and his colleagues did in this House, he attempted to wipe that from the map.

The Labor Party is undoubtedly most embarrassed by the activities that have occurred recently at both their State and Federal conventions. Again, I think Mr Colquhoun sums up only too well the situation in which the Labor Party finds itself. Again, let me read from his column:

I bumped into this Labor politician at the bus stop yesterday.

'I see you blokes have changed your mind on uranium mining,' I said.

'What do you mean, changed our mind?' he said.

'Well, before the national conference this week your policy was to ban uranium mining altogether when you got into power.'

'Yes, that's right.'

'Well, now you're going to allow existing uranium projects to go ahead, aren't you?'

'Well, no, we're going to let them continue until we phase them out.'

'Phase them out? Does that mean close them down?'

'Well, in a manner of speaking, yes. But we've got to be careful not to suddenly throw a lot of people out of work. That would be disastrous electorally.'

'Well, why don't you let them continue, and say so?'

'Oh, that would be most divisive for the Party. The Left would never stand for that.'

'Well, when you close the mines down—'

'Phase them out, old chap.'

'Phase them out, then—won't that mean you'll have to break contracts that have already been signed by Governments?'

'Well, not so much break them as, er...'

'Repudiate?'

'Well, er...'

'Terminate?'

'Well, yes, you could say that.'

'Well, surely that is going to discourage investment in this country. Who's going to invest millions only to risk a new Government's closing them down?'

'Phasing them out, old man. As Bill Hayden said, to stop the uranium industry overnight would bring the Australian economy to a halt overnight.'

'So you're going to bring it to a halt over a period?'

'Oh, no, as the Party which represents the workers we're naturally anxious that the economy is healthy and there are plenty of jobs.'

'Hmm, I'm afraid I find it rather confusing. Won't the workers get upset if you stop projects like Roxby Downs and put men out of work?'

'Yes, but not as upset as the Left wing of the Party if we don't That's why we have this new policy.'

'Could you explain this new policy again simply, please?'

'Certainly. It's quite straightforward, really. To put it simply, we're simply going to allow uranium mining until we phase it out.'

'Put even more simply, you're going to stop uranium mining?'

'Really, old man, you don't seem to be getting the hang of it all.'

'I'm sorry, I'm just confused.'

'Well, yes, a political background does help in these matters. Let me put it to you this way—'

'Sorry, old man, here's my bus. Nice to have had a chance to talk to you.'

'Glad to have been of help. That's what we members of Parliament are here for, you know.'

Once again, in his style Mr Colquhoun has summed up exactly the dilemma which the Labor Party faces and the fact that, no matter how they gild the lily, if they are returned to power it will be the end of development of Roxby Downs.

In case members opposite believe that I am the only person that has these feelings, again, I stress my point about the senior executive hierarchy of the trade union movement. I would refer them all to a letter in this morning's *Advertiser*, from a person who has just returned from the United States and who points out only too clearly that she was not able to get a job because of the trade union movement. Once again this august body, supposedly there to represent the

interest of the workers, has deliberately stopped her from obtaining a position. She says in the letter:

My husband and I have recently returned to Adelaide after completing our tertiary education in the United States. We knew that it would be difficult to find employment but I never figured on the unions hampering our efforts. I visited a Commonwealth Employment Services office and found a job that I would love to do—working with children. I am a qualified primary school teacher. It was only a temporary job, but I was very interested.

I visited with one of the C.E.S. counsellors, who tried to talk me out of the position, or even applying, as the job was only temporary. I told him that we were not on the dole by choice and any job would be helpful. The counsellor rang what I expected would be my intended employer, and after a lengthy conversation he told me that my credentials were excellent but they would not accept my application for 'industrial reasons'. I asked if this meant the unions and he said it was. Needless to say I was absolutely furious with my rejection. I could have had the job but the unions had interfered and continued my registration among the ranks of the unemployed.

It seems to me that the unions are stifling the development of Australia. They don't allow diversification of qualifications in employment. Shouldn't the best man or woman at the time of application get the job? What right does a union have in regulating the hiring of employees?

Hear, hear! The letter continues:

I believe that the role of the unions is to regulate the safety of its members, the physical surroundings its members work in and wages. They have over-stepped these boundaries and are now grossly influencing the development of Australia in a very negative way. Australia needs to control the unions in order to grow, not the unions control Australia.

As this unfortunate woman probably lives in the Leader of Opposition's electorate, I can understand why she did not bother to go to her local member to see whether he could do something to help her. So much for the crocodile tears of members opposite when I have raised so many examples of what their bosses in the senior executive hierarchy of the trade union movement are doing to build unemployment not only in this State but throughout Australia.

Senior people in the trade union movement never cease to amaze me. I have to reflect on Mr Norm Gallagher and the statements he made when found that his union, the B.L.F., was going to have to pay a \$15 000 fine. A report in the *Advertiser* states:

After the ruling, Mr Gallagher told reporters outside the union's headquarters in suburban Carlton that he was 'very happy' for his members who had 'shown such fine support' for the union's officials. He said industrial action and demonstrations by his members had been the main reason for the court's 'changing its mind.'

In other words, let us use industrial muscle, not only in the political sphere but also in the judicial sphere. They will stop at nothing. The article continues:

Mr Gallagher said that the fine would be paid by the union using 'benefactors' funds but stressed that no B.L.F. money would go to meeting the fine. Asked whether builders were among those who contributed to the public appeal, Mr Gallagher replied: 'Well, who else would pay it?'

In other words, let us use our muscle and screw the employer; regardless of the fact that we have broken the law and have been found guilty at law, we will not pay the fine but force the employers to pay it. Some of these senior executives in the trade union movement are 'delightful' people, and they are supposed to be representing the interests of their members! I wonder how many of Mr Gallagher's members are invited to his beach house.

There are, however, some sensible elements within the trade union movement, but unfortunately they are mainly at the grass roots level. We can only hope that eventually they will gain control of the trade union movement and ensure that it sets about pointing those unions in the right direction, a direction in which undoubtedly many years ago it was working. Now the pendulum has gone way past that, and the senior executives are undoubtedly abusing their power and are no longer working in the interests of their members.

Mr Abbott: You are the typical union basher.

Mr ASHENDEN: If the honourable member had been here when I started speaking, he would have heard me say clearly that I expected that comment and made it clear that I was pointing the finger not at the ordinary union card-holding member, but at those ivory tower senior executives I have been talking about for the past 45 minutes. If the honourable member wishes to bury his head in the sand, so be it. The facts are that, because of the activities of those executives, we have a major problem in this country.

Let us look at some positive things that could be done to create employment in this State if the trade union movement would allow it. An excellent scheme is presently being developed in West Germany, where a deliberate training scheme has been set up for 16 to 18 year olds. They are training schemes not just to provide the benefits of an apprenticeship but to provide unemployed young people with the opportunity to gain experience in all sorts of areas such as truck driving. The situation there is that 16 to 18 year olds are not paid a wage which is the normal level for those of that age. They are unemployed and therefore the West German Government, like the United States unions and employers, have appreciated the fact that a reduction in wages will result in an increase in the number of persons employed. There is no reason, except for union intransigence, that such a scheme could not be introduced in this country.

Again, I point out that the Secretary of the Trades and Labor Council in Tasmania made it quite clear that he regarded it as much more important that wage levels be maintained than 70 jobs be protected. He made that absolutely clear on a television programme, and members opposite cannot deny it. That is obviously union policy.

I direct my final comments to an area quite divorced from that on which I have been speaking. I recently received in the mail a letter from the President of the Australian Electric Traction Association containing a photocopy of an editorial in its latest magazine. He obviously sent it to me because he thought I would be convinced by the arguments in it that we should not go ahead with an O'Bahn.

We should go through the article point by point to show quite clearly the lengths to which that pressure group will go to support the Labor Party in its campaign in the north-eastern suburbs. The article, headed 'Does Adelaide need an O'Bahn?' states:

The O'Bahn controversy in Adelaide continues and it was fuelled recently by an Opposition M.P. who suggested that no further construction contracts be let pending an examination of specific environmental aspects.

He conveniently overlooks the fact that a very thorough environmental study indeed was done not only by this Government but also by the previous Government on the development of a transport corridor along the Torrens River. The article continues:

This is a reasonable request when it is considered that, in the preliminary states of planning for a north-east transport corridor the concurrent River Torrens study (the Hassell Report) made it quite clear that the light rail option would have the least detrimental impact on the river and its environs.

I do not know where he got that information, because the track on which the bus will run will be narrower than the track for the light rail. There will be no overhead wires, and it will blend much better with the environment. I suppose that if one wants to put a case, as the Leader of the Opposition does, he will use anything whether or not it is the truth. And as the member for Newland has pointed out, the vehicles will be much quieter inside and out. The article continues:

Despite this, the South Australian Government reversed the proposal to build the l.r.t. line and opted for a busway instead, claiming lower costs as the major factor.

At least they got that right. However, let us see what they did with that statement. The article continues:

However, instead of having only 2.5 km of guideway as originally envisaged, it is to be used for the full length of the busway (11.8 km) and the cost has risen from \$42 500 000 to \$68 500 000—the same as the estimate for the l.r.t. line.

What utter garbage! They have taken the inflated figure from the cost of the O'Bahn, compared with the 1979 figure for the O'Bahn, and have said that it is now going to be \$68 500 000 and that that is what the light rail will cost, but that is the cheapest option for light rail at 1979 costs.

In other words, they are using the inflated figure of the O'Bahn costing against the 1979 figure of the cheapest option of light rail, which was not the one that the Labor Government was going to bring in any way, and trying to say that therefore the O'Bahn would cost as much as the light rail option. How is that for an absolute misuse of figures. The latest estimate for the light rail option that the previous Government espoused is around the \$140 000 000 to \$150 000 000 mark, still more than double the inflation figure of the O'Bahn system. The article further states:

The Government believed that this cost escalation was worthwhile on the supposition that the guideway would require no maintenance for at least fifteen years! But the increase in cost now means that one of the major advantages of the busway has now disappeared.

What nonsense! The article further states:

Couple this with the fact that the only operational O'Bahn in public service in the world is a 1.3 km experimental line in Essen, Germany.

Let me point out a few facts to the honourable gentleman who wrote this article. The length of O'Bahn busway in Essen in Germany is not experimental; it is now a part of a commercial fare-paying normal customer use public transport system. The person who wrote this article did not even know his facts. There is an experimental area, but the area to which he referred is not experimental; it is a part of a normal commercial public transport system in West Germany. Not only that, but it is being doubled in length at this very moment.

Again, for the edification of the honourable gentleman I point out that the public transport authority in Essen has under its control heavy rail, heavy light rail, light light rail, ordinary buses and guided buses. The Chief Engineer of the Essen public transport system said to the member for Newland and me when we were in Essen that undoubtedly the best of the systems is the guided busway and that if he had his way that is all that they would be installing. When the member for Newland and I described the situation that we had here in Adelaide, he said that there is no doubt that the option that should be taken is a guided busway. The article to which I have been referring continues as follows:

It is not surprising that a former senior bus engineer in Adelaide several times pleaded with the Government to review the use of a guideway due to the potential of serious operational problems arising.

Again, I do not know where the person who wrote this article got that information from. It is nonsense. The article further continues:

Unfortunately the North-East Busway, with its 4 km of running in congested city streets, is a half-baked compromise and can be largely attributed to face-saving by the Government. 'Electric Traction' urges that a complete review of the project . . .

If only such critics could come up with some concrete reasons why the Government should reconsider, then I would be only too happy to listen to such people. But it has been shown quite clearly in Essen that the system works, that it is viable, and that in certain areas it is undoubtedly superior to light rail. There are still areas where light rail would be needed, areas where there is a necessity to move huge volumes of traffic. I want to point out that even in

the United States of America, where the cities are much larger than those that we have here in Australia, people there are not turning to light rail but are turning to the option of buses.

The situation in one city, Pittsburgh, is that, although the population is about eight times that of Adelaide, they find that buses are still the most effective and efficient method of moving fare paying customers.

Even though Americans have a love affair with their cars, 70 per cent of commuters in Pittsburgh go downtown, as they call it, by public transport which is predominantly made up by replacing tramway systems by busways. There is one very new busway already operating, and another very extensive one is being built. For the benefit of members opposite and the Light Rail Electric Traction Association, or whatever they call themselves, to state that the buses are dangerous or that they are not likely to work has been disproved in city after city overseas. Busways are being developed and are working extremely effectively in a number of cities in the United States.

I round off my remarks by stating that I wish that, if the Leader of the Opposition, the Electric Traction Association and others want to argue, they would base their arguments on facts instead of plucking figures out of the air and using them however they like purely and simply to score political points. Perhaps one day the Leader of the Opposition will regain some credibility and use figures which are true and which are based on fact. At the moment he is not doing that, for his own political ends. There is no doubt that the public at large is only too well aware of the huge credibility gap that the Leader of the Opposition is building around himself.

Mr PETERSON (Semaphore): I rise to support the motion. I am a little taken aback (I think that is the correct term) by the previous speaker. I thought a decision had been made about the O'Bahn transport system. I think he was simply trying to use up his hour; still, it is his hour and good luck to him. Most members usually take this time to air a few local problems. This is the third occasion on which I have had the pleasure and privilege to rise in these debates.

Mr Russack: The fourth.

Mr PETERSON: The fourth, is it? That shows how one can lose track of these things. It is the lateness of the hour that does it. I am pleased to say that since I have participated in these debates many of the problems facing my constituents and problems in my electorate have been solved and I do not need to take all my time discussing the problems of my constituents in my area. As I have said, many of the problems that I have raised in previous speeches have now been solved. For example, I refer to the Semaphore railway line: it has gone and Semaphore Road has been upgraded. Work on that road is progressing very well. I will not say that it has been completed until the Minister of Transport provides traffic lights. He can be well assured that I will be pursuing that matter for quite some time yet. There has also been an improvement in the number of businesses along that road. A new bank has been built and a couple of new businesses have been established. That whole exercise is a success. However, there are still a few problems. I refer to Taperoo beach—

Mr Russack: You have once or twice.

Mr PETERSON: Members opposite can be funny when it comes to the Address in Reply. Yes, I have mentioned Taperoo beach in this place once or twice before. I am pleased to say that that problem is also partially on the way to being settled. A contract has been let to pump sand to the low areas of that beach. That problem is also on the way to being resolved.

Mr Becker: I can't get anything done in my area.

Mr PETERSON: It is amazing how members of the Government cannot approach their Ministers in the right manner when they want things done.

Mr Abbott: The truth.

Mr PETERSON: The truth, yes. One needs a practical and realistic approach in relation to Ministers. If one puts the case fairly and soundly I have found that the Ministers have always listened.

An honourable member: You'll get re-elected.

Mr PETERSON: I certainly hope so. As I have said, some problems still remain in my area. One or two areas in relation to public transport need to be fixed. Once again I draw that to the attention of the Minister of Transport. We are by no means over that hump and he will certainly hear from me and people in my electorate for some time until he fixes that. My electorate has always been lucky in the employment area. An egg loading factory has been established in my area, which has created 500 jobs. We are very thankful for that because it has filled a gap in the electorate. We are also very lucky that we have a huge industrial area to be developed by the Department of Marine and Harbors, and I might return to that a little later.

I have lived at the Port all of my life and I have seen it wax and wane. I have seen the Port at its peak and I have seen its rise and fall. I have seen the development and the facilities that have been provided over the years. I am very pleased to see that the Minister of Marine has come into the Chamber, because I intend to refer to some aspects of his department.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: I shall be very pleased to hear your reference to the Semaphore railway and the fact that this Government solved the problem after 15 years.

Mr PETERSON: Perhaps the Minister would like to make my speech for me. It is true that the problem has been solved. I have always been one to give thanks where thanks were due. I have seen the development of the Port facilities over the years, and I have seen Outer Harbor developed. For instance, I refer to the passenger terminal at No. 2 berth. Anyone who worked at Outer Harbor before the establishment of the terminal would be aware that such a facility was needed. Unfortunately, at the same time as the facility was built there was a down-turn in passenger trade. But who knows: it may come again. I heard the shadow Minister of Tourism say tonight that cruising was on the increase, so let us hope that Adelaide is on the list again. Both facilities were needed, and I certainly do not agree with the criticism that has been put forward at times about the passenger terminal facilities.

Mr Becker: How would it be as a casino?

Mr PETERSON: That is an interesting point. I know that interjections are out of order, but I heard the honourable member say something about a casino. I do not believe that that would be a suitable site for a casino, and that will put the matter to rest. In this House and in the other place it has been suggested that I raised the casino issue originally because I wanted it sited at the passenger terminal at Outer Harbor, but that is not true. I am sorry to ruin the illusions of the honourable member.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: But you are pleased about the overseas shipping service.

Mr PETERSON: I am coming to that: I am moving down the list. I have some knowledge of container shipping. I was one of the first employees in this State of one of the major container operators which now operates the container terminal and which still operates the largest container depot in this State. I did a lot of the initial work for that company on the No. 6 container berth at Outer Harbor. I believe that the Department of Marine and Harbors might owe me some

commission for some of that work, but I have not been paid.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: Especially when it rained.

Mr PETERSON: It does rain. The Department of Marine and Harbors has done a good job in relation to that facility. It has tried to sell the facility, but it is very difficult to sell something like that to shipping line operators, because they are a pretty closed shop. Overall, I believe that the department has worked pretty hard.

I do not know what the future holds. I am aware that there are no contracts and there is nothing in writing from the shipping companies, which are as fickle as the breeze that blows at Outer Harbor. However, I hope that the facility continues, because it is good for the State. The extension of the standard gauge to the terminal will certainly be of great benefit to Outer Harbor. However, there is one problem and, as I said previously, I am glad that the Minister is in the Chamber. It has been said that when the new cargo transit shed at No. 6 berth at Outer Harbor was built—

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: Are you praising the Government?

Mr PETERSON: The Government has done one or two goods things, but it has also done some bad things. That shed was built without any facilities for the waterside workers who work at the berth. The terminal is a specific area and is leased by an operator. Within that area there is a full set of facilities, including changerooms, lunchrooms, showers and all of the bits and pieces.

They are not accessible to all who use the cargo shed. There is one toilet block on the wharf face itself, but there are certainly no facilities such as lunchrooms, changerooms and showerrooms, and the terminal operator, I understand, denies access to waterside workers when they are working in the shed for any other contractor. That means that for a stevedoring company to use that line it must subcontract its work to the terminal operator.

It has been suggested to me that that boosts costs considerably at that berth to anyone except the terminal operator. If any other stevedore company goes there, it is an expensive operation. I have been given figures from a man who I know would know the costs in that operation, and he tells me that it is a serious financial burden. The costs on imports are passed on to everyone in the community, and they also boost export costs. This is a matter into which the Minister could look. If the shed is going to be used properly, the facilities must be there.

It is a good new berth which should be used by the Ro-Ro and the Cellular ships. It is built for it and, if it is not used properly, we will not get the second crane, although I am sure that the Department of Marine and Harbors is anxious to get the second crane.

Another problem has been raised with me concerning work at the harbor in regard to the set up and allocation of berths. As the Minister knows, I have had almost 20 years experience in stevedoring. I have a fair idea of the workings of a ship, how it is done, cargo movements, and allocation of labour and the like. No. 1 berth has been re-established as the sheep loading berth, after the pen debate, when a 30 000 pen was defeated by the people of the area resisting it. No. 1 berth was developed as a through-shed for 10 000 sheep at a time. The new rail lines were laid and No. 1 berth was positively established as a sheep berth. Since then the wharf has been pulled up at No. 1 berth. The sheep trains now have to be put down to No. 1 berth and shunted back to No. 4 or between No. 2 and 3, or between No. 3 and No. 4, which is the only place they can put the ramps down and, if another ship is working on that wharf, it cuts off the labour for whatever time it takes to berth the shunt. That does not seem to be a practical idea and perhaps, with a little more co-operation given in the allocation of berths

and the arrangement made down at the harbor, a solution could be found.

That covers a couple of the problems in the area that have been raised with me by people in the industry, and that matter could be looked at.

However, there is another point concerning the waterfront in South Australia that I would like to raise. I am well aware that everyone on the waterfront works under a Federal award, but there is a situation taking place with labour on the waterfront to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. All employees are employed under Federal awards by the Association of Employers of Waterside Labour.

I can think back to about 1960 or so when I went to the waterfront and when there were about 2 500 wharflies and 200 clerks. Now there are about 400 wharflies and 50 clerks. There have been inroads made by automation, by changes to shipping styles, cargo handling, especially automated cargo handling devices, and containerisation, which took a lot of direct labour needed for cargo handling away from the waterfront into container depots. Several hundred people are employed in container depots in South Australia.

The policy of the A.E.W.L. is to not increase the labour force on the waterfront. What it does if there is a shortage in any port (whether it be an outport or a main port in South Australia) is relocate labour for the day. I know that it has moved labour from Port Adelaide to Port Pirie. I know that at one stage it suggested flying labour to Port Lincoln for the day. I do not think that that was done, but it was on the cards that it would be done. I can understand labour being moved within the State if it is feasible, but the thing that really gets my goat (and if the Government is serious about making jobs for people in this State this is something it should look at) is the practice, during labour shortages in this State, of bringing wharflies from Melbourne to Adelaide. They are flown here, put in a hotel for a week, or whatever the period is, paid expenses and then flown home when the work is finished. While that is happening there are South Australians out of work including wharflies' sons who cannot get jobs. I do not know what the Government can do about this, but it is something it should look at, because the function of this Government is to look after South Australians.

I do not know whether that practice is still occurring but it certainly occurred on several occasions that I am aware of. It was almost a practice for a while to bring wharflies from interstate to work on our wharves. That does not make sense to me. I will be interested to see whether any Minister, perhaps the Minister of Labour and Industry (or perhaps it is important enough for the Premier to handle) or the Minister of Marine, looks into this matter. I do not know whether this matter comes within the Minister of Marine's portfolio but I would respect his opinion on this situation. I think this practice is wrong because we are here to create jobs for South Australians. I do not raise this matter with any malice because, as a matter of fact, my father is a life member of the Waterside Workers Federation. I do not bear any malice toward the W.W.F. or the A.E.W.L., but I think this practice is wrong and should be looked into.

I turn now to the development of the Port area that I spoke about earlier. One of the major projects of the D.M.H. in this area involves dredging, recovery of land and the development of industrial estates. That section of Government workers has done a remarkable job. I believe that Port Adelaide is a well developed port. We have problems there because of our location, but it is a good, clean port and works well with the cargo it gets. However, we must look at the on-going dredging, which the Minister is well aware is needed. Without dredging the channel would become blocked and the port would come to a standstill, causing recovery projects to go down. There have been problems

with dredging. As we all know, the *H. C. Meyer* was lost tragically on 2 October 1979, and I say 'tragically' because it involved loss of life. It still concerns me that the findings of the inquiry into that tragic loss have never been made public. That, to me, is wrong. Those findings should have been made public because I think the public has a right to know what happened that night. Also, the findings concerning *Joseph Verco* incident were never made public.

The dredging and reclamation of land is a significant, on-going project. I think references to the D.M.H. reports clearly demonstrate this fact. In 1977-1978 the following appeared under the heading 'Dredging' in the Department of Marine and Harbors report:

Dredging continued in the Port of Adelaide approach channel and the container terminal swinging basin. Depths are being increased in stages and when completed will permit the berthing of the largest container ships and other draft vessels at any state of the tide.

During the year, the bucket dredge *H. C. Meyer* removed 487 000 cubic metres of material from the new Outer Harbor entrance channel swinging basin and the cutter suction dredge *South Australian* removed 50 000 cubic metres.

That was all about the dredging facilities for 1977-78. In 1978-79 it said that the total of 499 000 cubic metres of material was removed by the dredge *H. C. Meyer* with a further 89 000 cubic metres being removed from the entrance channel. Further, the 1978-79 report says that during the first half of the year the cutter-suction dredge, the *South Australian*, continued pumping ashore dumped spoil to reclaim the area for the proposed No. 7 berth. In 1980-81 the report says:

The principal developmental effort was concentrated in Port Adelaide where the chartered dredge *A. D. Victoria* dredged 422 000 cubic metres of material in the course of the widening of the main shipping channel.

Also, another on-going dredging problem that we have in the river is not necessarily the silting of the river by natural resources but I.C.I. That same report says:

At Osborne 138 000 cubic metres of calcium carbonate sludge were removed from the shipping channel to complete an order placed on the department by I.C.I.

The report also says that a further 180 000 cubic metres was dredged from the entry channel and swinging basin. Then in 1979-80 they dredged 166 000 cubic metres; No. 7 berth, 135 000 cubic metres; similarly, another 66 500 cubic metres. So members can see that the project is an on-going huge project and needs to be considered carefully. It worried me because of the significance of this programme to hear recently that the cutter-suction dredge, the *South Australian*, was pulled out of service.

Without that dredge or a similar piece of equipment we cannot continue with our reclamation programme in Port Adelaide. It is very important. It is the big asset this port has, that is, the industrial estates adjacent to the channel. Time and time again in this House various Ministers of Marine and various Ministers with other portfolios have made exactly that point—that those estates are an asset to the State, and need to be developed and ready for industrial development. Without that dredge we are in trouble. I have questioned the Minister of Marine on this dredging question and he replied to me that there is a panel of four persons appointed to look at what is going to be done with the *South Australian*. I can tell him now what the panel will find: that the cutter-suction dredge, the *South Australian*, is beyond repair. That is my information.

The Minister should avoid the kind of delay that occurred with previous decisions, such as with the *H. C. Meyer* when it tipped over, when it was left there for months, and also the *Joseph Verco*, which was also left there so long it was impossible to salvage the thing in any usable manner. The cutter-suction dredge or some such equipment must be obtained as soon as possible. The Minister has assured me

that there will be no loss of employment for people in that area of employment. I am pleased about that, but we must get a replacement piece of equipment.

Mr Oswald: I could take it down to the Patawalonga then, could't I?

Mr PETERSON: They are the sorts of things that can be done with this equipment. It is a cutter-suction dredge. For the uninitiated among us, that is exactly what it does.

Mr Oswald: I could take it down to the Patawalonga.

Mr PETERSON: You could do that if you wished. It has the ability to dredge and to pump the material it dredges. Most dredges do not have the pumping facility. A bucket dredge cannot do it, and would be far too big.

Mr Oswald interjecting:

Mr Trainer: They could use it on the speeches of the member for Morphett.

Mr PETERSON: They could. It has this advantage, and it is a very necessary piece of equipment, enabling that material to be moved. This cover suction dredge has been used in a static position for many years in the Port River, where the dredged material was dropped beneath the dredge and it worked as a pump to relocate that material back in the areas that are now being developed as industrial estates. Many industries are now situated in the Port Adelaide area where previously there were swamps and mangroves. They were recovered in this manner, and the programme, which has been on-going for many years, has been successful. However, the programme will not continue and will not continue to be successful without a cover suction dredge or a similar piece of equipment.

What worries me is the delay that always seems to occur in making a decision on these matters. We ended up with a replacement dredge after paying many thousands of dollars after years of leasing. The decision could just as easily have been made in the first place because we knew we were coming up with that dredge, the *AD Victoria*, anyway.

Mr Slater interjecting:

Mr PETERSON: The honourable member should not start me on that. I will talk about the dockyard because it was—

Mr Slater interjecting:

Mr PETERSON: I would think so. It was one of the bad decisions. I do not know what Frickers got out of it, but I know that they got a few hundred thousand dollars. I ask what South Australia got out of that decision. That was not one of the Government's better decisions.

I want briefly to talk about employment in the dockyards in my electorate. Nearly every day of my life I have passed these dockyards, which have been a source of employment to people in my electorate for many years and have produced many good unique tradesmen. There are very few people experienced in the trades necessary, for instance, wharf building, maintaining dredges and working with this type of equipment. I am concerned that over the years the employment opportunities in the dockyards and in the Department of Marine and Harbors generally have decreased. It is stated in the Department of Marine and Harbors report that in 1977-78 there were 376 salaried officers and 757 weekly-paid employees, which made a total of 1 063 employees. In 1978-79 there were 286 salaried officers and 711 weekly-paid employees, which made a total of 997 employees. In 1979-80, there were 286 salaried officers and 654 weekly-paid employees, making a total of 940. In 1980-81 there were 274 salaried officers and 620 weekly-paid employees, making a total of 894 employees.

There are reasons for this, and I can accept that many of the developmental projects, the wharf buildings, etc., have been completed. But, even the Harbors Board and the Department of Marine and Harbors have expressed a concern; otherwise, they would not have put it in their annual

report. The 1978-79 report, under the heading 'Staff', on page 38, states:

The decline in the number of staff during the year is partly attributed to the completion of the Wallaroo rehabilitation project and partly due to the non-replacement of employees as a consequence of manpower restraints imposed upon the department.

I wish to stress that it involved restraints made on the manpower of the department. This has also had an effect upon maintenance capacity. The 1980-81 report, under the heading 'Maintenance', states:

The continuing effort necessary for the proper maintenance of the department's facilities and plant, which has a book value of approximately \$100 000 000, was maintained during the year. Expenditure in real terms in this area has diminished over the past five years so that it is becoming more difficult to maintain the department's assets in satisfactory operating conditions.

I wonder whether the demise of some of the equipment that we have seen over the past few years, such as the *H. C. Meyer* and the *South Australian*, may have been because of that restriction on manpower and money. If it was, that is a very serious situation. It is something to consider. There has been a reduction in manpower and, in the words of their own report, it has affected maintenance. Many employees in the dockyards are concerned about where they stand and what their future is, and I can understand that.

I have previously invited the Minister to go to the dockyard with me to speak to these people. I do it once again through *Hansard*. I ask the Minister to come to my electorate, to go with me to the dockyard and talk to the men on the job, in order to ascertain firsthand how they feel about the situation and what their fears are about the future. They can tell him man to man, because I do not believe that this State can afford to lose the unique skills and manpower that we have in our dockyard.

I do not wish to continue too long, as I know that the Government wants to finish the Address in Reply debate tonight. I thank the House for the opportunity to speak in this debate. I support the motion for the adoption of the Governor's Speech. Let us hope that the promises that are always put forward in such Speeches will be a little more evident this time than it has been on previous occasions, although I do not hold much hope.

Mr SCHMIDT (Mawson): I rise on this occasion to support the motion. In so doing, I begin my comments by expressing my condolences to the families of past members of this and the other House who have left this political arena perhaps for another political arena in a greater place. I express my sincere regret that the member for Florey has had to submit his resignation today because of ill health. I endorse the comments made by the member for Todd that the member for Florey surely was able to give a lot to this House. We must all regret that he has had to leave because of ill health. I wish him well for the future and sincerely hope he does recover and spends the rest of his time in a happy situation with his family.

I wish to comment on the Governor's Speech. The Opposition has not taken into consideration that the Governor's Speech is a speech of hope for the future of South Australia. Regrettably, the Opposition, as we have heard over a number of years, has been pessimistic and negative in its approach to the well-being of this State. We have heard the Leader himself talk about such matters. When I hear speeches by Opposition members, I recall a German play by Max Frisch called 'Andora'. It concerned a young chap who was a little bit odd—not quite the run-of-the-mill lad in his town. So, the townspeople branded him as being Jewish. They hounded and hounded the young lad until in the end he himself believed that he was Jewish. The play concluded when he committed suicide. The essence of the play was that, if one tells people something long enough, the hope exists that it

will stick and that those involved believe it. That is the strategy that the Opposition has obviously been adopting. It has tried to paint South Australia as being a place of no hope and having no future. We have often heard the expression 'gloom and doom'.

It is sad to see an Opposition being so negative in its approach, rather than acknowledging the fact that things are different in this State compared to when the Liberal Party took over Government in 1979. That is particularly evident with regard to the Leader's speech this afternoon. For a man who purports to be a Leader, I was somewhat surprised about his lacklustre approach; he stammered, he was unsure of himself and he certainly lacked confidence in what he was saying. He was obviously trying to continue this facade of predicting doom for the future and trying to make things sound a darn sight worse than they really are.

One good way of drawing people's attention to the facts of what the Opposition might give us in the future is to cite an article in the *Business Review Weekly* of 24 July. The article, headed 'Who runs Wran', is very dismal. The Wran Government is a socialist Government, if one looks at it in those terms, although I do not think that Mr Wran would see himself quite as a socialist. Obviously, it is an A.L.P. Government which has, one would imagine, an economic approach different from that which we have here in South Australia, and I refer to the A.L.P.'s line of argument wherein it states that it is the Liberal Party's form of economic strategies that is causing all the problems here in South Australia and that we should therefore adopt Labor's economic strategy. With regard to following the Labor Party strategy, one need only hark back to the days of Whitlam to realise where that ended up; one needs only to look at the article in the *Business Review Weekly* to see where that economic strategy would take us. The article appears on page 14 and, referring to one of the advisers to the New South Wales Premier (the adviser's name is Hill), it states:

Hill proved to have a genius for hunting out the hidden so-called 'hollow logs' of cash reserves and property which had been squirrelled away by State instrumentalities. Over a two-year period he channelled \$350 000 000 of this money back into consolidated revenue, enabling the Wran Government to avoid any increases in State taxes and charges despite continually rising costs.

What a foolish strategy to adopt—to think that one could avoid increasing costs or the passing on of increased costs by heavily drawing upon financial reserves and thereby simply cushioning the effect for as long as possible. The article further states that Mr Wran's strategy was 'a strategy based on borrowed time'; one can only rely on reserves until those reserves are depleted, and that is obviously the situation New South Wales got itself into. The article continues:

Clearly the 'hollow logs' were a finite resource and as the Electricity Commission and other instrumentalities finally had to go on to the short-term money market to finance their debts and even wage payments . . .

Again, that indicates a rather stupid approach to economics by having to borrow money at very high interest rates in order to pay salary increases. The article further states:

The economics of image has come badly unstuck.

In essence, what Mr Wran was trying to do was keep up this image of being a low tax Government, a Government of concern, but he could only maintain that image until he had run out of reserves, which is what happened. The article further states:

In 1980-81 N.S.W. had a Budget deficit of \$29 million and it budgeted for a \$3.2 million deficit in the financial year just ended. The official deficit was \$69.3 million. This is small in a \$5.5 billion Budget, but it is the highest State deficit since the depression.

That is what has happened in New South Wales. Do we want that to happen in South Australia if a Labor Govern-

ment takes over here? The article continues, referring to the deficit:

. . . and even that official figure is a sleight of hand. To maintain the public image, the state pumped into the Budget \$221 million in recouped debts from the State Rail Authority.

Yesterday we heard the member for Elizabeth saying that what we needed here in South Australia was a Government of vision, that we needed Parliamentarians with vision, that we needed departmental officers with vision; well, maybe we should look at what happened in New South Wales, and I wonder what he regards as having vision. The article continues:

The shadow treasurer, Nick Greiner, says that the Treasury's newly-issued monthly Niemeyer papers on the State's finances disclose that the Government had run \$30 000 000 over Budget on debt-servicing charges. What they are doing is mortgaging the State's future. And it will have to be paid back in high public transport fares and other State Government charges.

Other speakers opposite have talked about the young people who will come through the system in years to come. Here we have a classic example of where the future people of New South Wales will have to pay for the high debts incurred by that Government. I have just spoken to some people I know from New South Wales who said that what has appalled them most of all in New South Wales is that for so many years Mr Wran could be such a nice guy, and all of a sudden he has now come out with a big club and is clobbering them around the ears. The increases he has imposed on the people of New South Wales are due to the fact that he has not followed a sound economic policy in the past. He failed to raise charges when they should have been put up. This is also mentioned by one of Mr Wran's former staffers later in that article. The staffer goes on to say that instrumentalities should have been allowed to increase charges as costs went up. Of course, that is common sense. He then makes a rather pertinent comment. He says that that could not be done because at that time they were facing an election. We have seen that strategy adopted by other Governments in order, buy votes, instead of being sensible economists and raising State charges as required.

During the past decade, when Mr Dunstan was Premier, we saw that from year to year he also increased charges. An article in the *Sunday Mail* earlier this year reported Mr Dunstan as saying he was quite in favour of higher taxes. He said that the people of South Australia supported him and his high tax policies because they could not have one thing without the other and these things had to be paid for. However, Mr Wran is trying to do the opposite. Of course, it catches up with him in the long run and that is why New South Wales is in turmoil at the moment.

The article goes on to say that the State Budget has gone over by some \$38 000 000. That money is to be recouped through increased charges. Mr Wran recalled State Parliament for an emergency mini-Budget which passed a new fuel tax and increased public transport and hospital charges which will actually raise an estimated \$350 000 000. He had a deficit of \$38 000 000, and he now wants to recoup \$350 000 000. That is quite a mammoth increase, so it is no wonder the people of New South Wales are complaining about being clubbed around the ears when someone is trying to recoup as much money as that in one year. Fares rose by an average of 20 per cent on 18 July and hospital bed charges will rise by 25 per cent on 1 December. Needless to say, things in New South Wales look very bleak indeed.

Mr Slater: Who wrote this speech?

Mr SCHMIDT: The honourable member can read the article for himself. It was written by a third party.

Mr Lynn Arnold: A member of the New South Wales Liberal Party.

Mr SCHMIDT: I doubt that very much. One only needs to talk to the people of New South Wales. They have been

on electricity rationing for a long time, and that affects not only the people of New South Wales but also people in the A.C.T., because they are on the New South Wales grid. It is a pretty poor state of affairs when people have to go on to electricity rationing, because it means that they have to pay more for the reduced amount of electricity they use.

That is the sort of programme we can expect from the Opposition if it gets into Government. By contrast, the June edition of the *Business Review Weekly* gives a totally different picture of South Australia. Under the heading 'South Australia: at last it looks better', an article states:

The State economy was run down when he came to power two years ago but Tonkin now claims 'we have begun to turn the tide.'... employment growth has returned; private investment levels are better; important construction industry activity looks set to improve...

The whole article is very positive indeed, a marked contrast to the one in the July edition of the same newspaper. This afternoon we also heard the Leader talk about the unemployment levels. The graph presented in the June edition of *Business Review Weekly* shows these levels. I recall that the member of Salisbury interjected this afternoon when the member for Goyder referred to unemployment levels, so I will take two figures from similar quarters.

In the March 1979 quarter, the unemployment rate in South Australia was 7.9 per cent; in March 1982, the rate was 7.6 per cent. Those unemployment figures from similar periods show quite clearly that under this Government the unemployment level has reduced by 0.3 per cent in three years and that we are holding our own, in comparison with other States, in which the unemployment rate is increasing markedly.

On previous occasions we have heard that the unemployment rate in New South Wales has increased by about 27 per cent. I recall that members opposite baulked quite loudly at the fact that that figure was cited: they said it was wrong for us to use that figure. However, it is all right if the Leader uses such figures quite erroneously to try to indicate that in a part of my district (O'Halloran Hill) unemployment has increased by 28 per cent. The Leader should have read the comments of the Southern Regional Organisation, which stated quite clearly that the unemployment rate in the O'Halloran Hill area was markedly below half of the State average.

Effectively, the unemployment rate in that area is very low. But the Leader tried to imply by innuendo, whilst not definitively saying, that unemployment had increased by 28 per cent, so that people would be lead to assume that there was an increase of 28 per cent in unemployment in the O'Halloran Hill area. That is a totally irresponsible comment for the Leader to make, particularly when one considers the figures. If an additional five people became unemployed, in addition to 30 already unemployed, there would be that basic percentage increase, but to use figures as carelessly as that is very poor.

In regard to the poor approach of members opposite, I highlight the rather irresponsible actions of the A.L.P. candidate in my district. I had the fortune a few days ago to look at the pipeline work at Hawker and to see how it was progressing. On the 4 p.m. news on the Friday afternoon I was quite surprised to hear an interview with the candidate, who stated that there was a drastic lack of child care facilities in the Sheidow Park area. She maintained that the Government would demolish a transportable building on the Sheidow Park Primary School site.

Her comments were totally irresponsible, because, effectively, the school council had not yet met to fully discuss the matter. The council had programmed a meeting for Monday this week at which it would discuss the use of that building.

Had she also used one ounce of responsibility or intelligence, she would have conferred with departmental officers in the Central Southern Regional Office of the department and ascertained that the department was not proposing to retain the building for its own use, because of its age and because a building of such age would not withstand being moved to another school site for use as a transportable. In that sense, the comment that the building could be demolished if it were to be used for Education Department purposes would be correct, but the department made it clear to the school council and local user groups, as well as to a representative of the Marion Department of Community Welfare, that the building could remain on site until such time as the public or the local residents had determined a use and management structure for it.

There was no plan by the department to demolish the building in the near future. The department was happy for it to remain as long as the department was not responsible for its upkeep. Again, the candidate was somewhat irresponsible in that what she basically had done was to preempt yet another meeting, because a representative from the Marion Department of Community Welfare had called together user groups in the Sheidow Park area. They were people from the play group and other organisations who were looking to use this building for their own purposes, but that meeting is only scheduled for tomorrow morning.

How the candidate can say that there was a lack of facilities, that the building was going to be demolished, and that usage had been determined, is beyond me, when the local organisations themselves had not met as at Friday last week to discuss the future of the building. I will be attending that meeting tomorrow morning. I have had discussions with local representatives in that area, and I might add that they are somewhat dismayed at the approach of the ALP candidate, in that she should be so irresponsible.

I now come back to a comment that I made earlier. This matter was also raised by the Leader this afternoon in his speech and is in regard to unemployment figures. He was trying to say that South Australia's figures have remained the highest of the mainland States for about 13 months. All members know that figures can be distorted and, for the Leader to claim that unemployment was somewhat better under a Labor Government, is not correct. I may seek to have inserted a table which is purely statistical. If one looks at the Public Service employment figures from 1971 and 1982, one sees a marked increase.

Mr Lynn Arnold: Are you seeking leave?

Mr SCHMIDT: No, these are not seasonally adjusted, and that is stated clearly at the bottom of the graph.

Mr Lynn Arnold: I asked whether you sought leave to have it inserted *Hansard*.

Mr SCHMIDT: I will do that later, but I am still talking about the graph now. The graph shows that in 1977 the then Government, in an effort to make sure that unemployment figures looked attractive enough, had a Public Service comprising 109 000 public servants. That was in August 1977. Naturally enough, that would make the unemployment rate look somewhat better when compared with the Public Service employment situation in 1976 of 99 000. It obviously gives a better impression to the community at large that unemployment was not a serious problem in South Australia, and the easiest thing to do was to absorb the unemployment factor into the Public Service sector and work out later how to pay for it.

Also, it is good to see in the graph that in 1980-81, under this Liberal Government, which instituted programme performance budgeting, under which a ceiling was set for a year, the figures have remained fairly stable throughout the year in regard to the Public Service employment rate.

In the previous years that rate tended to start at a low rate and finish at a high one. For instance, 1977 began with a figure of 103 000 people employed in the public sector and by August of that year, the month before the 1977 election, that figure had increased to 109 000, so in six months an extra 6 000 people were employed in the Public

Service to enable the Government to juggle the unemployment figures. I seek leave to have this table incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

The SPEAKER: Can the honourable member assure me that it is of a purely statistical nature?

Mr SCHMIDT: Yes.

Leave granted.

ABS-TIME SERIES DATA CAT No. 1311.0
CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES — GOVERNMENT — STATE — PERSONS — S.A.
PERIODICITY — MONTHLY 130 OBSERVATIONS FROM 6.71 TO 3.82

Year	March Quarter 1982			Original			Units — Thousand Persons					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1971	—	—	—	—	—	76.7	77.0	77.3	77.3	77.0	77.4	76.8
1972	77.8	79.2	79.8	80.0	80.1	80.2	80.4	80.2	80.5	80.9	81.7	81.3
1973	81.7	83.7	84.4	84.8	84.8	84.9	85.2	84.7	84.9	85.2	86.1	85.1
1974	85.3	89.2	89.9	90.9	91.4	91.7	92.4	92.9	93.7	94.1	94.7	91.4
1975	92.2	95.1	96.6	98.6	99.5	99.9	100.2	99.8	100.4	100.9	101.6	98.2
1976	99.1	102.2	103.6	104.2	104.5	104.9	105.3	105.0	105.0	105.6	106.7	102.8
1977	103.0	106.8	108.5	109.0	108.9	109.0	109.5	109.2	109.2	109.9	110.9	107.1
1978	106.2	109.6	103.4	103.8	103.4	103.5	104.2	104.0	102.4	103.0	103.6	98.5
1979	97.8	101.4	102.1	101.9	101.8	102.2	102.8	102.9	102.3	102.7	102.8	97.5
1980	97.2	100.7	101.1	101.4	100.5	101.4	101.9	102.0	101.9	101.7	102.0	100.6
1981	96.5	100.2	100.8	100.9	100.0	100.7	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.7	100.7	98.9
1982	94.3	98.4	98.7									

No Seasonally Adjusted Series

Mr SCHMIDT: Finally, I will make passing reference to a few other matters. I wish to place on record my congratulations to members of the South Australian Police Force, particularly in the Christies Beach and Darlington areas, who worked so vigorously to set up the first South Australian blue light disco which was, to use a colloquial expression, a rip-roaring success. I attended that disco and was amazed to see the sea of heads in the doorway trying to get in. It was encouraging to hear the comments of the Victorian guest stars, Peter Adams and Gil Tucker, who announced that was the largest crowd they had ever seen at any blue light disco, and they have been to quite a number of them in Victoria. It is full credit to the South Australian Police Force that members should give their time voluntarily to organise discos for the sake of the young people in that area. They had an equally successful disco at Blackwood last Friday night and are having another at Brighton this weekend. I look forward to their continuation and assure them of my support.

In relation to the South Australian Police Force, I again refer to the attitude of Opposition members that, if there is something to knock, one may as well knock it. The member for Elizabeth is very astute at doing that. At every opportunity he belts the South Australian Police Force around the ears, and he gives officers of the force no credit at all. He commented in this House several days ago about the force and about somebody from his district who received a traffic infringement notice. Because that notice was incorrectly filled out, he used it to fire a broadside against the whole Police Force, saying that officers are illiterate and that it reflected poorly on the training programme of the South Australian Police Force.

Had the honourable member checked his facts he would have found that the rules under which the police operate require infringement notices which are incorrectly filled out to be rescinded. I have found out since that the infringement notice issued to this woman will not be used to proceed against her. However, for the member for Elizabeth to say that, because one officer made a few errors on a form, the standard of education and training of the Police Force is poor is surely an irresponsible statement to make. The honourable member does not know the circumstances in which the officer filled out that form. He could have been

sidetracked. Anything could have happened causing him to make those mistakes.

To emphasise to the member for Elizabeth the sort of training our police officers undertake I will briefly go through the recruiting strategy of the South Australian Police Force. First, all applicants must have satisfactorily completed four years secondary schooling or the equivalent, that is, a trade certificate.

[Midnight]

Furthermore, all applications are received at the Recruiting Section, Central Police Headquarters. Following initial screening in respect to height, weight, eyesight and colour vision, acceptable applicants are tested by members of the Police Psychology Unit. These tests are designed to measure reasoning ability, literacy skills, and numeric ability.

A complete job analysis exercise is completed during the test design stage which identifies the skills required to undertake initial training and to perform base grade operational duties. These tests have been carefully validated against the capacity of candidates to successfully complete initial training.

As a recruiting strategy, the department seeks candidates who are clearly of above average intelligence. This is essential to enable members to deal with the often complex and unpredictable nature of police duties. Recent surveys conducted in the department clearly indicate that the average level of intelligence of police recruits is better than 75 per cent of the general population. This places them in the above average level of intelligence.

Qualified teachers on secondment from the Department of Further Education are employed at the Police Academy. These teachers provide remedial training in literacy skills as required. They also assess a short essay completed by candidates as part of the entrance test.

During the year 1981-82, 829 applicants were tested for police entry. Of these 298 (35.95 per cent) achieved satisfactory results; 531 (64.05 per cent) were regarded to be unsatisfactory and apart from several high 'marginal' achievements, all unsatisfactory candidates were rejected.

These percentages are consistent with the past three years' experience. So, we can see that only about one-third of the applicants who apply to enter the Police Force are actually accepted.

All unsuccessful candidates may apply for a re-test after twelve months. Counselling is provided to enable them to concentrate on remedying weaknesses. The South Australian Police initial training programme is regarded as the most comprehensive and intensive in this country. A trainee must satisfactorily complete the initial training programme to gain entry to the Force.

Recruiting trends indicate a marked increase in the number of tertiary qualified applicants competing for positions. During 1981, 464 police members were involved in post-secondary studies. Between them they completed 700 semester subjects. Verified academic results include, in the post-secondary area, 40 distinctions and 95 credits. In the tertiary area, there were eight distinctions and 14 credits. A total of 105 members completed the Police Studies Certificate (a three year part-time programme) and eight members completed tertiary courses.

The department is also making an effort to maintain its strength having regard to the number of people going on early voluntary retirement. It has initiated an adult programme for those who are over the age of 18 to do a comprehensive shortened course in order to get the numbers into the Police Force. What I have said shows that the South Australian Police Force has a very high reputation and from the comments one hears from interstate, it is obvious that the South Australian Police Force is held in high esteem by all police forces throughout Australia. In fact the Academy was set up in this State because of the reputation that the South Australian Police Force has.

I wish to endorse the comments that we should be giving moral support to our police rather than knocking them, as the member for Elizabeth tends to do. Again, I wish to congratulate those members of the Police Force in my own local area who have taken the initiative and given their time voluntarily to assist the youth in my area by conducting the Blue Light discos.

I have no hesitation in endorsing the Governor's Speech because, as I said at the beginning of my speech, it is put forward to this Parliament by the Governor as one of prosperity and hope for this State. One would only hope that Opposition members, rather than being as negative as they have been, would begin to recognise the fact that we need to encourage our people to think positively and, if we turn away from this negative approach of the Opposition, surely South Australia will fair better in the long term than if we have to continually be counter-productive by all this negativism that is shown by the Opposition.

Mr TRAINER (Ascot Park): This is the fourth time that I have participated in the massive waste of time known as the Address in Reply debate since becoming a member of this House at the State election held in September 1979. This is the fourth occasion upon which I have been more or less obliged to deliver a one-hour speech in reply to the Governor's opening address.

Mr Oswald: Why are you replying?

Mr TRAINER: I will come to that later. The first of those four occasions was a form of initiation for a new member. Although it was not my maiden speech, it was something new and special to be called upon by one's Parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House to make a one-hour speech without being permitted to read it, although one could use what are euphemistically termed copious notes. For a new member it serves as some sort of initiation rite, an ordeal to be undergone to prove that one is adequate as a Parliamentarian, by speaking for an hour in response to the Speech which the Governor is obliged to read to members

of both Houses gathered together in the Legislative Council Chamber.

In passing, I would express some disappointment at the content of the Governor's Speech on this occasion, which was of a rather political nature. His Excellency was used by this Government to deliver what amounted to a policy speech with fairly partisan overtones. Fortunately, it is the last Speech the Premier and Rex Jory will be writing for His Excellency the Governor, so I will not take up time in pleading with the Premier and Rex Jory not to do that again, because the next Premier and his staff will, I am sure, have far more respect for the Vice Regal traditions.

I will be making some remarks, as I did in the 1980 and 1981 Address in Reply debates, on the massive waste of time this debate presents us with. Before dealing with that, however, I add my regrets to those which other honourable members expressed earlier this afternoon, regarding the untimely resignation of the member for Florey, my colleague and friend, Howard O'Neill. Howard is a warm hearted man and is passionately devoted to the advancement of the working-class people of this State. Other honourable members have already commented adequately on the service he gave in the past, and in that context I would just add my admiration for the inimitable common sense Howard O'Neill contributed to the A.L.P. State Executive during the five years I spent on it, and the hard work he put in as a State organiser, and then as State Secretary of the South Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party.

When Howard O'Neill and I became members of this House, I was privileged to be seated alongside him as a back-bencher for our first two years together, before his elevation to the shadow Ministry. I was pleased that Howard O'Neill was receiving overdue recognition and was pleased that he had been able to bring his talents to bear as the shadow Minister of Transport and, before too long, one would have expected, as Minister of Transport. Nevertheless, I regretted his move to the front bench because it deprived me, to a certain extent, of his company in the House, as he was one of the most quick witted persons in this Parliament. Howard has an exceptionally good sense of humour and it is that facet of his character that I will miss the most. I will always have a particularly intense memory of those first few years seated alongside Howard O'Neill, a man of warmth, compassion and good humour, who was, through ill health, forced to retire at a time when he had so much left to give to the Labor Party, the Parliament and the community.

Another matter on which I would like to comment briefly before dealing with the concept of the Address in Reply, concerns an outstanding citizen who died recently. Other honourable members have commented adequately about several former members of this Parliament who have died, including Sir John McLeay, the Honourable Jim Dunford and Cyril Hutchens. Somehow or other Cyril Hutchens managed to get overlooked by the Government, and this reflects poorly on the homework done by the Premier's political staff. I would like to pay a tribute to another outstanding Australian, one who was not a member of this House or, indeed, of this Parliament. I refer to one of the most outstanding members ever to sit in the House of Representatives, the late Norman Makin, who passed away on 20 July with less recognition than should have been given to someone who had so distinguished a career.

I attended Norman Makin's funeral on 23 July. It was a moving occasion indeed to see so many key members of the community paying tribute to a fine man who had passed away at the age of 93. The political career of Norman Makin began as a candidate for this House—for the then State seat of Barossa in 1915 and continued through the heated conscription debates of 1916 and 1917. His career spanned the Depression and two World Wars as well as the reconstruction

after the Second War. He was born in the year that this Chamber was constructed—1889. In fact, he was 12 years old when Australia became a nation. He was involved in the Labor Party during three major splits: the conscription split of World War I; the Lang Labor split of the Depression period; and the 1950 D.L.P. split. He had a most distinguished career.

He was a popular man with an excellent vocabulary. He was respected by all he met but he never lost the common touch. He was for 75 years a preacher with the Methodist Church and later with the Uniting Church. As a pattern maker, he retained his membership with his union throughout his life. I believe he was still financial in the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union when he passed on. As Minister for Navy and Munitions he played a major part in Australia's Navy in the critical period of the Second World War. It was during that period that the Navy was expanded from a total strength of 16 ships at the outbreak of war to 350 by 1946. He was the first person to attain the rank of Australian Ambassador to the United States. He was the first person to be President of the United Nations Security Council. He spent two years as Speaker of the House of Representatives. As Speaker he refused to wear the traditional gown and wig, a policy followed by subsequent Labor Speakers.

He was born at Petersham in New South Wales in 1889 to a working-class family to which I will refer later. He was two years old when his native colony of New South Wales had its first Labor Government. He began his working life when he was forced to leave his superior public school in Broken Hill to deliver parcels. He entered Federal Parliament as the Member for Hindmarsh in 1919, becoming Speaker in the Scullin Government 10 years later. He had a distinguished career, and I refer members to the 1962 Parliamentary handbook of the Commonwealth of Australia to see how distinguished a career he had. Even in retirement he was still active and vigorously corresponding, preaching in his church and attending Labor Party functions. I remember, for example, a dinner given in honour of Norman Makin and his friend and colleague, Frank Staniford, who was a Minister in this Parliament in 1930, and the stories related by them of their early campaigning in the conscription period and what it was like, in the case of Frank Staniford, to be a Labor candidate in the country and ride into town on a bicycle and find yourself being stoned, or to have a Labor Party meeting set up at Nuriootpa and find that the Nuriootpa band had been set up outside the hall to drown you out.

Norman also described a public meeting where everything was disrupted in the course of proceedings by a man coming forward and standing looking up at Norman Makin and pointing to him and saying, 'Ah ha! I know you from somewhere'. Everything erupted, as that person was the town policeman. The clear insinuation was that the background of the person was being questioned. I remember Norman Makin at an election meeting in 1980, during a Federal campaign, at the Norwood Town Hall. He was seated in the audience when, as is common on such occasions, he was introduced to the crowd and immediately, at the age of 91, Norman leapt to his feet and was slapped on the back from all directions and he went to both sides of the aisle shaking hands like the old campaigner he was. I remember having assistance from Norman Makin when I was employed at the Educational Technology Centre of the Education Department before I came into this House. Norman helped us in preparing an audio-visual package on early Australia entitled 'Australia 1788 to 1918'. Norman Makin was a living means of communicating with that bygone era. I had the privilege of interviewing him on audio tape. I would commend that programme to anyone who

cares to get hold of the tape and listen to it. Norman showed so much of his background on that tape.

I referred several times earlier to the distinguished career that Norman had, and at his funeral the preacher commented on the lack of recognition that he had received and on how belated in his career his Order of Australia award had been made. In that context, I refer members to an article that appeared in the *Sunday Mail* of 2 March 1980, which was headed 'Recognition for veteran Minister and pioneer diplomat', followed by a headline, 'We honour Norman at last'. The article states:

When Norman John Oswald Makin was awarded the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day honours list, his mind was crowded with a thousand thoughts covering a lifespan.

The article then goes on:

Had Mr Makin been a Liberal or National Country Party faithful he may have been knee deep in civil honours 30 years ago.

Because Norman came from our side of the tracks, he did not receive the sort of recognition to which someone with such a distinguished career to the community was entitled. Even that article, which attempted in some way to give a tribute to Norman Makin, insulted him, for at the same time the photograph that accompanied the article, although entitled Norman Makin, was in fact a photograph of his friend Frank Staniford. However, Norman Makin did receive some recognition—perhaps not as much as he deserved—but I think that when the political text books appear, Norman Makin's position in them will be only one level below those who, in the House of Representatives, reached the position of Prime Minister.

Earlier, the member for Goyder commented on some remarks that were made by the member for Napier and the member for Playford regarding the Address in Reply. Both those members on this side of the House pointed out that after the first few speeches in the Address in Reply debate the speeches tend to degenerate into an extended grievance debate. I make no apologies for using my hour for basically that purpose, because, if I do not use the 60 minutes that are allotted now, I will not be presented with them at a later date when I could use that time perhaps more fruitfully. Therefore, I will use the time now.

I have had to suffer in silence while I have been in the Chamber when other members have contributed to the debate—now it is their turn. The member for Goyder inadvertently, or indirectly, criticised both the members for Napier and Playford for using their hour in just that fashion, but, as I have said, if one does not use this hour, one does not get the opportunity sometime later to raise grievances. I contend that we should abolish or modify in some way the Address in Reply so that it is possible to raise the grievances at a more appropriate time. It can be very frustrating when a constituent has asked a member to raise a particular matter in this House. I can see the Minister of Transport over there looking almost sympathetic, because he has been in Opposition, and he may, of course, be in Opposition again: he would know how difficult it can be to find an opportunity to raise a matter in here following a request from a constituent to do so. Constituents may not be familiar with the forms of the House; they do not realise how difficult it can be for members to raise a matter when we have such a limited number of grievance debates. Also, those grievance debates, because the passage of time takes us past the normal time for the adjournment of the House, will often vanish.

In the past, other members have commented on the farce into which the Address in Reply debate tends to degenerate. For example, on 26 August 1980 the member for Hartley cited some figures in relation to the Address in Reply debate. He said that in the previous year, 1979, the debate had

lasted a total of 29 hours and 16 minutes, which was 11.4 per cent of the total time that Parliament had sat. On another occasion, the total was 19 hours and 48 minutes, which, in a presumably shorter Parliamentary year, represented 27.5 per cent of the total time spent in this Parliament. The member for Hartley pointed out how unproductive that period of time spent on the Address in Reply debate is. On 27 August 1980 I, too, referred to the need to modify this debate. I said:

Could not members, other than those who are newly sworn in, forgo these 60-minute trials by ordure and gain rights instead to additional 10-minute grievance debates? Apart from the cut and thrust of Question Time, the liveliest contributions are usually those speeches which occur as part of the adjournment debate. Unfortunately, these are often late at night and, therefore, the effect is lost: the press has gone to bed and so have the journalists; members are dispersed around the building, poised ready to go home in that last few minutes.

Again, on 5 August 1981 I referred to the massive waste of time. Normally, you, Sir, and the Ministers on the front bench do not participate in this ritual. It is reserved in the main for the 36 back-benchers of the House, both on the Government side and on the Opposition side and the front benchers on the Opposition side. But, if all 36 members speak, I said at that time, we have 36 hours of absolute verbiage, or rather garbage, in some cases. Each year, this debate wastes weeks of Parliament's time. We have 36 boring speeches delivered to a near empty Chamber by 36 more or less bored Politicians.

Mr Lynn Arnold: Thirty-five.

Mr TRAINER: Yes, I could say 35, but in order to incorporate myself and the member for Salisbury, I should reduce that to 34. I think members opposite have got the point that I am trying to make, namely, that it is a waste of time. Nearly a month has passed since the Governor delivered his address, and in all the time we have spent in this place since then we have achieved precious little indeed.

I mentioned earlier the frustration encountered at times in doing the job that is expected of members in this place. So much time is spent on unnecessary speeches to which no one really listens. So often we speak, as I am now doing, to a nearly empty Chamber. Do not take that, Mr Speaker, as a suggestion that anyone should point out the absence of a quorum, as I would not like to inflict that on anyone at this hour of the morning unnecessarily. It is not very encouraging to address almost empty benches and only occasionally a friendly face opposite. The worst time of all is probably not the wee hours of the morning around 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. but around now, when the *Advertisers* are delivered. Very often, if a reasonably substantial number of members is present, one can only see a sea of open *Advertisers*.

I often wonder just whom we are speaking to and for what reason. Do we make our speeches in order to persuade other members to follow our reasoning and adopt our philosophy? If so, we are wasting our time. As all members know, we tend to vote on Party lines. Is it to impress one's colleagues or the public gallery? The public gallery is usually empty and one's colleagues are usually not present in the Chamber. Indeed, even if the gallery is full, it holds barely 100 electors out of a South Australian population of 1 250 000 000. Are we speaking so that the citizenry of South Australia can read our speeches in *Hansard*? Only a tiny minority reads *Hansard*. Because of the delays that occur, it is normally weeks later and whatever is said now is probably quite irrelevant by then. I suspect that we speak mainly for the benefit of the media or simply because it is expected of us. Our colleagues expect us to participate in the Address in Reply debate and the various other rituals.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: You could be speaking so that you can re-read your speeches in retirement. That is another reason that you did not mention.

Mr TRAINER: I am sure, in the case of the member for Torrens, that his retirement will be sooner than anticipated.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: I am sure you'll be upset, though, if I'm not here.

Mr TRAINER: I will miss the Minister in some respects. I will put it this way: I will notice his absence. Now that I have been satisfactorily distracted, I will revert to my theme that members speak mainly for the benefit of the media, although they, the media, are not interested in most of what we have to say in here. Their main interest tends to be concentrated on Question Time. Members will notice how quickly the press gallery tends to empty after about 3 p.m. when Question Time ends.

The media's main interest is in what the front-benchers on both sides have to say, and there is very little real interest in what the back-benchers say unless it contains some element of sensation or it is attached to some sort of headline-catching gimmick. In many cases, the press will inadvertently miss the main point of what is said and concentrate on trivia.

They will also tend to concentrate on aspects of conflict rather than on matters on which we are in agreement. Part of that emphasis on conflict stems from the nature of the Westminster Parliamentary system which, in contrast to the Government systems of the United States and parts of Western Europe, tends to centre on conflict. I would like to refer briefly to an article from the *Listener* of 10 April 1980 under the heading 'Must Parliament remain a male dominated preserve', although the particular aspect to which I wish to refer has nothing to do with the title of the article. It states:

Partly because our Party system accentuates the divisions of opinion which it is supposed to reflect, partly because of the seating arrangements by which the two sides of the House of Commons glower at each other like hostile armies separated by a narrow strip of no man's land, partly for no better reason than that it has always been our way of doing things, the British House of Commons is a much more adversarial assembly than most democratic legislatures. It works by dissensus, not consensus: by polarising divisions, not by bridging them. It is more like a boxing-ring than a workshop. What it most enjoys is the sight of political blood on the floor; the humdrum routines of committee work loom much less large than in most Parliaments.

The media tend to seek conflict, and I suppose that one could not blame them for that, because conflict is news and agreement is boring. In any case, given the best will in the world on the part of the media, only a tiny minority of what is said can be given coverage. Considering the volume of verbiage (for lack of a better noun) in *Hansard* I would be surprised if much more than 1 per cent of what is contributed in this Chamber appears in the daily press or is covered by the electronic media.

In relation to the frustrations faced by members, of course, I could refer to the difficulties in asking questions on behalf of a constituent. A Question on Notice is one method that is used, predominantly by Opposition members and very rarely by Government back-benchers, whereby one submits a written question, which stays on the Notice Paper day after day and which in many cases drags on with no reply at all or, in other cases, with a quite inadequate reply.

Certain aspects of Parliamentary procedure are very hard to change. On occasions since I have been here I have attempted to suggest some modifications that could be made. Members will notice that in recent months the Notice Paper has contained a line between the majority of the questions and the section at the end, to signify the new questions that have been added. Another alteration which has taken place, and which I suspect was a result of my suggestion, is that the name of the Minister who will actually receive the

question is now incorporated in the Notice Paper, whereas previously only the name appeared of the Minister in this Chamber who carries the responsibility for handing on the question. For example, on today's Notice Paper, Question on Notice No. 116 states, 'Mr Hemmings will ask the Minister of Environment and Planning, representing the Minister of Housing', followed by the question.

Apparently, that is quite a substantial change, and many decades of tradition must have been overcome to get that simple modification to the Notice Paper. I suppose that one day when my grandchildren say, 'Well, Grandad, what did you do when you were in Parliament?' I can say, 'I got them to put a line in the Notice Paper separating the new questions from the old questions and to write in the name of the Minister to whom the question was actually going.'

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: You can give them this speech to read.

Mr TRAINER: Indeed. It will prove what I have said, so perhaps the point that the Minister made a few minutes ago, that it serves a useful purpose in that regard, is valid, but it is certainly an expensive way of going about it.

In regard to the Notice Paper, I do not see why alongside Questions on Notice the date on which they were submitted cannot be included.

Mr Lynn Arnold: Hear, hear!

Mr TRAINER: I hear the future Minister of Education agreeing with me. I hope that perhaps when we are in Government we will practice what we preach in that regard and see whether the Notice Paper can be changed. A question can sit on the Notice Paper for a lengthy period, and the public is entitled to know that it has been there for a substantial period, and for how long.

Another minor modification which might be worth while is when replies to Questions on Notice are distributed on Tuesdays. It would be convenient if they could be accompanied by a photo-copy of the original question, because every time I get a batch of a dozen or two dozen replies to Questions on Notice—the member for Albert Park would have far greater difficulty in that regard—it is like playing 'snap' to match them up with the original Questions on Notice. That suggestion would simplify the procedure.

In regard to asking questions in the House in Question Time, again we have a time-wasting procedure. The replies given by Ministers are lengthy, and this is for one reason only—other than perhaps in the case of a few delicate egos—to simply use up the maximum amount of time so that the minimum number of questions will be asked. Of course, the Government members tend to ask Dorothy Dix questions, and as plenty has been said about that in the past I will not dwell on that matter.

Another problem resulting from that situation is that the average member finds it difficult to get the opportunity to ask more than one or two questions a fortnight. One might be pressed by several constituents, all with particular issues that they wish to have raised by way of a question, and one has to somehow ration out which constituent problem will be dealt with by means of a question across the Chamber. Surely we can do better with the forms of the House than we are doing at present and make them perhaps a little more relevant to the twentieth century.

There are many other time-wasting procedures in this House. It is unproductive for us to carry on with the procedure of sitting through the night until 4 a.m. or 5 a.m., struggling home to bed for inadequate sleep and getting out of bed at the usual time in order to get on with the normal work load in one's electorate office, or for members to have to conduct appointments with constituents, visit constituents at their homes, visit community groups, make the public appearances that one needs to make, and all the other many

tasks that have to be carried out before traipsing back here. I find it hard to believe that the electors we represent want us to behave in such an unproductive way. One of the most wasteful of all procedures can be the late night conferences of managers of both Houses, unless those conferences are properly conducted. The first occasion on which I experienced that procedure as a new member involved a poorly conducted conference indeed. A conference was arranged on the Thursday night when, as was done subsequently, it could have been far more easily arranged to hold the conference at some other time but still report back on the following Tuesday.

As a new member, I was horrified by my first experience, of that system. I think it was on 20 November 1980, but certainly it was a Thursday, when the House normally rises at 6 p.m. until the following Tuesday of the sitting. On this Thursday we were advised that the Legislative Council had amended a couple of Bills in a way that this House, or at least the Liberal majority of this House, found unacceptable.

I, like other members, was told that two conferences would be held between representatives of each House, and that this would necessitate all members remaining here that Thursday night. At 6 o'clock I went home, as I usually do during the meal break. I do that because I am fortunate to be one of those members living within 10 or 15 minutes travelling distance of the House, and I like my children to remember what I look like, so I try to get home during the meal break on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Going home for meals also provides an opportunity to see what mail has come into the electorate office during the day, to dictate a few quick notes, and to look at what telephone messages have come in. On that particular occasion I had to inform my family that I had to return to Parliament House by 7.30 p.m., even though it was a Thursday night, for an unexpected evening session. It is not unusual to have an evening sitting on a Tuesday or Wednesday, of course, but it certainly was an exception on a Thursday. Because Thursday night is normally not taken up with the Parliamentary session, most members on that occasion had prior engagements. Therefore, most of that particular tea break was spent on the telephone cancelling meeting arrangements that I had made earlier.

I then dashed back into Parliament House, not knowing quite what to expect at my first two conferences of managers of both Houses. When I came in at 7.30 p.m. the Chamber was empty. Most of its 47 members were scattered throughout the building—in the library, the refreshment room, their offices upstairs and in the basement, the lounge or in the huge billiard room. I might suggest, in the context of the billiard room, that it might be a good idea if a large proportion of that room was taken up by a gymnasium or squash court for those members who are overweight or reformed smokers like myself.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson: Do you want a sauna?

Mr TRAINER: A sauna would not be out of place. I then found one of the old hands who told me that we would reassemble when the bells rang and tramp back into the Chamber. That did not take place until 11 p.m., three and a half hours after the usual starting time. We all traipsed into the Chamber at 11 o'clock at night, were advised a compromise had been reached, and we approved the compromise by a predictable vote, with the Government using its numbers to approve that particular compromise.

One of the things I found out in 1979 within the first few minutes of my joining this Chamber, with the solitary exception of the vote which elevated you to Speaker, Sir, is that all results in here are pretty well predictable. One knows one is going to lose, if one is in Opposition, by a certain margin, day after day, week after week (it is like being a Woodville Football Club supporter).

Dr Billard: What about the Casino Bill?

Mr TRAINER: There are occasional exceptions such as that, it is true, but in general what I am saying is true and I think the member for Newland would agree with that. If he is fortunate enough to be here when his Party is on the Opposition benches after the next election he will have concrete evidence of that.

As I was saying before being momentarily distracted, that conference of managers came up with a compromise which was approved within two or three minutes and we then scattered throughout the building after that burst of activity, only to stay scattered awaiting the bells which would signal that a result had been reached at the second conference of managers. That occurred after 1.00 o'clock in the morning. Again there was the same procedure, the bells ringing and members tracking into the House of Assembly Chamber for five minutes, and then we all scattered to our homes.

I find it absolutely absurd that on that occasion we had 69 grown men and women wasting their time, in the main. A dozen or so members of Parliament actually participated in the two conferences—the rest of us were, metaphorically speaking, twiddling our thumbs in this building whilst all our other responsibilities at home and in our districts were ignored. Fortunately, subsequent conferences of managers have not been run as badly as that. I would certainly hope not.

There is too much time wasting here. The public knows little about that and it is probably just as well, because if they knew even more about how much time wasting occurs, the prestige of members of Parliament would be even lower than it already is. However, one thing that can be said about this is that in general the public knows even less about the real work of a member, which is that work that is carried out in his district. The work of a member of Parliament tends to be like an iceberg, eight-ninths tends to be invisible, submerged below the surface. In some respects the Parliamentary work can be a distraction from that important work to be done in the constituencies. I presume most members are like myself, putting in five full days in their electorate offices, plus all the work they do at nights and weekends. That work load is still there when Parliament is in session. The effect it has is that our normal five days-plus work load for a sitting week is condensed into two working days because of those three days of the week that are taken up by the session.

Specific individuals in a member's constituency may be aware of the amount of work that a member has to do, but the overwhelming majority have only the vaguest idea. One of the reasons for that is that we never tell them. We are so wrapped up in our own world of Parliamentary activity and our work that we never get around to explaining it to those who are not in that close knit environment.

Indeed, even the Party faithful, on both sides, have often no idea of what is involved in the role of the local member. One individual, whom I have known for quite some time, and who was politically fairly active, approached me many months after my election to this place to ask me how I was coping with teaching as well. Many of the public do not understand that being a Parliamentarian representing your constituency, looking after so many individual needs, is not a part-time occupation. Perhaps we cannot blame some people for assuming that, in view of the conduct of one or two members in the past, particularly the previous member for Mitcham. But I will not dwell on that.

Dr Billard: Hear! Hear!

Mr TRAINER: I see that the member for Newland is agreeing with me in that remark. One thing I find particularly ironic is that those people who serve in local government do so in the main without any thought or any form of remuneration or financial reward, yet some of the same constituents who seem to assume that members of Parliament

are part-time workers, or something of that nature, assume that people who participate in local government are paid. We are paid a salary to get all sorts of rotten phone calls at 10 o'clock at night. Councillors and aldermen are not, but they still receive them and then are told by the person on the other end of the phone, 'For goodness sake, what are you getting cross about? You are being paid to listen to people when they ring up with complaints.'

I do not want to make it sound as though I am grizzling about my position; I rather enjoy it. I am going to do what I can to make sure I hang on to it in a few months time when the election takes place.

Much of the Parliamentary work is frustrating and time-consuming. I am not only referring to some of that within the Chamber. There is a lot of other time-consuming work on the various House of Assembly committees, which fortunately I have not had to be involved in. Instead, I got one of the positions representing the Parliament on the council of one of the two universities. I might mention, knowing that they are not going to read *Hansard*, that the meetings of those councils are such as to make even the Address in Reply debate seem quite hectic. I trust that the member for Fisher, who is listening most avidly, will not repeat that remark. Possibly he may disagree with it, I do not know. There are also the committees of our particular Caucuses, Party platform committees, and so on, and the various other aspects of the committee work within the Parliamentary structure.

The real work is a member's electoral responsibilities, looking after those people in groups outside this Parliament whom the member represents. The member has responsibilities to the electorate, but that word 'electorate' has two meanings; it can mean one's own geographic electorate, the district one represents, or it can also mean the voting public at large. A member can be operating on two levels then, representing both your own particular small local base and the community of South Australia as a whole. That wider representation applies even to back-benchers, not only to people on the front bench with portfolios.

In doing so, you can be representing yourself as an individual. You can be representing your Party. You can be standing in as a representative for someone on the front bench, whether a Minister or a shadow Minister. And, in a few cases, a member may even be representing the Parliament as a whole.

The most important work, as I mentioned, is that of looking after one's constituents. On average, most members have about 18 000 constituents, maybe more or less, all requiring individual attention to problems. Some of these problems are dealt with by appointment at the electorate office, while other problems can be solved over the phone. In some cases a member has to pay home visits in the same way general practitioners do.

The problem solving can be brief. It may simply be providing a constituent with a pamphlet containing the answer to his or her inquiry. The problem solving, on the other hand, may be lengthy. The problems I dread most, other than neighbourhood disputes, are those involving complaints about used cars because I know that, if a constituent comes to me who is not happy with the solution that the Department of Consumer Affairs has found to his problem, I will build up a file about one inch thick. When such constituents come to my office I am still polite, as one of the things a Parliamentarian learns quickly is to be polite to everyone and that the customer is always right, but nevertheless I shudder at the thought of it.

In many cases Federal matters are brought to one's office.

Dr Billard: You are always the office of last resort, aren't you?

Mr TRAINER: Yes.

Dr Billard: Problems no-one else can solve come on to your lap.

Mr TRAINER: That is right. One has, in effect, several roles combined in one: parish priest, godfather and ombudsman, all wrapped up in a nice convenient parcel on the doorstep of a constituent, based accessibly in the electorate. As well as Federal matters, one gets many local government complaints to deal with. Some complaints can be referred to the nearest alderman or councillor and others can be diplomatically handled by appealing to the local council on behalf of a constituent.

In many cases, the problems involve a constituent who is getting the 'run around' from a Government department and the constituent needs the member of Parliament to ring up and get the run around instead. Perhaps that flippant remark is not quite true, for the member of Parliament can approach a department with some sort of authority and prestige, such as it is, which may help. It may simply be that the person with the problem does not know where to start, is too shy to make an approach on his own behalf, or is maybe too inarticulate and may need the member of Parliament to act as the village scribe does in some communities by writing a letter for him, using literary skills the member has that an individual may not have. Letters written for a constituent may not necessarily be to a Government department, but may be for making representations on behalf of a constituent to business firms.

As I am too busy to keep accurate statistics, I can only surmise that in my working class electorate the two most common types of problem that come to me are, first, Housing Trust inquiries and, secondly, environmental complaints. Without taking necessarily a partisan approach, I suggest on average that most Labor members will, of necessity, work harder with their constituents than do Liberal members depending, with variations, on the nature of the electorate, simply because of the nature of the electorate. I can return to that theme another day.

Dr Billard: What do you mean by environmental problems? Do you mean noise problems?

Mr TRAINER: I will come back to that in a moment.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: Marriage problems are another great insoluble area.

Mr TRAINER: Yes. Of course, disputes between neighbours are drastic, too. On another occasion I would like to discuss a system working reasonably successfully in New South Wales where Neighbourhood Courts are acting as neutral arbiters for neighbours who have fallen out for one reason or another. Although that system has not been totally successful, it has relieved the local member of Parliament of much of the responsibility of trying to act as referee. No matter what one does, one falls out with one of the two parties, unless one is extremely fortunate, as I have been on one or two occasions.

The most common complaint is in relation to requests for Housing Trust subsidised rental, particularly as there are about 27 000 people on the waiting list in South Australia. The next most common complaint concerns environmental complaints, particularly relating to factory noise where, as a result of strange zoning in the past, residential and light industrial zones are intermingled.

I mentioned in response to an earlier interjection from the member for Newland that, to a certain extent, a member has to adopt a godfather role in the sense that he has an almost paternal responsibility to many of his constituents.

Many of them expect you to be aware of important events affecting them as individuals. You need to have yourself and your secretary keep a close eye on what we call the 'hatch, match, and dispatch' columns on the back of the *Advertiser* so you can look for familiar names of people who are associated with births, marriages and so on. In many cases, it is necessary to attend funerals of significant constituents. In some cases, it is necessary to pay hospital visits

to those who are ill, and so on. We all send letters of welcome to new enrollees within our area. Of course, we all have a Christmas card shopping list which makes either Hallmark Limited or the Charity Card Shop quite pleased when they see us heading in their direction in about November each year.

In addition to those individual problems with which we have to deal, we have constituents collectively requiring us, as leading members of the community, to be present on certain occasions either with or without a speech, and often with a donation. I will not mention the lengthy list of events to come into that category.

You have those 18 000 constituents involving you in local issues stretching far beyond their immediate problems, and you have to deal with them collectively as pressure groups or action groups on a range of different issues. One will also have responsibilities extending beyond the borders of one's own electorate. You will have issues that extend further than your own district. Usually they are dealt with by the person on the front bench, either as Minister or Shadow Minister but, in many cases, a back-bencher has to carry the responsibility of dealing with these broader issues.

One also has to represent the Party, or, as mentioned earlier, a front-bencher, at a wide range of functions. In addition, one has to keep contact with the media: the local newspaper in the area, the daily press, and the electronic media, and so on. One is involved in one's own party structure, and one has to assist in fund raising. You have further work to do in preparing for Parliament between sessions by way of preparing questions, speeches, and so on. Since some of the people reading this extract at a later date may not be aware of the situation I point out to them that an Opposition back-bencher will generally have to contribute a great deal more to debate than a Government back-bencher does.

One has a great deal of reading which needs to be kept up with, including a wide range of reports, journals, newspapers, submissions and lots of junk mail. I am sure members on both sides would agree that we are recipients of a great deal of material in that last category. In addition, we must campaign for re-election—both the ongoing campaigning between election times and the more intensified campaigning when an election is actually announced.

For three years or more one has to involve one's family to a certain extent yet, at the same time, try to give them some sort of privacy and protection. While all this is going on, it is necessary somehow to keep your sanity and a sense of humour.

I believe that there is a lack of facilities for someone in a position such as that which I have outlined with so much responsibility. I will not refer in any detail to the broom cupboard I have upstairs on the second floor that passes for an office, as I can only blame myself for having accepted it. I accepted it on one basis, although there was second reason why I accepted it, namely, that it gives me a good view of the corridor and movements taking place there. However, the main reason I accepted it is that at least I am alone. Unlike so many of my colleagues, I do not have to share my office in this building with another member of Parliament with all the complications, such as the use of the telephone.

The Hon. Jennifer Adamson: There is a good view down the well out of your window, I believe.

Mr TRAINER: I do not know. I always keep the blind down, as I find it too depressing to look out there. Apart from the fact that I do at least have the privilege of having an office to myself, which so many of my colleagues do not have (and regardless of the fact that it was formerly a broom cupboard), I, like most members, use it only during the actual Parliamentary session; it is just somewhere to tem-

porarily put one's briefcase and a few files. Most member's work is done at their electorate offices. These electorate offices did not exist until 1973; I sometimes wonder how members got by in those days. I have spoken to children of people who were members back in the 1950s and 1960s, and they have told me tales of how constituents used to be queued on the verandah, waiting one after the other to come in for appointments in the member's lounge room. Nevertheless, I think that electorate offices have to a certain extent created their own demand, because their very existence has made people far more aware—I can see that the member for Goyder is agreeing with me about that—of the existence of the local member. Indeed, I recall the member for Fisher passing on to me a remark that I believe was made by David Brookman, namely, that when electorate offices were established the local member became the most active and highest paid social worker in his district. I can see that the member for Fisher is nodding agreement to that. People now expect far more from their local member.

I think that there is a lot that can be done to improve facilities to enable us to meet those requirements. I believe that the amount of mail that we are able to put out is inadequate for the demand. We are provided with 200 stamps for use in our electoral office, plus another 500 that can go through the franking machine here in Parliament House, provided that one can bring the mail here in order that it can go through the machine. However, that allocation is barely adequate, and in my case is often quite inadequate for my requirements, and I expect that it is inadequate for many other members as well. Certainly it would be useful if some, if not all, of the postage that was not used in the franking machine for any given month could be transferred to the following month's allocation.

Another aspect in relation to inadequate facilities to which I would like to refer concerns my belief that in my electorate office I have enough work for not just one personal assistant, but perhaps two; certainly, a part-time assistant is required in addition to the assistant who is currently employed. I mention in that context that a shadow Minister, whether he is a member of my Party or any other Party, suffers somewhat from the lack of facilities for shadow Ministers.

Mr Lynn Arnold: Hear, hear!

Mr TRAINER: I can hear the member for Salisbury agreeing most enthusiastically with that, and I know that the shadow Minister of Education has a terrific load that he must carry in addition to his own electorate responsibilities and that he has to do so without any additional facilities. It has been suggested that we could, for example, establish in this House a sort of office of the shadow Ministry, with a pooled staff of perhaps two research assistants, one press secretary-cum typiste, and one typiste in order to assist the shadow Ministry in carrying out its important task. I know that many of our electorate officers are overworked. I know that my secretary, Mrs Maxeen Jenkin, does a sterling job in trying to carry out all the responsibilities that she is given.

The Hon. M. M. Wilson interjecting:

Mr TRAINER: I do not necessarily make it a practice of drawing my secretary's attention to my speeches in here, but I will on this particular occasion, at the prompting of the Minister of Transport. I know that the member for Norwood has a particularly hard-worked electorate office and I know that the member for Albert Park has in many respects one of the two or three hardest worked electorate offices in the State, as has also the member for Salisbury. The electorate assistants are in many cases overworked, and if they are not (bearing in mind the demands that exist in the community for the services of the local member), then the member in that particular constituency is probably not

pulling his or her weight. This tremendous weight on electorate assistants in the case of the member for Salisbury did, I am sure, contribute to the untimely death of Fred Hansford.

On a later occasion the member for Salisbury may wish to comment about the tremendous load his particular electorate office must carry, particularly as he is also a shadow Minister, and the terrific load that Fred Hansford took upon his shoulders. As I have said, I believe that contributed to his untimely death.

Another facility that requires upgrading is the telephone service available in the electorate offices. As the member for Albert Park pointed out on a previous occasion, one line is inadequate, particularly if it is a very busy electorate office. On many occasions I have telephoned someone, they have been unavailable and I have had to wait for that person to return my call. You cross your fingers that no-one will telephone in those few minutes because the person will be unable to get through if there is someone else on the line.

There have been many occasions when my secretary has been answering a particular constituent's inquiry and I have badly wanted to ring out in order to deal with another matter; I have not been able to do that because I have only the one telephone line. I understand that the member for Albert Park is contemplating approaching Telecom to install a pay telephone outside his electorate office. He will then have the facility of his own telephone in his electoral office for dealing with incoming calls and, if he needs to make an outgoing telephone call in the manner I just mentioned, he can put 20c into the public telephone out on the footpath!

Even more important than an extra telephone would be a photo copier. That is something that I think my colleagues are unanimous about. I find it quite unbelievable, as do many people, that a 'business' such as an electorate office, which puts out perhaps 8 000 letters a year does not have a photo copier. I could not contemplate a small business in the business community dealing with the quantity of mail and documentation handled by an electorate office that would not have its own photo copier.

We deal with vast quantities of documentation which may need copying. A constituent can come in and ask for a relevant section of an Act. I have to tell them they can sit down and copy it out by hand from my statutes or wait a week or so until I can cart it into Parliament House and request that it be copied at Parliament House and then send it to them, because I do not have a photo copier at my electoral office. There can also be multiple inquiries on the same subject. If one directs correspondence to the Minister, it may be that only one letter comes back. How does one advise a range of constituents about that particular response? Up to a half a dozen people may have made the same complaint. Some Ministers are particularly considerate and include a carbon copy along with the original. That is fine if only one person is involved; one can send the Minister's reply perhaps with one's comment appended, but if they have not included a copy you cannot even do that. However, if more than one person is involved one must come into Parliament House to use the photo copier. I find that I waste at least five or six precious hours each week in that way.

I remind honourable members that I am only 10 minutes away from Parliament House because I am fortunate enough to have an inner suburban electorate, but I waste five or six hours each week tracking into Parliament House to use the photo copier. I usually wait until late afternoon to coincide with the close of postage at 4.45 p.m., in order to put material through the franking machine, or I come in

over the weekend or at night. I consider that to be quite absurd and I hope it is remedied fairly soon.

I refer to a recent document released by the Public Service Board 'Organisation and Staffing of support services to Parliament,' which more or less conceded that there is such a need. It can be seen on page 70 of that document that many members have referred to:

The lack of photocopying and telephone switching (two line) equipment in electorate offices.

It also states on page 71:

Rapid personal access to photo copying facilities is a feature of any modern office, with appropriate controls on usage implemented as required.

It states, 'feature of any modern office'. I would like to know when, regardless of which Party is in Government, electorate offices will be taken well and truly out of the quill pen era and into the twentieth century. During the Second World War Churchill said 'Give us the tools and we will do the job.'

I enjoy my job as a member of Parliament. I want to do a good job, but I and many of my colleagues want the facilities that will enable us to do the job effectively. Having digressed across a wide range of subjects, I will conclude by again expressing my hope that the Address in Reply tradition can be reformed so that members no longer have to speak like this for a whole hour.

Mr EVANS (Fisher): I support the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply and congratulate the mover, the member for Brighton (Mr Dick Glazbrook) and the seconder, the member for Mallee (Mr Peter Lewis), for their great contributions and the magnificent way in which they respectively moved and seconded the adoption of this Address in Reply. I also want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the most sincere way in which our new Governor carried out his duties in presenting the Speech for the opening of this Parliament this session.

At the same time I want to express my appreciation to the immediate past Governor, Sir Keith Seaman, and his good wife, Lady Seaman, for the way in which they showed their sincere appreciation of the part that I play in the political scene and for the way in which they accepted me while they were in that Viceregal position in this State. I wish them both well in retirement: may they have good health and happiness with their family now that they are away from the pressures of public life which they had to endure.

All members who have spoken in this debate have expressed their regrets at the passing of some past members during the past year. I did know Sir John McLeay very closely, although I knew other members of his family very well. I want to put on record my appreciation, as a citizen of South Australia and as a friend of the younger generation of the family, for the part that Sir John played in this State not only as a politician but also as a figure in the public eye and local government, as well as in the sporting area and in the charities in which he worked for the benefit of all South Australians.

Another loss was that of the honourable Cyril Hutchens, to whom I have referred previously in this House. Cyril Hutchens worked on a cause with me on a couple of occasions, in particular in relation to the age of majority for the consumption of alcohol on licensed premises. Cyril Hutchens was right in the cause that he was fighting, I believe, and those of us who fought for that cause and who said that the age of majority should be 20 can now show quite clearly that the arguments used at the time have proved to be correct. Not only 18 year olds would drink on licensed premises but also their 16 year-old female companions would

do so, and, if a youth of, say, 17 years get in, his girlfriend, perhaps 15 years of age, and so on, would get in.

I am not anti-youth: I work among youth a lot, but I am concerned that booze is becoming one of our biggest public enemies. Those who fight uranium can fight it all they like, but I assure them that the thing that will destroy the health and lives of more of our people will be booze, and I say that knowing that I drink a little of it myself. No-one could claim that I am a heavy drinker in any way, shape or form, and it would not really concern me if there was no alcohol. Because of the part that Cyril Hutchens played in this Parliament and in public life, I pay my respects to him and I am sad for his family in its loss.

The Hon. Jim Dunford was known to me for only a short time because he was in this Parliament for only a short time. However, I also express my regrets and condolences to his family for their sad loss. It is sad that a man of his capacity, who worked for his Party and his philosophy, who had worked so hard to achieve a goal to get to the place where he thought he could have a more direct effect on those things that could put his philosophy into practice, had to pass away so early and suddenly, and not be able to fulfil the goals that he hoped to complete. That is sad, regardless of what side of politics one may be from.

The news today that a colleague in this place, Mr Howard O'Neill, was forced through illness to resign, or took it upon himself to resign because of ill health, is also very sad. I am not having a shot at the *News*, but I was disappointed by the *News* headline. To say that an 'MP quits' in circumstances like that tends to suggest that he gave up because he had no courage or because he did not have any ability to fight. I think that a better word could have been used. I am not trying to suggest one, but perhaps the word 'resign' would have been better.

Those of us who knew that Mr O'Neill struggled for months to get back into this place, particularly after losing his son not long before, know he did all he could to fight his illness so that he could come back and play a full part here. To use the word 'quits' was unfair to him and his family. I express that view because that is how I felt when I read that report. I hope that Howard has the ability to recover and continue to fight his illness until he can recover. I wish his family the best of luck, and I hope that they can all live a full life together in the future.

I want now to pick up generally some of the thoughts that the member for Ascot Park mentioned in relation to our electorate offices and our districts. It was not my intention to go into this matter, but I will take the opportunity now to do so. Some electorates are more difficult to work than are others. In some electorates it is easier to communicate than in others, although some of my country colleagues would disagree. I refer to my experience of working a rural electorate first, even though it was small compared to the electorate that I now represent, which in land area is smaller but which in population is much greater. I know the member for Ascot Park was suggesting that because of socio-economic problems a Labor member in some cases might have to work more than a Liberal member. I do not think it quite works out that way, and I wish to give my reasons.

When I represented Onkaparinga, which was then mainly rural in composition, if I went to a country town where they had a sports day, show, or school function of any type, virtually the whole community was there and, by turning up, one met the community as a whole. It was much easier to work that sort of electorate than it is to work the sort of electorate that it is to work the sort of electorate that I now represent.

In that country atmosphere I learnt one other characteristic that was most evident. People who work on the land or who are associated with people who work on the land (even

the teachers and trades people who communicate or are associated with people who work on the land) seem to have a better understanding of every-day politics and things that are occurring in the community. True, it is strange, but that is the case. They seem to listen to news broadcasts and read their papers in more detail and, because of their activity in the area in which they operate, they seem to have a better knowledge of what is happening. That is not a reflection on the people of my own district, but that is my experience. In my present electorate the workload over the years has increased dramatically, and I blame myself for part of it.

I was the person who argued for electorate offices for members of Parliament. I thought that they were a good idea. It is true to say that a previous member of this House, Mr David Brookman, said to me when I was fighting for that cause, 'Stan, if you win it, you will finish up with M.P.'s being the highest paid social workers in the State.' To a degree that has occurred. The other thing that has happened in electorates such as mine since I have come into politics is that the one or two service clubs that existed and the football, cricket and tennis clubs have been added to by the many new sports clubs, players groups, music and recreation groups, and one suddenly finds that it is nigh on impossible to keep up with the commitment of going to all their functions.

I am not complaining about that, because most people in those clubs are carrying out a community function, and I will do all I can to encourage them to continue do that, and to expand their activities. However, in an electorate like Fisher, where there are so many small towns compared to other metropolitan electorates, the demands upon one's time and financial resources are much greater than in a concentrated electorate, whether it be Liberal or Labor, in the inner-metropolitan area. Most members would find that that is the case in most of the fringe electorates, although Fisher would be the worst because there are so many towns and small villages in it.

My district has approximately 13 000 houses in it, and it takes me four years to door-knock the whole area if I want to door-knock it effectively. However, I would then make contact with only 35 to 40 per cent of the people, those who are at home. The other matter raised by the member for Ascot Park was the facilities in electorate offices. I agree with him that if we are going to have electorate offices we need to have more equipment. I argued for five years with the previous Government for it to make electric typewriters available for electorate offices, but we could not get them. With other members, including you, Mr Deputy Speaker, as the member for Flinders, I went and bought my own because we were not provided with them.

This Government, on coming to office, saw the need to move in that direction, and we were supplied with electric typewriters for our electorate offices. Some of us have been fortunate enough to obtain photocopying machines, even though they may be secondhand and not of the highest quality.

Mr Trainer: You shouldn't have to pay for it yourself.

Mr EVANS: I do not disagree with that interjection. I believe we have reached the stage in these days of technology when we should have some form of word processor in our electorate offices. I believe that would cut our work load considerably. I know that one member of this House has already supplied his own word processor, but, to move into that field is very expensive and would result in a massive cut in the expendable part of one's salary.

I have argued for a long time, and still maintain, that there is some merit at a time when many young people are looking for work experience (because of the wage structure and lowering the age of majority we have priced them out of the market) in having a junior male or female in electorate

offices who is told that he or she will have the job for only 12 months to gain some experience. During that 12 months those young people could look for a job while working in that office, and if they got one they could move on.

They would get some idea in that job of how to answer a telephone and would be working with a senior person. I know that my secretary would prefer not to have her name recorded in *Hansard*, but those who know her would know that she is one of the most dedicated and hard-working women one could employ. She treats all people alike and likes to look after people while serving in my electorate office. I make that point about having a junior but with the proviso that he or she would not be allowed to stay on to become a Senior thus pushing up that cost area, because we do not need to do that. I turn briefly now to some aspects of the Governor's Speech.

His Excellency stated that the United States and European economic communities have now been experiencing a severe economic downturn for the past two years and that Australia first felt the effects of this international recession earlier this year. In that the Governor is saying that there is no doubt that we cannot divorce ourselves from the world scene, and that is one of our problems.

I do not agree with the member for Ascot Park that the time spent on this debate is wasted; I believe that the opportunity should exist in Parliament for people to put their point of view as representatives of the people. There is no other way to do it and if the member for Ascot Park believes that some members waste this hour, that is his view, but it would not be the opinion of the member who makes the speech and who is doing what he thinks is right. If the people think it is wrong they have an opportunity of replacing him. I do not accept that argument at all.

While unemployment has risen nationally in Australia by 27.5 per cent over the past year, the Government makes the point that the rise in South Australia has been only 3 per cent. Employment in this State's manufacturing industry has increased by four times the national average during the past year. That is quite significant; it is not some minor increase but a major increase.

The Governor's Speech states:

The abolition of death and gift duties, the implementation of major land tax exemptions and stamp duty remissions on home purchases carried out by my Government have contributed to reducing levels of State taxation to the lowest of any State, except Queensland.

The Speech refers also to resource development, which it states:

... has joined the agricultural and manufacturing industries as major components of the State's economy. Expansion of the resource development sector will inevitably offer further opportunities for the manufacturing and rural industries.

The Speech then refers to the Stony Point and Roxby Downs projects which it states:

... have already generated significant employment opportunities, and in the case of Roxby Downs 1 000 people are now employed directly or indirectly on the project. It has been estimated that Roxby Downs could eventually become one of the world's largest mining operations.

I am not going to go into the politics of what the A.L.P.'s philosophy may be on that. The community is aware that if we are going to progress in the State and if we are to have some more money to spend in any particular area it has to be through some form of development.

The Speech further states:

South Australia is now experiencing the highest level of activity in the area of minerals and petroleum exploration in its history. The indications of company interest in further exploration in the State are also at their highest level. More than 90 companies are presently engaged in the search for a wide range of minerals. Commitments to off-shore exploration for petroleum now amount to more than \$200 million, which far exceeds any previous effort.

Likewise, our Public Buildings Department is moving into the field of expansion and construction in that particular area, and His Excellency states that over the next six months contracts worth about \$100 000 000 will be let. His Excellency continues:

My Government has used substantial funds outside the normal Loan Council borrowings to enable major projects to proceed, and a record sum has been spent on housing. Major projects planned to commence during the next six months include the Adelaide College of Technical and Further Education, estimated to cost \$25 000 000, the new Fire Brigade headquarters worth \$17 000 000, the first stage of the Museum Redevelopment at a cost of \$15 000 000, the new Remand Centre, Automatic Data Processing Centre, the redevelopment of several schools and cultural centres at Whyalla and Renmark.

My Government intends to introduce the necessary amending legislation during this session following the securing of a new River Murray Waters Agreement. This agreement will greatly enhance the role played by the River Murray Commission in developing and maintaining water quality standards which are of critical importance to South Australia.

I think every resident in the community now recognises the importance of the Murray River and the importance of protecting and preserving the quality of water as much as we can in that lifeline which we have been running into our State—protects it from the actions of others, who in the past have tended to neglect our interests in respect to policing pollution of that stream.

The metropolitan water filtration program will continue with the commissioning of the Barossa water filtration plant later this year. This will be the third of six plants required to provide Adelaide with clean water. Construction of a fourth filtration plant at Little Para should be completed in 1984. It is important to my electorate that the fifth and largest part in Happy Valley will begin this financial year.

That project is vital to the people in my electorate. For a long time I have been saying that we have had to suffer the protection of water quality in the catchment area of the Hills and supply good clean water, and we get the filthy Murray stuff pumped back to us to drink. People in my electorate will now appreciate that we will be getting better quality water once the filtration plant is completed.

The Housing Trust, through special funding from State sources last financial year, was able to commence 1 815 dwellings, an increase of 800 over the previous year. The trust rental cycle of \$45 000 is the highest of any State or Territory on a per capita basis. On the matter of rental accommodation, it is worth noting that the shadow Minister of Housing, in his speech, attempted to attack the Government by saying that, because there is such a high percentage of rental houses in the Housing Trust, people have not been able to afford to buy houses and that is the reason why more rental houses are being used by the Housing Trust than ever before.

That is not the case: it was a deliberate policy of this Party to make sure the Housing Trust carried out the role it was intended to play when it was established and, that was to supply accommodation for those people who could not afford to get it in other areas. Surely that means that the vast majority of houses will be rental.

In 1981 there was 82 per cent of dwellings rented out, whereas in 1978 there was only 49 per cent, so one can see that the Liberal Party has deliberately tried to break down the long list of people waiting for rental accommodation and, in the case of all persons requiring that sort of accommodation, we are attempting to pick up that leeway. I do not accept the arguments used by the shadow Minister in that area.

The stamp duty exemption, which the Government brought in when it first came into power in 1979, allowing exemptions for first home buyers, resulted, in the first 2½ years, in an average rebate of \$490 each. There have been 21 000 home buyers benefiting from that, costing the State

(the taxpayer) \$10 000 000. The saving to first home buyers was \$10 000 000, but the cost to taxpayers was the same amount and some of the young people who benefited from it are, of course, taxpayers.

There were many other matters in the Governor's Speech which members can read, and people in the community can obtain a copy if they wish. I am keen to refer to two areas. One is the Sports Advisory Committee. In recent days there has been, I believe, a vicious attack upon the Minister of Sport and Recreation, through the Sports Advisory Committee, in the main coming from people associated with soccer.

People who know me know that I sponsor, patronise and support in every way any soccer function I am invited to if it is possible for me to be there. In my electorate I fight to help those people obtain grounds and I do whatever I can. I have no preference for any particular sport as far as my Parliamentary support is concerned. In fact, if I favour any sports, it has tended to be those sports that have been neglected in the past, and most of those are in the minority spectator sport area.

The disappointing thing to me about the attack on the Minister is in regard to the soccer representatives' comments that originally the committee consisted of some 14 or 15 people. I am not sure of the figure and it does not matter that much. When the Minister decided to look at the committee, he had a discussion with me and I voluntarily said that I did not wish to continue on that committee. I said it would be better to have it smaller with people who were not politicians or directly involved with any political Party. I believe the same happened with the member for Hanson on the Recreation Advisory Committee.

In cutting down the number from 14 or 15 to nine, it was obvious that we could not have all sports represented. We could not do that even if we had 20 people. I was surprised that Mike Wells made the comments he did, because I appreciated his contribution on the committee when he was there with me. I appreciated the fairness with which he saw most things. I do not believe that there were many occasions on which he attempted to push the soccer barrow more than it should have been and he only took that action when he felt that something unfair was happening to soccer.

However, why attack the Minister? On the previous committee they had a tennis representative and on the new one they have not. Tennis has had a good dish out of money over the years under the previous and present Governments. Cricket was not represented on the old committee but it is on the new one. All that is really happening is that the different sports are getting a turn and an opportunity to be represented. I believe that soccer will have its turn in the future, as will tennis.

Some of those who are on the committee now will go off. That is the logical way to do it. The thing that disappoints me in the end result is that the Minister is going to go back and check (I will be surprised if his officers do not) how much money has gone to soccer as against football, because that is the sort of attack that was made, or against tennis, volley ball, fencing or netball, and will find that, on the amount of participants in any sport, at the end of the line will be our own national game of football. It was a sport developed in this country and is recognised as an Australian sport.

It may be the one that has had the least support per head of participants of all sports. I was president of a club and have an interest in that area. I play three or four other sports also. We will see that football was not pushed ahead when the vast majority of people on the committee had an interest at some time in Australian rules football. I believe that the Minister is very fair. I believe the assistance he has

given has been fair and he is just giving others an opportunity to have a turn.

The other matter I wish to touch on is education. In my own electorate, I have many schools. A lot of additions are going on in schools in my area and new schools are being built. I have many teacher friends and the vast majority of them are dedicated people, not just as teachers but also as community workers taking on responsibilities within churches and in sporting, recreational, drama and theatre groups. They are very active participants, carrying a large work load.

There will be some outside of that group who would detest me because of my politics, not because they dislike me (I hope not) but because I happen to be a Liberal. They would be against me regardless of what I said or did. I know that that number is very small. I appreciate that they have a right and they are free, in a democracy, to hold that view if they so wish because of political persuasion.

I believe that this is important because of the fact that during the last few years in my electorate the following projects have taken place: a new school built at Bellevue Heights; four new schools built at Aberfoyle Park, two of them public; one new school built at Craighburn; a new school built at Aldgate; a redevelopment taking place at the Bridgewater Primary School that will amount to a large amount of expenditure; a major addition to the Heathfield High School which is under construction at the moment; tenders to be called in November for a redevelopment or a new development at the Stirling East Primary School; recent quite major additions or changes to the Crafers Primary School; a recent large addition to the Belair school, a school that serves a large part of my area which is based right on the fringe of my electorate; and other additions on a minor scale to some of the other schools. I am not forgetting that the activity hall at Stirling East is still a matter of contention, and that the Mylor Primary School is still far from satisfactory, since it lost one of its buildings during the bush fire, and has been neglected to some degree by both Parties over recent years. The other schools in my electorate, in the main, are reasonably well equipped in relation to buildings.

With that background, I now want to make some further points in relation to education. There has been a concerted attack on the present Government and, in particular, the present Minister, by the hierarchy of those within S.A.I.T. and other bodies associated with teachers. A full page advertisement appears in today's paper, authorised by R. B. Connor, General Secretary of the South Australian Institute of Teachers, states: 'Have you read the small print on class size?' Then, in small print, it states:

The Minister of Education, Mr Allison, claims the pupil-teacher ratio in South Australia is among the best in the country, and far better than average.

I will come back to that statement. The advertisement further states:

Meanwhile, back in the real world—

I think that that should read the 'unreal world', because the material that follows cannot be substantiated; I believe that people have played with figures to create a false impression. The advertisement further states:

Sure, we have some small classes, but that doesn't excuse the big ones. The Minister has announced his Government's intention to have these conditions deteriorate.

I would say that that statement is totally inaccurate. I do not know why an organisation would make such a statement unless it was for its own political purposes. To my knowledge, all the Minister said was that the present pupil-teacher ratio would be fully maintained—that does not mean that the situation will deteriorate at all. If the group which inserted this advertisement (and it is not the Teachers Institute that

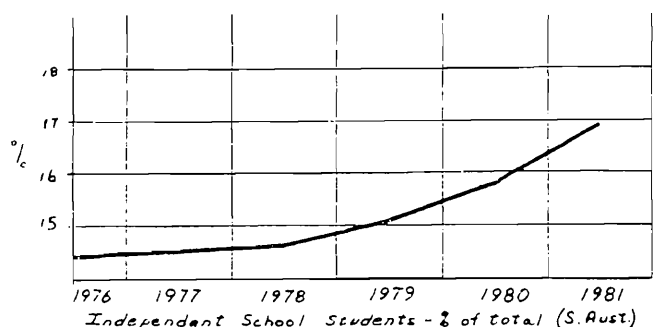
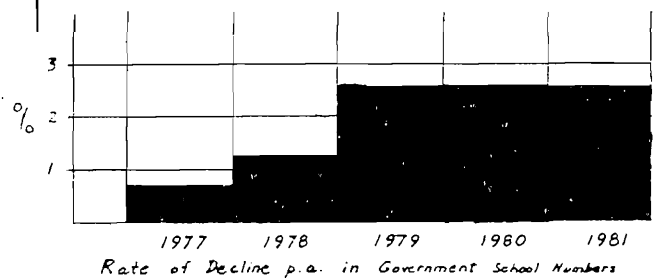
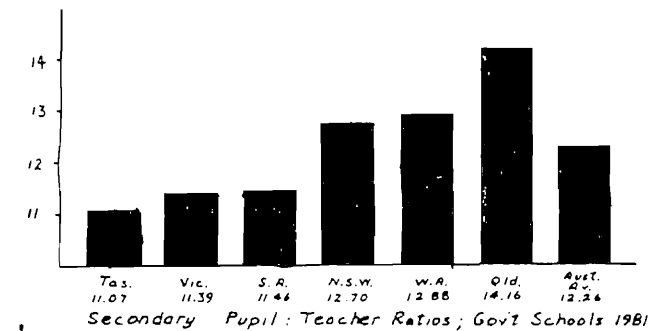
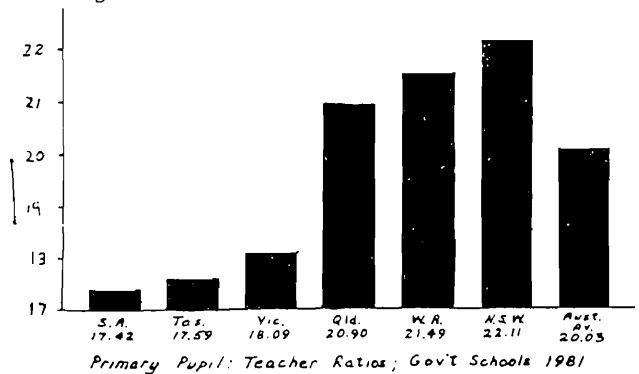
is totally responsible, but just some of the people at the top) believes it can produce evidence that the Minister made that statement, I would like to see it.

Figures from the Australian Teachers Federation, School Conditions Survey 1982, are used to make the other point raised in the advertisement. I would like to know how many schools were surveyed. I challenge this group to publish its figures, because I point out that the Australian Bureau of Statistics report of 1981 shows quite clearly that our teacher-student ratio is the best in Australia overall. I seek leave to have inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it graphs that were produced from the figures in the Schools Australia 1981 catalogue from the Bureau of Statistics.

The SPEAKER: Do I have the honourable member's assurance that it is purely graphic or statistical detail?

Mr EVANS: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Leave granted.



Mr EVANS: I will now go over some of the things this Government has achieved in education. I am sure that graph will show anyone who looks at it that the advertisement that appeared in the paper today, as we read it in the early hours of this morning at 20 to 2, is nothing more than a political attack, not for the sake of education, not for the sake of teachers in the field and not for the sake of students, but as an attempt to pull down a Minister or a Government. When bodies that claim to be professional set out to do that I believe they run a grave risk of making many of their members wonder just how honest those at the top may be.

Since this Government was elected, it has increased education spending by \$121 000 000 in total, an average of more than \$40 000 000 a year. It is worth noting that one-third of this State's Budget is spent on education and that the Education Department alone spends about \$411 000 000, and that does not include spending in other areas of education.

It should also be noted that since this Government was elected education's share of the State's Budget has increased from 31 per cent to 33 per cent. This Government spends more per student in South Australian primary schools than does any other State. I will read the figures in relation to primary and secondary school spending. In relation to primary schools: in 1976-77, \$749 was spent per student; in 1977-78, \$911; in 1978-79, \$1 041; in 1979-80, \$1 176; and in 1980-81, \$1 385. The figure is not available yet for 1981-82 but, of course, it has gone up by at least the inflationary trend, if not slightly more.

In the secondary school area, the State spent \$1 330 per student in 1976-77; in 1977-78, \$1 533; in 1978-79, \$1 666; in 1979-80, \$1 840; and in 1980-81, \$2 185. Of course, the 1981-82 figure is not available. I now refer to the State's position since 1977 compared to the rest of Australia in relation to each field. In relation to primary schools, we were rated fifth in Australia in 1976-77; in 1977-78 we were fourth; in 1978-79 we were second; in 1979-80 we were second; and in 1980-81 we were top. In other words, we had the best record of expenditure per student in primary schools of any State in Australia.

How can anyone attack us on that basis, because until we get our mining developments off the ground we are one of the poorest States in Australia, as is openly admitted by all. In terms of monetary resources and the money we obtain from mining resources, we receive a minute amount compared to Queensland, New South Wales with its coal, Victoria and Western Australia. However, South Australia has spent the most money in relation to primary education. In relation to secondary education, in 1976-77 we were third. In 1977-78 we were second; in 1978-79 we were third; in 1979-80 we were third; and in 1980-81 we were second and improving our position.

I believe that when the 1982 figures are available we will find that, if the State is not top, it will be so close that it will not matter in regard to the amount spent per secondary student in this State. Those people who want to attack the present Government are not really being honest, if they say that we have not done more than other States have done to maintain the standards and to attempt to improve them. We all know that we cannot go on spending more than we earn, and I will refer to that matter later.

In 1975, of every \$1 spent on education, 78.5c went to salaries, but by 1981 that figure had increased to 90.2c in the dollar. In other words for every dollar we were spending about three-quarters on salaries in 1975, but now we are spending in excess of nine-tenths on salaries. If that is the case, how can we supply other facilities? The high costs of staff and staffing levels since 1975 has meant that the money that the Government can spend out of each dollar on mate-

rials, school grants, curricula has decreased from 21.5c to less than 10c. There is a problem in that area, but I do not suggest that there are problems only in the teaching area. When we talk about salaries increasing, it is not only teachers' salaries that have increased but the salaries of other staff in the schools. This problem is being experienced Australia-wide. The salary component in our costs is decreasing our ability to provide facilities in the schools and is pricing us out of world markets. It is also destroying jobs each year. From 1975 to 1982 about 27 000 students have been lost from Government schools, representing a decrease of 11.6 per cent. At the same time, the spending of the department has increased by \$219 000 000 and I believe that that is a problem. I do not know how we can correct it. Enrolments at non-government schools have been increased by over 5 000 or by 13.2 per cent. Although some people might argue that some teachers in the Government area do not accept that as reasonable, I believe that in a free society people must be able to choose to which schools they will send their children. At Aberfoyle Park two private schools and two public schools are associated, and the arrangement appears to be working happily. Time will tell whether problems will arise. Those schools are in my district and I do not have to interfere, but if they want help in the future I will be happy to do what I can. There is a drift in the community attitude in regard to people who want to send their children to private schools. It is the parents' decision, or perhaps a decision for the older students. I also make the point that the South Australian Government supports pre-schools more than does any other State Government. The staff/student ratio in the pre-school area is 1:10 or 1:12. Our pre-school system is the best staffed in Australia. I do not say that we should not try to improve that ratio, but we would have to spend more money and I would prefer one or two more kindergartens in my area, because they are badly needed, before we look to changing that ratio to a lower figure. I believe that one or two other members would prefer that.

We need the facilities first to give at least more of the children an opportunity of having some training before they go to primary school. The South Australian Government's spending on pre-schools has risen from \$2 000 000 in 1975 to more than \$12 300 000 in 1982, an increase of 650 per cent. I know that part of that is because the Federal Government said, 'That is more a State responsibility of education in the pre-school area. Will you pick it up, and we will tend to drop out of it a little.' That does not matter. The important point is that the State Government has picked up its responsibility and there is a 650 per cent increase that the Minister, the Government and the State can be proud of: we have been able to pick up the tab as taxpayers, with the Government directing activity into that area.

The South Australian Government has lifted its share of pre-school funding from 29 per cent to 78 per cent since 1976. True, some of that credit must go to that previous Government. I am not playing politics in this area, but it is a matter that we as a State should be proud of in regard to the system established. I do not say that we should not seek further improvement, but at least 92 per cent of all four-year-olds go to pre-school in South Australia. That is a great record when one considers the vast areas that our State covers with its scattered population.

I should point out that the annual average kindergarten fee is \$90 in South Australia, but in New South Wales, where there is a different philosophy of Government in power (it is not a philosophy that I support), it is interesting to see that the amount is \$1 200 to \$1 400 per child attending kindergarten. That figure shows clearly that parents who have children at kindergarten in South Australia have a saving of about \$1 000 compared with parents with children

in kindergartens in New South Wales. Surely, that is a clear indication that this Government is concerned with providing proper education facilities.

Because the South Australian Institute of Teachers Executive, in particular, the President and others not far below in the hierarchy have set out to attack this Government, it is important that I include in my speech some of the material available from letters and correspondence which have passed between the Chief Executive, Mr Keavney, of Enterprise Australia and the institute. On 22 July Mr Keavney sent a letter to Ms L. Ebert, President, South Australian Institute of Teachers. The letter states:

Dear Ms Ebert,

During the last four months, we have raised important points pertaining to the persistent way in which materials and services we provide for schools have been maligned in the *South Australian Teachers' Journal*, and by statements in the press and on radio by yourself and your Vice-President.

These events commenced when you issued a press release on 19 March 1982. You gave (as your reason for SAIT Executive's boycott of a seminar hosted by the Premier) that the sponsoring body, Enterprise Australia, represented particular political views which it was seeking to enforce in educational curricula.

What your statement did not say was that you had not yet seen, let alone examined, the materials you criticised. (This is the opinion we formed from your own letter to us of 7 April accepting our offer to supply these.)

Mis-statements continued in an article in the April issue of the *Teachers Journal* by one of your members, which contained obvious errors of fact. The journal did grant me right of reply, but the Editor admitted on the phone after publication in May that a second article by the same author, published side by side with mine, dampened my reply. The second article contained further errors of fact. It was irresponsible not to check them before publication.

On 24 March and 20 April, we wrote to you in the most conciliatory terms, provided you with copies of all our materials, and offered to meet you and your executive and answer any questions whatsoever on our materials, motives, philosophy and funding resources.

You have not taken advantage of that offer except for a brief 30 minutes with your Vice-President which transpired only after my insistence. Thus we wrote to you on 29 June, protesting against what we saw as irresponsibility, misrepresentation and double standards on the part of those associated with the SAIT Executive in these continuing attacks on Enterprise Australia. We cited as examples of the type of statement we are protesting:

Irresponsibility

(1) (i) Your *Teachers Journal* claimed that our materials for schools are prepared by "big business". Yet SAIT Executives has independent evidence that these materials are produced in co-operation with, or actually by, the New South Wales Department of Education and in consultation with trade unions. The claim that materials developed in this manner (in a Labor-governed State!) were produced to inculcate right-wing political views into schools is a sad commentary on the opinion of members of the SAIT Executive, of the professional expertise of interstate teacher colleagues and the common sense and integrity of trade union leaders.

(ii) SAIT Executive has not revealed to its members that the materials being criticised are not only produced by and with teachers, but simply open up economic topics for discussion directed entirely in classrooms by teachers themselves. Sure SAIT Executive has a duty to inform its members by revealing these facts, allowing them to examine the materials themselves rather than making ill-considered statements likely to cause teachers to prejudge them.

(2) (i) The author of the article in the April issue of the *Teachers' Journal*, quoted from a "report" in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 17 August, 1976, we have searched every issue of that newspaper for the month of August 1976 and have failed to find any such report.

(ii) In a radio interview on 5DN on 17 June, your Vice-President, when asked by interviewer, Jeremy Cordeaux, about the content of Enterprise Australia school materials, replied that he was "firmly of the opinion that they are heavily biased". Asked for an example, he did not give one.

(iii) In the *Advertiser* of 21 June 1982 your Vice-President cited as an example of our bias that students at a conference at a Victorian high school had been asked to assume the role of management and solve problems in the company's interest. He was quoted: "No consideration of the rights of employees were encouraged."

Yet he was in possession of materials which showed that half the speakers and half the discussion group leaders were selected and provided by the Victorian Trades Hall Council, and that the views of unions and management were equally represented.

Double Standards

(3) (i) Over 5DN, your Vice-President stated, "We're not opposed to some biased materials coming into schools. We believe there should be several biases presented to students so that they can make up their own minds." Why then does SAIT Executive continue to be associated with statements against what it wrongly regards as probusiness bias, but not against anti-business bias?

(ii) Jeremy Cordeaux asked your Vice-President on 5DN why SAIT and Enterprise Australia can't get together to discuss these issues. He replied, "I'd like to get together with them and other groups who want to put materials into schools and work out a way that won't indoctrinate students in one particular direction." Yet you boycotted our seminar in March held for this very purpose. Nor has SAIT Executive responded to the idea of a second seminar, which we offered to sponsor if your Vice-President meant what he said.

Conclusion

In the light of all the above, we believe the time has come to challenge you to publicly:

(i) State the facts upon which you based your allegations published in the *Advertiser* of 20 March 1982.

(ii) State that you have received from us an abundance of evidence (with details of independent sources from which you can check) which establishes substantial errors of fact by the author of the articles in the April and May issues of the journal.

(iii) Correct the inaccuracies of your Vice-President as set out above.

If you do not assure us within seven days that you will do this, we believe it will be our duty to take other steps to bring the facts to the public attention. This is also necessary for the protection of the good name of Enterprise Australia and all the people who have been associated with its projects.

I had to refer to that letter and the details in it because I really believe that those people at the hierarchy of the Teachers Institute in South Australia are not truly serving their members honestly; nor, judging by the way in which they carried on with the advertisement, are they doing anything to help the education in this State in the long term. If their goal is to defeat the Government, they should tell all their members that that is their goal, so that those members who know that this Government's record on education is as good as, if not better than, that of any other Government in Australia, will be able to make their own decision. Likewise, the parents and other interested people should be informed.

I am concerned about the way in which society is moving and making demands on what I call wants in lieu of needs. I am not tying that comment to education. I want to take the opportunity of having recorded the sort of debt that we are building up within our society. Members have heard me say many times that I believe we are now a society of working agents for money-lenders and slaves of interest rates. I have not got the amount in the private area of borrowings, but I will have that at a later date and use it during grievance debate.

First of all, I want to refer to the area of local government. In 1970, the total debts in the local government area in South Australia showed that \$61 000 000 had been borrowed. In 1981 that figure was \$182 000 000. That is three times the amount in 11 years. Some people would say that a substantial amount of that would be due to inflation. I make the point that that outstrips inflationary trends, and that we should be attempting to get out of debt: instead of paying interest on money we should be using the money to benefit the community. However we are not doing so: we are just servicing money and giving the money-lenders the benefit of it.

The public debt for the South Australian Government, not local government, in 1970 (I am picking the total indebtedness, which includes Federal Government advances in

those areas also) was \$1 496 000 000, and in 1981 it was \$2 759 000 000. That is a massive increase on which the people must pay the interest to service the State debt. If we go to the Federal area, we find that in 1970 the total debt by the Commonwealth Government was \$3 884 000 000. In 1981, the total Commonwealth debt was \$17 653 000 000. Let us be quite honest about it. In our family and business life and in our Government way of borrowing, we are putting our country into debt, and our children will have to pay the bill.

We are now in a time of recession, with tough times that have been brought about by the world scene, and we all start worrying about interest rates. The sooner we set out to get out of debt (whether it involves individuals, the State or Commonwealth Government or local government), the better off we will all be. We should start to make money work for us. I know that those in the finance field would say that money is like any other commodity—that we must pay a price to have it. The purchasing price of money is interest. If everyone stopped or attempted to slow down in relation to borrowing money, the end result would be that

those who want to lend it would not be able to do so it and they would drop the price, and that means the interest rate. That is the logical conclusion of it.

Mr Becker: That sounds easy.

Mr EVANS: The member for Hanson says it sounds easy because it is in the banking field. I know that it would not work as simply as I say. I have no doubt that, if there was more money to be borrowed than people wanted to borrow, the end result would be that those who wanted to lend it would drop the rate at which they wanted to lend it. I repeat that we are a society of people who are nothing more than working agents for moneylenders and have been slaves to interest rates, even before those interest rates reached the stage they are at now. The sooner society sets out to pay off its debts, the better off we will be.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.6 a.m. the House adjourned until Thursday 12 August at 2 p.m.