

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 15 September 1982

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

### PETITION: WALLAROO HOSPITAL

A petition signed by 1 222 residents of South Australia and visiting seamen praying that the House urge the Government to retain the Wallaroo Hospital, and the acute services it provides at Wallaroo, was presented by the Hon. Jennifer Adamson.

Petition received.

### PETITION: DINGO PETS

A petition signed by 535 residents of South Australia praying that the House do all in its power to stop the execution or change the law completely to save Ding the dog and other part-dingo pets was presented by Mr Ashenden.

Petition received.

### PETITION: URANIUM

A petition signed by 11 residents of South Australia praying that the House urge the Government to halt all uranium mining activities in South Australia and abandon all plans for a uranium processing and enrichment plant was presented by Mr Crafter.

Petition received.

## QUESTION TIME

### POPULATION FIGURES

**Mr BANNON:** Did the Premier contest the population estimates for the States submitted by the Federal Treasury as the basis for the sharing of tax revenues when the allocation was made at the last Premiers' Conference and does his acceptance of \$800 000 000-plus based on these population figures mean that he also accepts that South Australia's population has been overtaken by that of Western Australia and does this not conflict with other statements that the Premier is making about the state of the economy under his Government?

Commonwealth Budget Paper No. 7 for 1982 estimates South Australia's population at 1 334 700 at 31 December 1982, and a population for Western Australia of 1 344 500, that is, 9 800 ahead of this State. In last year's Commonwealth Budget South Australia was estimated to have a population of 14 000 more than Western Australia but the actual figures showed that we were only 8 200 ahead last December. The overtaking this year of South Australia's population by that of Western Australia is the first time the ranking of State populations has changed since the 1890s. The principal reason for the slump in South Australia's relative position is reported as being the continued net loss of population to other States. From September 1979 to December 1981 this State lost a net 15 600 persons to other States, the equivalent of a loss of our third largest provincial city, Port Augusta.

While there has been this population loss to other States there has been a net population inflow into South Australia. This has been brought about by overseas migration figures.

The figures include refugees from Indo-China and elsewhere who settled in South Australia. The Treasury document, 'The South Australian Economy', presented by the Premier along with his Budget, indicates that an above average number of refugees are being settled in South Australia. Refugees have not been drawn to South Australia by economic factors but by the availability of facilities for their reception.

The latest report of the Indicative Planning Council for the housing industry forecasts a 6 000 annual net loss of population from South Australia to other States over the years to 1984-85, the end of the forecasting period. When overseas migration is included in the total figure, a net loss of population from South Australia for each year up to 1984-85 is forecast by the Indicative Planning Council.

**The Hon. D. O. TONKIN:** Let me deal with the question which served as a peg on which the Leader hung some propaganda. In the documents that the Federal Treasurer has prepared for the Premiers' Conference and in the Grants Commission's figures, as the Leader well knows, are estimates which will not be confirmed until the final results of the census are known. The Leader should know that if there are any adjustments to be made, because the census indicates that such changes have occurred, the Grants Commission will take those changes into account when it next considers the relativities, which it will be doing within the next 12 months.

Basically, there is no basis on which one can object to the figures which have been put in the document, because we know that adjustments will be made in due course. That has dealt with the Leader's question.

I read the advertisement which appeared, and I must thank honourable members opposite for their kindness and thoughtfulness in recognising the anniversary of this Government. I might point out that they did not quite get it right, as the anniversary date is the 18th, which was the date on which the Government was sworn in. However, that is another matter. It was very generous and kind of members opposite to be so thoughtful in drawing attention to the Government's record in office: I think it is one of the longest serving Governments in recent times in this State. Nevertheless, the advertisement was disappointing because it was typical of the attitude that has been consistently shown by the Opposition in recent months and years, and I refer to the use of selective figures and blatant misrepresentation in being negative about South Australia. I believe that this is to be very much regretted.

The A.B.S. figures have indicated a population exodus from 1977 onwards. That exodus from South Australia was still on when the present Government took office. But on reflection I am surprised that members of the Opposition take any pleasure out of that fact because it is a damning indictment on the policies of the former Labor Government. There are two reasons why this is so, and it is quite plain to see. The reason why Western Australia may well have overtaken South Australia at present is twofold: first, I refer to the policies of the Labor Government of the late 1970s which actively repressed investment and development in this State. Private enterprise left in droves and as those involved left, jobs were lost. One has only to look at the record which indicates that more than 20 000 jobs were lost in the private sector in South Australia during the last two years of the Labor Party Administration.

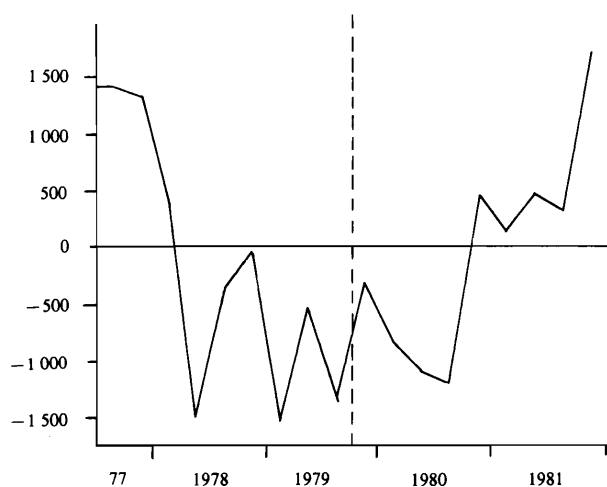
When the present Government came to office it inherited the highest rate of unemployment of any State in Australia. Of course, people went interstate; they went interstate to get jobs and it is true that they left this State, because at the same time we were in a depressed area, Western Australia and Queensland, in particular, were enjoying resource development on an unparalleled scale. The point is that difficulty

was compounded by the negative policies of the Labor Government in South Australia at the time, where resource development was in fact bad. In other words, jobs were being destroyed by a Labor Government in South Australia while at the same time jobs were being created by investment and development in Western Australia, in Queensland and in other States.

Of course people left South Australia for Western Australia and Queensland, and the results are shown quite clearly in those figures. The figures show quite clearly also that, for the last 18 months, South Australia has had a net gain of population through migration, and the A.B.S. figures for the last quarter show the largest increase since 1977. Indeed, I think it is earlier than that. It is a long, slow and difficult process, but the policies of this Government are being most successful and achieving just that. To say that South Australia's population, and I quote from the advertisement, is 'still shrinking' is a blatant misrepresentation; it is not true. Again, the A.B.S. quarterly figures clearly show this—it is just not true. I have a statistical representation of those figures and I seek leave to table them in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

QUARTERLY NET MIGRATION GAIN TO  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
(A.B.S. C.N. 3101.0 Table 26)



**The Hon. D. O. TONKIN:** Those figures clearly show that from 1979 the net migration gain to South Australia has been quite considerable, and it is still going on strongly. The Leader of the Opposition cannot back away from the fact that he has made a statement today and confirmed the statement in the paper, which was blatantly false and untrue. His credibility will suffer yet again. I can forgive the use of selective figures; I can forgive the blatant misrepresentation that is there, but I cannot forgive the negative attitude which is consistently being shown by the Opposition. 'Doom and gloom'; that is all they have to say. Why is it that they do not look at some of the positive indicators which are coming up now? There are many of them and we can look at them quite clearly. For instance, we are one of the lowest taxed States (the Opposition is pretty keen on this) and the Grants Commission's figures on a *per capita* basis show that only Queensland is lower. We are able to manage Government very well; we have made some firm management decisions. Those decisions have not been easy but they have been necessary and have been taken, and we have controlled Government activity. We have the lowest building society home mortgage rates in Australia and we have, as was pointed out on radio today, one of the best life styles and

some of the cheapest real estate in Australia. Adelaide and South Australia, generally speaking, are accepted everywhere now as a wonderful place to live.

In unemployment we are holding the line when the rest of the world, when the rest of Australia, is suffering marked reverses. In the last 12 months to August our increase in unemployment was only 4 per cent whereas, for instance, New South Wales went up by 32 per cent and Western Australia is getting into the over 30 per cent mark in increase in unemployment.

We are putting our faith in investment and development as the best means of creating jobs and creating future security and faith in the future that the people of South Australia now want more than anything else. We are fulfilling our objectives, we are maintaining high levels of investment and development while other States are falling off. Big things are happening in the Cooper Basin, in Roxby Downs, and the Hilton Hotel, and the international airport will bring further benefits through the tourist and hospitality industries. Our studies for coal-to-gas conversion, for uranium processing, and for petro-chemical plants are all now being negotiated. Generally, the perception of South Australia *vis-a-vis* other States in Australia is very, very good.

I cannot understand why anyone, even the Opposition, even for some perceived political gain, should continue to knock South Australia. It seems to me that this continual negative thinking, this total negative attitude which they constantly come through with can do nothing whatever to help them, and certainly it will do nothing to help South Australia. South Australia will never achieve anything with negative thinking. The people of this State want a positive attitude; they want to know there is light at the end of the tunnel, that there is a future. Fortunately, at this stage our policies are providing that future.

I believe that this is a great State in which to live and work. It has a great potential, and this Government is getting on with the job of realising that potential. By realising the potential of investment and development, we are creating the new jobs and the security for the future that people so desperately want. We have a long way to go, but we have done all of the things that we set out to do, and we have put our plans in place. We have a lot to do to ensure that those plans come to fruition, but we intend to go on working for more development and more jobs, because we know that that is the way in which all South Australians can enjoy the security that they want.

We intend to make the best of every advantage that this State has. We will keep on fighting to make the best of every advantage, and we will take every opportunity we can to be positive about South Australia and its future, because if we do not, obviously, the Opposition could not care less. We must be positive about South Australia and its future, because there is no future for South Australia in being negative. There is certainly no future for South Australia with the Labor Party.

## TOURISM

**Mr MATHWIN:** Is the Deputy Premier aware that in a public statement today the Leader of the Opposition has suggested that South Australia is no longer noticed by other States? Is this because, in the Leader's mind, Mr Dunstan is now the tourist supremo in Victoria, or is it because the Leader himself has a particular problem? Has the Minister any information about this matter?

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** Fortunately, that question is supplementary to the question asked by the Leader a moment or two ago. This supplementary question will enable me to deal with one or two matters in the areas

for which I am responsible, which may be of help to the Opposition in its thinking. I am inclined to agree that the 10 years of the Labor Party were notable years for a number of reasons, about which perhaps we should remind the Leader of the Opposition. It has come to our notice in recent days that members opposite are notable for the gas contracts that they wrote, to the great benefit of New South Wales consumers and to the very great disadvantage of the people of South Australia. They are certainly notable for that.

Members opposite are also notable for the railways transfer, whereby the former Premier managed to negotiate a deal which has been highly disadvantageous to South Australia and which is now affecting the Grants Commission deliberations in relation to this State, to our very grave disadvantage. They are also notable for the fact that South Australia had the highest unemployment in the nation. We are not in that unenviable position at present: Tasmania has far outstripped us, but during those notable 10 years South Australia went from having the best employment figures in the nation to having the worst. As the Premier has pointed out, at least we are now holding the line: we are not deteriorating to anything like the rate that occurred during the declining years of the Labor Government. At least we are holding the line in relation to the rest of the nation, where the situation is deteriorating markedly.

Members opposite were also successful in effectively driving away investment, particularly in the area for which I am now responsible, namely, mining. I remind the Leader that as much was spent in mineral and hydrocarbon exploration last calendar year as was spent during the whole of the 10 years under the Labor Administration. In more recent times, they jeopardised the ratification of the Roxby Downs Indenture. The years under Labor were also notable for the sacking of a very popular Police Commissioner, who was highly regarded throughout the community.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** Labor's declining years were also notable for the demise of the former Premier who, as alluded to by the member for Glenelg, has received some prominence through a recent appointment interstate.

I draw the Leader's attention to what is being said by people who have come from interstate and, indeed, overseas in relation to what is happening in South Australia since the demise of the Labor Government and its notable record during its 10 years in office. I draw the Leader's attention to the remarks of the economic adviser of National Mutual, who said in the national press (where the Leader says we are not being noticed) that South Australia is weathering the economic storm far better than is the rest of the nation. I draw the Leader's attention to a statement made by the Pacific Regional Manager of Reed Stenhouse, who was in Adelaide about three weeks ago and who was reported in the press, albeit on about page 25 of the *Advertiser*, as saying that it was quite clear to him from visiting Adelaide after an interval of 2½ years that a far better spirit was abroad in South Australia and, indeed, that prospects in this State were noticeably better than they were some 2½ to three years ago.

Let the Leader of the Opposition close his mouth and open his eyes and direct them away from those corners where all he can see is gloom and doom, and let him examine what some of the people on the national scene are saying. If he can raise his sights to a perspective even higher than that, let him look at the international press. Let him look at the comments interstate and internationally on the Roxby Downs announcement made recently in regard to oil reserves. Let him take one of the resources flights which have been organised by Airlines of South Australia to see what is happening in this State, and then let him raise his

sights and come out of the corner of gloom and doom where he and his Deputy Leader seem to be dwelling and examine what is being said elsewhere. I will quote what is stated on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in relation to that announcement.

**Mr Hamilton:** You have to go a long way to get something good.

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** The honourable member has obviously either not read what went out in the name of the Labor Party today or taken any notice of what we are discussing. We are discussing the Leader's contention that South Australia is no longer noticed. I am drawing the honourable member's attention (if he has the wit to understand that) to things that are being said outside South Australia by the national press, the interstate press and, indeed, the international press. The *Financial Review* on 27 July states, 'Western Mining confirms Roxby is in the world big league'. The *Sydney Morning Herald* front page headline states, 'Roxby Downs worth \$140 000 000 plus'. The editorial in the *Sydney Morning Herald* states:

As of yesterday it [South Australia] has a mine prospect that dwarfs all that has gone before it.

**Mr Keneally:** You've got Roxby Downs—tell us when it's going to start.

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** It has already started. If the honourable member does not believe that, he had better go up there and follow the same advice I have given his Leader—shut his mouth, open his eyes and have a look. The statement continues:

Roxby Downs is a mineral resource of such immensity that it all but defies description . . . For the nation, it represents enormous export potential in a world which will grow even hungrier for stable supplies of key minerals. Certainly, it bids fair to become a very long-term addition to the maps of Australia.

This was said in Sydney, where we are not noticed! They do not read the papers in Sydney! The report continues:

If Roxby Downs were to begin production in 1985, mining ore at the same rate Mount Isa maintains today, its managers would be thinking seriously about reserves running out around the year 2270—

300 years away. The London *Financial Times* on 27 July states (this is in London—we are not noticed anywhere, let alone London!):

It is an awesome 2 billion tonnes, starting at a depth of about 350 metres—

referring to Roxby Downs—

This breathtaking figure is accompanied by the news that work to date has shown the Olympic Dam mineralisation to extend over an area of as much as seven kilometres by four kilometres. The suggestion, therefore, is that the massive deposit could be even greater than 2 billion tonnes.

The area where we are noticed (and we have been noticed not only in the area of mining, as I pointed out referring to a couple of these other people who have come to the State in recent days) is the very area where the Labor Party wants to shut us down.

**The Hon. H. Allison:** They voted against it.

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** They voted against it. Because of the ideological division within their Party in relation to the question of uranium mining, where the 'Noes' have a slight ascendancy at the moment, they are going to shut down this area where we have interstate and overseas notoriety. It ill behoves the Leader of the Opposition and his Party, as the Premier has pointed out, to burst into print today and seek to delude the public by spreading this incessant air of gloom and doom which surrounds the Leader and the spokesmen for his Party. As the Premier has pointed out, there are encouraging signs and extremely encouraging developments in South Australia in the resources field. As we have outlined on previous occasions, it is lucky if billion dollar developments such as the Stony Point liquids scheme

and the Roxby Downs mining venture occur in a lifetime, or in a century, and for the Leader to turn his back on all these things and the other matters which have led to relative stability in South Australia while the rest of the nation is going backwards simply reinforces my view that he should indeed open his eyes and shut his mouth.

### LIBERAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** Can the Premier explain his and his Cabinet colleagues' inconsistency on the morality involved in the sale of the Liberal Party headquarters on North Terrace where a scheme was used to avoid paying \$7 000 in stamp duty? I give an advance undertaking that anything I will be saying in explanation will not cut across the necessary *sub judice* rule relating to a writ apparently issued yesterday by the Attorney-General against an honourable colleague in another place.

It has been established as fact that 27 separate transactions were involved in the sale of the Liberal Party headquarters on North Terrace in order to avoid the payment of stamp duty. Yesterday the Premier, in reply to a question from me, said that the multiple transfer system was in general use at that time, was a common practice and totally legal. He said that there was no sham, fraud or illegality involved in 1975, before the Dunstan Government closed the loophole later that year. When a Bill was introduced designed to close this loophole, which was clearly being used to undermine the purposes of the Stamp Duties Act, the Premier (then Leader of the Opposition) said:

When there is a deliberate attempt to hide a major purchase and to pay duties at a lower rate, the loophole that exists in present legislation should be closed.

In the same debate, the Deputy Premier (then Deputy Leader of the Opposition) said:

From inquiries I have made the Bill does not seem unreasonable. The loophole the Bill seeks to close is in connection with the transfer of property or monetary consideration by way of gift. Apparently, it has been possible to break the gift up into several separate transactions, thus avoiding duty. This loophole should be closed.

In 1976 Mr Murray Hill, now Minister of Local Government and then an Opposition member in the Legislative Council, said in extremely plain terms:

I have no truck with people who have been splitting up contracts, separating transfers, and putting documents through so as to avoid stamp duties, although as far as I know they have been acting within the law.

Apparently Mr Hill had no truck with the Liberal Club, the Liberal Party, its directors and officers at the time.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Deputy Leader is now commenting and is not giving factual information as he was doing previously. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**The Hon. J. D. WRIGHT:** I have finished, Sir.

**The Hon. D. O. TONKIN:** The matters to which the honourable member referred will now be tested, as I understand, at law.

**Mr Bannon:** Shame!

**The Hon. D. O. TONKIN:** I think that that is the very best place for it to be tested. If the Leader of the Opposition believes that by exercising his right to take the matter to a court of law the Attorney-General is in some way abusing the law, then it would appear that the Leader's training has been of no value to him at all.

**The Hon. R. G. Payne:** What is Parliament for?

**The Hon. D. O. TONKIN:** The situation has been made quite clear, namely, that the transaction that has been complained of took place before legislation was changed in this House. As to the motives that have been impugned to the

Attorney-General, quite wrongly, I repeat that the very best place to test those allegations is in a court of law.

**The Hon. PETER DUNCAN:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker. Surely the question of motives of the Attorney are quite clearly within the *sub judice* of law.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I indicated to the House yesterday that when a civil case applies, as opposed to a criminal case, the situation is somewhat different. If members want to check that aspect of *sub judice* law they may look at page 427 of the current edition of Erskine May. I indicated to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition yesterday that I would not rule that he was going to transgress against *sub judice*, but I just indicated that it was an area wherein the *sub judice* aspect may have to be considered. I uphold the same point of view as that which I expressed yesterday, that the honourable the Premier has used terminology which, had it been relating to a criminal case, I would have ruled the matter as *sub judice*. On this occasion I am not in a position to so rule.

### COLD CHISEL CONCERT

**Mr BECKER:** Will the Minister of Environment and Planning advise the House of what action he has taken following complaints from residents in my electorate and the western suburbs concerning noise emitted from the *Cold Chisel* concerts which were held last Saturday and Sunday evenings?

I spoke with the Minister on Sunday morning following receipt of complaints of residents concerning the performance at those concerts. I then wrote to the Minister on Monday morning enclosing a letter which I had received from a constituent on that same morning. In my letter to the Minister I put forward some suggestions, and in part, my letter stated:

The situation has been reached whereby I believe the following action should be taken: a report on noise levels and performance behaviour by *Cold Chisel* on Saturday and Sunday evenings be studied; an advisory committee representing your department [the Minister's department] officers from the environment department, Adelaide City Council, promoters, citizens, Memorial Drive Tennis Club Inc., to establish sound guide lines for future concerts; proper policing of complaints with mobile teams available to visit complainants, to record levels and take remedial action—such costs to be borne by promoters; strong penalties for breach of conditions of approval granted under the Places of Public Entertainment Act; concerts to close at 11 p.m. on Saturdays and at 10.30 p.m. on Sundays, precisely.

I also suggested to the Minister that it be borne in mind that residents of the western suburbs—

... are subject to enough noise from the Adelaide Airport which has a curfew from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. This is jealously guarded. Shift workers, aged and infirmed, are easily upset by unusual noise, particularly if the sound emanates from outside their environment. Shift workers are most conscious of the impact little sleep has on their productivity, more so today under the present economic/employment conditions. I also appreciate the value to Memorial Drive Tennis Club the opportunity to lease their premises for such concerts at about \$4 000 per concert. Above all, I do not want to prevent our young people the opportunity to attend these rock concerts, but surely some compromise can be reached to prevent a repetition of noise complaints.

I also wrote to the Chief Secretary, as Minister in charge of police, because the police received numerous complaints on Saturday evening and had to visit residents to explain the situation to them. In the *Advertiser* on Monday, 13 September on page 23 the concert was reported by Kathy Nash under the heading 'Chisel in top gear'. In part the article said:

Cold Chisel's performance was also marred by a brawl at the front of the stage which forced Barnes to stop mid-song, and later, to have the culprits thrown out.

The incident temporarily affected Barnes's performance and the mood of the crowd, but he soon recovered and took the crowd with him.

Barnes's stage antics became more defiant as the level in his vodka bottle, always close at hand, lowered.

They culminated in a swift climb to the top of the scaffolding at the side of the stage, to dangle precariously from a steel pole to deliver the band's final number, a version of the Beatles' *Twist and Shout*.

**The Hon. D. C. WOTTON:** The member for Hanson, as he said, delivered a letter to me and I can now report to the House, following the question that was asked in this place yesterday, that I have received a report from the noise abatement branch of my particular department. I did indicate yesterday that meetings would take place to discuss the problem arising as a result of that particular concert on Saturday night. Discussions have now taken place between the Adelaide City Council and the Noise Abatement Branch and a similar meeting is scheduled for tomorrow between my department and the police. Pursuant to section 10 of the Noise Control Act, notices have been issued to Memorial Drive Tennis Club and the Adelaide Cricket Association. They were issued yesterday and the notices make provision for myself as Minister to look at whether an exemption can be granted in the future for further concerts. With the issuing of these notices it will now be necessary for conditions to be laid down before further concerts can be considered. It is felt that the parties involved in the discussions that will take place will be able to establish realistic and appropriate conditions for future concerts. I look forward to receiving a recommendation, following those discussions, so that I can consider the matter of an exemption, provided that the conditions agreed to are considered proper.

Regarding the establishment of a special committee, as referred to by the member for Hanson, a committee on noise from places of public entertainment was set up some time ago as a result of studies carried out between the officers of the Local Government Department, the Police Department and my own department. I believe that committee to be the appropriate advisory committee when and if advice on preparation of conditions that I have referred to is necessary. I suggest that this committee could also review conditions if I felt extra conditions were needed. For those reasons it is not felt necessary to establish an advisory committee as suggested by the member for Hanson.

I strongly support the member for Hanson in his belief that strong penalties should be imposed if the conditions are breached and I assure the honourable member that this will certainly be addressed. In considering suitable control conditions on concerts at Memorial Drive, consideration will also be given to concert closing times and other relevant factors such as the duration of rehearsal and concert performances, the number of concerts per year and the spacing thereof.

The closing times to which the member for Hanson referred in his letter of 11 o'clock on a Saturday and 10.30 on a Sunday night appear to be quite reasonable, and I would point out to the House that the times to which I have just referred have been imposed on previous concerts. I also understand that, apparently, those times were adhered to at the concert on Saturday night. I can give an assurance that the points that the member for Hanson and other members have raised in this House will be looked at very carefully, and the report that I have now received will provide very good background information for the discussions to which I have referred and which will take place between now and the end of this week.

#### PENFOLDS VINEYARDS

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD:** Has the Minister of Environment and Planning asked advice of the Heritage Committee concerning the possible preservation of the Penfolds

Magill vineyard and, if so, what advice was tendered; has the committee of its own volition tendered advice to the Minister, and, if so, what was that advice? In either case, what action, if any, has the Minister taken, and why has he taken that action?

**The Hon. D. C. WOTTON:** I have sought advice from the Heritage Committee and also from the heritage branch of the department, and I am currently considering the advice that has been provided. I intend to take action in the very near future in regard to the advice that has been handed to me.

#### RESOURCE FLIGHTS

**Mr ASHENDEN:** Will the Minister of Mines and Energy inform the House what response there has been to the resource flights that he announced recently?

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** The response has been very gratifying indeed. There is a strong indication that the public is interested in taking a day's flight to Stony Point, Roxby Downs, or Moomba, and over-flying one or two other mining developments in that part of the State, such as Mount Gunson, to the extent that the three flights that were initially planned by Airlines of South Australia are overbooked and the company is now scheduling a fourth flight for later in October.

I believe that these flights will serve a very useful purpose for the public, because people will be able to see when they get to Roxby Downs that, indeed, it is not a mirage, as it was described by the blinkered Leader of the Opposition, but that it is a fact of life. Indeed, 200 people are employed on site at Roxby Downs, and, all up, about 1 000 people will be supported in employment as a result of the Roxby Downs development and the fact that the indenture that passed through this Parliament secured those jobs, whereas, otherwise, they would have been lost.

These flights will be very useful in reinforcing some of the developments in the resource area, which are billion dollar developments, that are taking place in South Australia. The flights will also help to negate the false propaganda that was noised abroad today by the Labor Party in its full page advertisement. The resource flights will be very valuable on that score, and in reinforcing the views that have been put by other business leaders around the nation, which, unfortunately, have escaped the attention of the Leader of the Opposition, his Deputy, and other members of his Party who, as has been pointed out by the Premier, are intent on knocking this State and in spreading gloom and doom as widely and as rapidly as they can. Let me exhort the Leader and his Deputy to not only take one of these flights but also encourage the members of their Party to save up and take one of these flights, because I am quite sure that it will be an eye-opener for them.

Let me remind them, in relation to some of the indications on these flights of what is happening in South Australia, of what people have been saying. Mr French, Chairman of the Australian operations of Reed Stenhouse and of the United States companies (I do not think he is based in Australia but he came to South Australia and saw the national and State scene) was referred to in a report in the *Advertiser* of 2 September 1982. This obviously escaped the attention of the Leader and his Deputy, who clearly do not read the business pages, probably because they do not understand them. Nonetheless, I exhort them to read the business pages. If they did, they would have read the following:

'We have put a lot of money and effort into upgrading the personnel and facilities of Reed Stenhouse (South Australia) in recent years. We wanted to be ready for opportunities like those that are now occurring,' Mr French said. 'As late as a couple of years ago, I felt less than optimistic for South Australia.'

*Mr Bannon interjecting:*

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** Obviously, this escaped the Leader's attention. I crave his attention, as it will be useful for him to absorb the points made by these leaders. The report continues:

However, South Australia has put its house in order cost wise and learnt to live with the difficulties of interstate transportation. It is now better placed to move up economically having coped with its own recessionary pattern years ago. Suddenly, it has got some energy products for the future in the Cooper Basin and Roxby Downs . . . You can feel that the change is coming in South Australia, and I just cannot believe the shift . . . if you can hold on to the present advantages the benefits will go straight to 'the bottom line' in terms of benefits.

Mr Ian Ferres, the Investment Manager for National Mutual, is reported in the *News* on 12 August as saying (referring to South Australia):

There seems to be no big trough here like in the Eastern States. The picture looks like one of constant and steady growth.

That report obviously escaped the Leader's attention as indeed must have an article which appeared recently in the *Business Review Weekly*.

*Mr Ashenden interjecting:*

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** If the Leader is in contact with these people he obviously has not only his eyes but also his ears closed. The people concerned are on public record as making these statements, and they do not refer to the impending election of a Labor Government: they refer specifically to the achievements of a Liberal Government, with tight budgetary control and the benefits that have flowed from that.

*Mr Bannon interjecting:*

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** I am glad that the Leader is interested in what I am saying. It is evoking an interested response. I refer him to the *Business Review Weekly* of June 1982, which does not presage the election of a Labor Government: it talks of the achievements of the Liberal Government in the clear expectation that, with the continuing activity of a Liberal Government, those benefits will be renewed.

*Mr Bannon interjecting:*

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** I will send the Leader a copy of the article for his attention. I crave his silence while I draw his attention to it. It is obvious, from the nature of his interjections, that it has alluded him. The *South Australian Business Review Weekly* in June this year stated:

South Australia—At last it looks better. South Australia has streamlined industry and trimmed Government and now hopes for the rewards.

It certainly does not anticipate the election of a Labor Government. Referring to Mr Tonkin, it states:

His Government has made some progress in South Australia: employment growth has returned; private investment levels are better; important construction industry activity looks set to improve; and a drive is under way to attract new industry. All this means more cash in South Australian pockets.

Well may a member opposite yawn in an attempt to distract attention from what he does not want to hear. This article entirely negates what appears in today's press under the Labor Party's name. The *Business Review Weekly*, which I think is rather more credible than the Labor Party's whispering campaign, continues:

There is little a State Government can do against the might of national economic and monetary policy. But one thing the Tonkin Government has tried to do since gaining office is to create a business environment which will attract new industries.

That does not mention the election of a Labor Government—far from it! The article continues:

Although most State charges to industry have risen, the Government has pruned back the public sector, actually reducing Public Service jobs by more than 4 per cent through early retirement and non-replacement.

That is in clear contra-distinction to the Labor Party's policy, which would place added burdens and taxes on the public. The article continues:

As a result of Tonkin's efficiency drive in the bureaucracy (he is also Treasurer), charges to business have not kept pace with increases being suffered by business in Victoria and New South Wales. Given that South Australian labour and land costs are cheaper than those of the two big manufacturing States, the relative easing of Government costs has accentuated the cost advantages the State offers to manufacturers.

There is nothing there about this happening with the advent of a Labor Government, whose policies would mitigate directly against that happening. The article continues:

Another attraction the Government has highlighted is South Australia's good industrial relations record. Although the State employs 9 per cent of the national work force, it accounts for only 2 per cent of the man hours lost due to industrial disputes. Lately, South Australia has gained further appeal to manufacturers because of the power system failures and big electricity price increases in New South Wales and Victoria.

Let the Leader take note of this, because he is seeking to misrepresent the facts and to acknowledge valid interstate comparisons relating to electricity tariffs:

South Australia is fortunate that its electricity charges have not increased nearly so much—there is surplus capacity in the State grid, and two new coal-fired, 250-megawatt power units are scheduled to start in 1984 and 1985.

**Mr Bannon:** What happened to the gas price?

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** The gas price increase is the direct result, as has been pointed out—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** A member opposite says that it does not matter: what an admission! The former Labor Government was so grossly incompetent and responsible for such appalling contracts that it allowed this situation to develop. This Government will grapple with that problem and do everything possible to minimise those gas price increases. We are battling to a degree that never occurred during the notable 10 years of the former Labor Government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is far too much advice coming from both sides of the House.

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY:** Because of the public misrepresentation that has occurred on this matter, I think members opposite should listen to this factual information published in the *Business Review Weekly*:

There is surplus capacity in the State grid, and two new coal-fired, 250-megawatt power units are scheduled to start in 1984 and 1985. Using these economic advantages and some incentive schemes as bait, the Tonkin Administration has been fishing for new industries.

I conclude with a final quote from the *Business Review Weekly*, as follows:

Despite the A.L.P.'s counter claims, there is solid evidence that the South Australian economy is on the mend.

In brief, I suggest that members opposite get on the resources flight and open their eyes.

## EDUCATION CHARGES

**Mrs SOUTHCOTT:** I am pleased to note that it is still Question Time: I thought it was lecture time again. Will the Minister of Education inform the House when a decision will be made on departmental policy concerning charges for material used in courses conducted by community colleges under the control of the Department of Technical and Further Education? In the past the matter of material charges has been left to individual colleges to determine. However, the department has indicated that in 1983 there will be an effort to be more consistent throughout the department in setting a regular material charge in each area of study. A decision

on policy by the departments involved in this area is needed urgently by colleges, which are presently trying to plan their programmes for 1983 within the stringencies of their budgets. A decision in this area will affect the provision of courses in 1983 and the employment of staff in colleges.

**The Hon. H. ALLISON:** This matter is still under review by the Department of Further Education. I cannot give any indication of the precise amount which will be charged for any sector of the Department of Further Education. I would remind the honourable member that this matter is not quite as simple as it may appear on the surface, because Federal factors are involved in the matter of charging for materials. For example, the Federal Government has a provision that funds will not be provided to a State Government if charges are levied for those courses where job opportunities are the end result.

In the case of stream 6 and enrichment courses, the issue has been left with individual colleges, because the amount of material available for any one enrichment course depends largely upon the initiatives of the lecturer involved.

Because of the discrepancies between one college and another, and because we have a large number of people who are subsidised when doing these stream 6 enrichment courses (namely, pensioners, who are specifically provided for by the Government by means of a subsidy), we are trying to equate those charges across the whole of the Department of Further Education. This matter is under review, and I expect that a firm decision will be made soon.

#### POTATO LICENCES

**Mr RUSSACK:** Will the Minister of Agriculture say what is the Government's policy on the issuing of potato merchants' licences? I understand that a potato merchant's licence was recently issued to an operator located at Mount Barker and that since that licence was issued at least one application has been deferred for consideration or refused. I am most concerned about this matter, because the latest applicant is a constituent from the very important market gardening area of Virginia in the District of Goyder, which I represent.

**The Hon. W. E. CHAPMAN:** The South Australian Potato Board is the State authority responsible for the merchandising of potatoes generally. That board is the authority to which applications for potato merchants' licences are directed and which considers, issues, defers or, for that matter, declines those applications. An enterprising group in the Mount Barker region has recently established itself as processors and merchants and has been licensed accordingly. Another enterprising group, in the Virginia Plains area in the honourable member's district, has lodged an application, which is currently under consideration by the Potato Board. That application was lodged by the Zerella family. Mr Robert Zerella has expressed concern about an alleged delay by the South Australian Potato Board in dealing with his application. This matter has been raised with me by the member for Goyder as member for the district, and I have had an investigation made.

I have done that for two good reasons, one being that the Zerella family are respected operators in the fruit and vegetable business, and I believe they deserve a fair go and indeed prompt recognition by all authorities when seeking to expand, with everyone else in this expanding State of ours.

The second reason for believing that the investigation was justified, and indeed in the interests of the industry in particular, is that the South Australian Potato Board's policy on merchant licensing should be known, and in order to clarify in my own mind what the directions and objectives

of the board are in this specific regard and indeed head off what might otherwise become a frustrating problem, both for the current applicant and/or others, I have sought a report from the board.

I want to place on record in this House the situation that prevails in relation to the potato industry and this subject in particular. My Chairman on the board, Mr George Muir, has forwarded me the following note:

After extensive discussions with the potato industry, wide-ranging proposals for market restructuring have been drawn up by the South Australian Potato Board. These were submitted to the potato industry, and the board on 14 September 1982 received written notification of support to implementation of those proposals. Among other things the proposals involve the drawing up of new criteria for the granting of wholesale merchants' licences as well as potato washing and packaging licences. As licences expire annually on 31 December, all applications for the 1983 calendar year will be considered against that new and identified criteria. Consequently, no new licence will be granted by the board during this remaining part of 1982. It is anticipated that the new criteria which are in the process of being determined will remove what is understood by the board to be some real anomalies and create more and fairer competition within the industry.

I am not in a position to direct what shall or shall not happen in the administrative sense at board level but I repeat that it was with great interest that I took up this subject on behalf of my colleague's constituent for the reasons I have outlined.

Even though the South Australian Potato Board and 40 other boards connected with my portfolio are not directly involved in the departmental sense, I accept the responsibility that applies and will continue to insist that boards, even in their remote and somewhat autonomous sense, shall carry out the policy of Government and shall carry out the administrative role of a good management nature and indeed provide the services as if they were a division of a Government department. I am not saying that with any reflection on the performance, but to indicate that it is as important for us to insist upon similar top-level service by authorities associated with the Government as indeed it is to insist on it from our respective departments.

*At 3.4 p.m., the bells having been rung:*

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

#### PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury):** I move:

That this House commends the pre-school education work of the Kindergarten Union, Education Department Child Parent Centres and other pre-school service providers in this State and calls on the Minister of Education not to proceed with any proposal to phase out Education Department involvement in child parent centres.

In moving this motion I am conscious that there is in hand at this stage an inter-agency inquiry into pre-school education in South Australia. That inter-agency inquiry is particularly targeting in on the child parent centre system which provides pre-school facilities within the Education Department. The implication has been that the child parent centres would be divorced from the Education Department and handed over to another pre-school service provider.

Members will know that there has been some considerable concern about this matter throughout the education community and, indeed, I have on other occasions spoken in this House about that and asked questions about the same matter. Therefore, I believe that it is important that we put on record where all members in this House stand with regard to pre-school education. I believe that at this time we have a sound pre-school education network made up of

a diversity of service providers, namely, the Kindergarten Union facilities, the child parent centre facilities of the Education Department and those pre-schools run by such other bodies as the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church and the small number of independent kindergartens that exist throughout the State. I think they have given good service to the children, parents and the community at large in recent times, and I commend all those providers for the work they have done.

The point I am making on this occasion is this: when we have had such a good range of services provided by those different avenues of pre-school education, why is it necessary summarily to take away one group from the Education Department and hand it over to another provider? I think that by having this debate now, we can discuss the relative merits of pre-school education in its various forms in a serious and sober-minded way, not by means of a witch hunt against any particular one, but rather to raise the merits of each.

It is not my intention to go through in great detail the very sound work of the Kindergarten Union, because that is not the agency under threat; those are not the pre-schools under threat, and therefore it would be somewhat redundant at this time to concentrate my speech in that direction, but the relative absence of comment about Kindergarten Union facilities should not be interpreted by members in any way to be a criticism of the work they do because it is not meant that way. That would not be a correct reflection of my personal views. Indeed, my wife is a member of the local Kindergarten Union committee in my own area and our eldest daughter is an early entrant at that kindergarten, so I am well aware of the good work done and support that good work in whatever way I can.

My effort today will be concentrated on child parent centres. I have visited a large number of child parent centres in this State, and indeed I have had the help of others also concerned about this matter who have been assisting me in my work in this regard, and I would particularly like to pay a tribute to a person who has helped me, Wendy Chapman, who has visited a number of pre-school service providers in this State on my behalf when I have been unable to visit them myself. Between us, we have visited a large number of centres and she is very worth while and constructive in her approach to this subject.

Child parent centres have become well known not only in Australia at large but also in the international education community for their unique contribution to pre-school education. One can look at a number of areas in examining this, and one of the principal areas that have been mentioned is the relationship of the pre-school to the primary school, the relationship of the pre-school to parents and the relationship of pre-school education to life in general. Perhaps it would be appropriate if I started my comments with just an initial look at the merits of pre-school education *per se* regardless of who is the provider, because it is not so many years ago that pre-school education was not regarded as a fundamental part of a child's education. If one reads the history of the Kindergarten Union in the decades gone by, one will see that the early members of that union had quite a battle on their hands to convince members of the community at large that indeed there should be such a thing as a kindergarten.

They were in the radical forefront of the education movement at the time. Of course, finally people came to appreciate the wisdom of what they were saying and now more and more people are appreciating that pre-school education is indeed not just a baby-sitting exercise, not just a child-minding exercise, but indeed something that positively benefits the future life and well-being of children of this State.

In the last 15 years there has been a lot of new knowledge gained in the sphere of child development, an area in which, previously, both knowledge and interest was somewhat scant. It has been discovered that the early years of a child's development coincide with a period of maximum growth in intelligence. It is at this stage that deficiencies in the environment have effects which are increasingly difficult to overcome as the child grows older. Evidence based on studies suggests that a great deal of later learning is built in a hierarchical fashion on early experiences and perceptions, so that the absence of certain stimuli in the early environment of the child may make the later mastery of more sophisticated types of learning difficult and perhaps impossible.

That finding appears in the report of the committee of inquiry into education in South Australia, known as the Karmel Report, which was produced in 1970. From that report it is reasonable to assume that a child needs trained guidance and direct experience such as that which cannot be solely gained at home in many cases from the parents. A pre-school can and should provide what is needed for the early identification of handicaps and the treatment of them, and a child's being in the care of a pre-school means that corrective measures are more likely to be successful.

I have said on many occasions that the education of children not only during early years but also during later years should be a co-operative exercise between the home and the school, each having a significant role to play, and each not trying to force the other out. When considering the relative change in need for pre-schools now compared with decades gone by when the need may not have appeared so transparently obvious, one realises that the complexities of modern life and the consequent need to learn social necessities early can also be compensated for within pre-schools, again, only to a certain extent. Social disadvantages can be reduced by pre-schools ensuring that all children enter compulsory education on a more equal basis. In our modern complex society it is equally important in the course of child education to support parents and, indeed, the whole family in order to reinforce a child's learning process as well as expand the family's development at large.

The concept of permanent education or lifelong education, which, of course, is a very popular concept in these days necessarily includes the recognition of the educational needs of the youngest members of the community as well as the oldest. Education does not begin when a child is five years of age and begins school; it begins at birth and goes on throughout life. Therefore, guidance needs to be given first in the home and then when a child is ready to move out of home into a form of education institution which is a supplement to home education.

Of course, we know from studies undertaken that it has been shown that a child is receptive to education outside the family from other sources other than parents and family at the average age of four years or even three and a half years, and this is where the pre-school element emerges. It should not be a suggestion that we require children to undertake institutionalised education earlier than about three and half years, because that would be pre-empting the vital contribution that can be made in the home. In any event, the studies point out that there is perhaps limited educational merit from the institutional approach that can take place at that time.

Pre-school education, of course, like any other level of education will not cure all the social ills associated with unequal opportunity, social disadvantage or poverty but it will help reduce their effects not only by enhancing the general educational orientation of children but also by supporting families and, in some way, by assisting a child's personal and social development. As a preventative measure, early education is also of benefit, particularly by reducing



significantly the numbers of children who might later need remedial or special educational intervention. In economic and social terms, the savings are considerable and more than cover the costs involved in providing care and education in those early years. I make that point because, of course, it has been said how much has been spent on pre-school education in South Australia, and of course, I have commended Governments for some years now because South Australia has been well and truly in the lead in its spending on pre-school education. But the point I am making is that other States stand to be criticised for our lead in this matter, because we are recognising by such expenditure the worth of pre-school education and how important it can be, and that, indeed, we can be saving ourselves many later costs both educationally and socially.

There are a number of ways in which pre-school education can be provided. I repeat: I will be concentrating on the child parent centres and the role that they play. First, I refer to the relationship of pre-schools with primary schools. Child parent centres, naturally, have a very close relationship with primary schools because, in all but about two cases, child parent centres exist on the same campus as primary schools, and indeed they are integral to the administration and structure of those schools. There are formal liaisons between child parent centres and primary schools as well as informal. From the visits I have made to the various schools and from information I have received from other schools I can say that the most common points of liaison include such things as the common use of the library, play equipment, resource centre, science facilities, and musical equipment, the toy library and audio-visual materials. Also, there are such things as joint assemblies, joint staff meetings, the sharing of sports days, and also there is the structural formal liaison involved with administration. Of course, the liaison expands the opportunities for class interchange between pre-school students and primary school students, specialist teacher exchanges, and of course there is the opportunity for child parent centre staff to be involved in the running of the primary school and to liaise with matters concerning curriculum development as well.

These benefits are passed on to the pre-school children, not only in that they are able to gain from the use of the extra physical facilities, but that their transition from pre-school to primary school is less traumatic. Indeed, we know from past experience that the transition of a child into formal education, particularly of the primary school type, is often a very traumatic experience. We know from past experiences, maybe even from our personal experience, the rather torrid first day at school when a young child may be reduced to tears and when parents may be very anxious about how their child will fare on the first day in the big school.

The movement of a child from pre-school to compulsory education can be a very traumatic time for the child and the parents. A complete change of physical environment, teachers and other students can create emotional stability problems in a five year old child. The trauma can be witnessed by any observer of some children's first day at school—the tears, tantrums and clinging to mothers. Because the child parent centres are located on school grounds, the pre-schoolers are treated, and see themselves, as part of the school. On beginning compulsory education emotional problems are thus drastically reduced for these children and, more usually, totally eliminated. The children are familiar with the physical surroundings, with the teachers and the principal and with the other children. They feel at home. The movement is from one room to another rather than from one environment to another.

All the child parent centres visited had some form of transitional visiting programme for those children about to

enter the primary school. The usual way that this was done was for the children to make visits to the classroom where they would be going, to meet their new teacher and class mates and to take part in classroom activities for a set length of time. These visits usually took place for one or two hours once a week for four to six weeks before the change of class was officially to occur.

In this way the child is familiarised with the class arrangements and knows what to expect. In one instance when I visited, I think it was the Modbury South child parent centre, the child parent group was in the same room as the junior primary class with only lockers to divide the two. So there the transition was not even from one room to another; it was merely from one part of the room to another at the end of the child parent centre phase of those children's education. The point can be made as to why is there not the trauma on the entry of the first day of the child parent centre form of education? Indeed, the reason for that (as I will come to later) is the very close contact that parents maintain with child parent centres whilst their children are there. Of course, there are children quite secure and comfortable in the transition stage of their pre-school education to their primary school education.

Many children are more able to cope without having to have that secure environment throughout. It is for that reason that the diversity in pre-school education is such a good thing. There are some who would take the challenge of the move from a separate facility into a primary school very well, and indeed do make it very well. Nevertheless, I think we should do all we can to encourage closer liaison between pre-school and primary school, not try to lessen it. It is in that context that the Labor Party not only does not believe in phasing out the child parent centres and the Education Department's involvement in them, but also we should be providing the opportunities for kindergartens to become closer to their local primary school. We will be offering incentives to individual kindergartens by means of cheap land rent and cheap building rent for those who wish to site themselves on the school site. A great many kindergartens are already on primary school sites but we would like to offer the opportunity to others to do the same.

A moment ago I mentioned the relationship of child parent centres with the parent. That is particularly important and has been identified on a number of occasions. Indeed, Australian pre-schools at large, not just child parent centres but also Kindergarten Union facilities, are becoming increasingly more family oriented, that is, responding to society's needs and pressures and the like. There is a new focus in early childhood education rapidly emerging, namely, a focus on the family situation, and this has to some extent laid the foundation through the innovative development of child parent centres.

These centres of family focus enable parents and teachers to provide for the development and learning of young children based on the understanding of each particular child as parents and teachers share their knowledge of the children. This enables the child educators, both at home and at pre-school, to provide for the continuity of learning development and relationship at home and school, together enhancing the child's learning. I commend to the House an article written by Ruth Rogers in 1979 that appeared in the Education Department publication *Pivot* under the title 'Early Childhood Directions'. I also commend to the House the article she wrote about child parent centres from which I quoted in March of this year.

When South Australian child parent centres began in 1974 the emphasis was on the self-esteem in parents as well as in children, hence the title 'child parent centres'. The prime factor behind this concept was the recognition of parents as the first and foremost educators of the child. This philosophy

has continued to gain wide acceptance and recognition as time goes on, and herein lies the essence of the child centre concept, the focus on both the child and the parent. The child parent centre is aimed to involve parents in the planning of the curriculum and programme of the centre, so that experiences are relevant and challenging to each child. This brings parent involvement into the process of education rather than simply leaving it as a service relationship, rather than merely relying on the parents being the chocolate cake bakers for the fete once a year.

The child parent centres with whom I have had contact all keep their parents closely informed about the programme in the centre and parents were indeed invited to contribute comments and ideas about that programme. Indeed, in several centres, and I just mention Trinity Gardens and Alberton, parents were actively involved in planning a programme from the initial stage. They were able to have as much input as the trained staff in the centres. There was continuity in that because many of these parents, as their children moved to the primary school, having become so actively involved at the child parent stage then felt more comfortable about becoming involved at the primary school level. Parent input into the programme acknowledges the educator role of the parents.

By involving parents in this professional area, the child centre helps not only the child but also the parent self-esteem. Parents confidence building is part of the role of child parent centres that is focused on the family. Parent confidence is seen as facilitating child parent roles, and the self esteem of parents is the basis of improving the relationship, of communications between parents and children, for example. A child would be more likely to tell his or her parents about his or her day at pre-school if he or she is aware that Mum or Dad is interested or actively involved. The teachers through parent involvement support the parents in their function as the child's educator.

The Kindergarten Union facilities have varying degrees of approach, various types of approach, to involve parents in the day-to-day affairs of their children, I would say in every instance they actively encourage the more general participation of parents by means of the parent committees of the Kindergarten Union facilities and the like. Some of them do encourage it in the day-to-day education of the children, but of course they recognise, by means of their different approach, that there are many parents who are not able (for one reason or another) to be actively involved in their child's pre-schooling. Therefore, they provide educational facilities for parents such as this. Of course, I have to recognise that that is indeed an important reality, an important factor of life for many parents. Indeed in my own family situation it will not be possible for my wife and I, as parents, to be actively involved in the day-to-day pre-school education of our children because the demographics of it are such that it will just not be possible. That is a fact of life with others, many others, as well. The Kindergarten Union recognises that, but where parents want to be involved many of the Kindergarten Union schools are starting to do that, and they should be commended for that.

As I said, the name 'child parent centre' actively suggests the essence of a concept encouraging the parents into the centre and this can go far in overcoming often negative feelings about school and education in general, and parents can see and appreciate what is going on in the pre-school and can pass these feelings on to their children. Without parental support and encouragement it may be difficult for a child to gain anything positive from pre-school education. I make that comment, with respect, not to all children but many children.

Naturally, the extent of parent participation necessarily varies with the area in which the child parent school is

located. However, low participation rates from the evidence available to me usually indicated an area where a high percentage of families in which both parents are working, in many cases out of economic necessity. All of the child parent centres I came into contact with incorporated the education of the parents in their aims and philosophies. For example, the Alberton child parent centre said, 'We believe that parents are the first and most important educators of young children and are therefore entitled to be encouraged to join in the work of the centre. Every child is important and every family has our support.'

This also extended, in many child parent centres, to the introduction of home visits by staff of the child parent centre to the homes of parents of present students and prospective students. That had two roles. First, it opened up lines of communication between the home and the education facility, and, secondly, it provided reassurance to the parents as to their role as educators.

Regarding the liaison with the primary school, I spent some time referring to that matter some moments ago in regard to the movement of the child from the child parent centre into the primary school, but it is also interesting to note the way in which the formal structure, as I briefly commented, relates between the two. School principals of junior primary schools or primary schools have responsibility for the child parent centres on their campuses and, therefore, they can be directly involved and interested in what is going on. This is part of a different form of structure from the facilities of the Kindergarten Union (and that is not meant to be a criticism of those other facilities), but it does provide the opportunity, where it takes place, for the curriculum to be integrated from the pre-school into the primary school.

I have seen actual examples of programmes that spanned children right from the age of four years to the age of eight years in reading, arithmetic and other areas of the school curriculum, where the teachers of the two facilities sat down and examined how work done at the child parent centre could fit in and provide a useful base for the work that is done later at the primary school. Indeed, I suppose the attitude about the relationship between child parent centres and the local primary school was best summed up by the comment of one centre, as follows:

... there is no liaison as such with the primary school since the child parent centre is an integral part of the school and, therefore, is the school.

Therefore, one could not talk about liaison within oneself as such. Those who are eager to phase out Education Department involvement in child parent centres refer to the training of staff at child parent centres. The criticism has been made that the teachers at the child parent centres, on the whole, are not as well trained as are Kindergarten Union staff. Again, from my own observations and from information that has been made available to me, I believe that approximately half of the staff had diplomas of teaching in junior primary education, and the other half had diplomas of teaching in early childhood education. Some had a diploma of teaching in primary education as well. Again, several staff had further qualifications. In one child parent centre, one teacher had a diploma of teaching in junior primary education, plus a diploma in early childhood education, plus another set of qualifications in the area of special education.

Because child parent centres have been established since only 1974, many of the earliest teachers might have been less well trained in early childhood education, as they were seconded from junior or upper primary schools and were trained in those areas. However, the Education Department held special bridging courses for these teachers, and in recent years, however, new teachers coming into the centres were usually trained specifically for early childhood education. Consequently, the expertise of staff in the child parent centres

has increased and could be regarded as standing on an equal footing now with those in the Kindergarten Union centres. That matter is not really a point of debate any more.

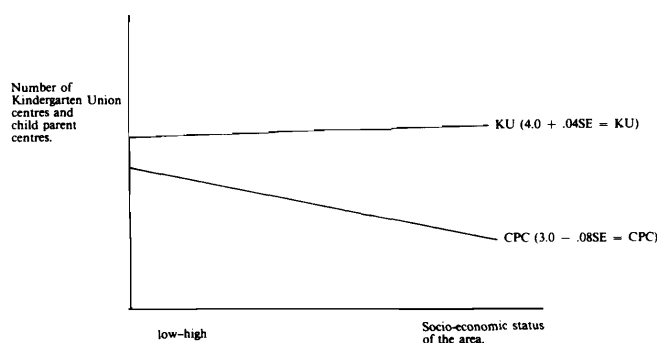
One of the interesting features to come out of the studies that were done in this matter and the information that was made available to me was in regard to the siting of child parent centres and Kindergarten Union facilities. In considering the history of child parent centres, one must recognise that they were established in years gone by, in 1974 and beyond, in areas that had no pre-schools at all and that, indeed, was why the Education Department felt the need to provide them. It recognised that there were glaring gaps in the map of pre-school education in South Australia, with many children missing out. Therefore, child parent centres were established at these sites.

The arguments about competition between child parent centres and Kindergarten Union centres, for the most part, never really applied, and were never a fact of life, because the centres were in different areas. The Kindergarten Union, for one reason or another, with the resource limitations that it has to face, had been unable to provide full pre-school service provision across the State. What sorts of areas were under-provided for in years gone by? I have had a study undertaken of the siting of the Kindergarten Union facilities and child parent facilities (or a sample in each case) on a determination of an assumed socio-economic status of the area. The means of arriving at the socio-economic status of the area was by measuring the portion of employed people in a particular area in the categories of administrative, executive, managerial, professional, technical and related workers. I appreciate that one can make criticisms of that analysis, but at least it would give us a guide.

As a result of taking a sample of some 32 centres, which is by no means all of the centres in the State, but which I believe reflects the situation that applies throughout the State, I was able to have drawn up a graph that measures the relationship between the location of pre-school centres and socio-economic status. This graph is purely statistical and I seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

### PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES



**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** I might say that I believe it has been an advance in the *Hansard* system that we can incorporate graphs. I believe that many of the statistical tables that have been incorporated in years gone by would have been much more edifying had they been in graphic form.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Chair is always willing to assist wherever possible.

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** I might seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* a photograph of myself, but I suspect that you, Mr Deputy Speaker, would not want a photograph of me to appear in *Hansard*. The graph, as members will be able

to see, shows both the Kindergarten Union facilities and child parent centre facilities. Using multiple regression analysis, the following results come from the data that was used to build up the graph. First, there is a positive relationship between the socio-economic status of an area and the number of Kindergarten Union centres in that area.

On the other hand, the graph reveals that there is a negative relationship between the socio-economic status of an area and the number of child parent centres. Thus, areas of lower socio-economic status are associated with a greater provision of child parent centres. That is quite a significant point, because clearly child parent centres fill a particular niche in the need for pre-school education and not just a random function. It was a function that, on the whole, tended to apply in areas of lower socio-economic status or in areas of fast outer urban growth, where parents, even though perhaps not fitting into the definition of lower socio-economic status, were certainly under some economic pressure, because of the recent changes in their personal home circumstances.

I believe that that point is important when considering the question of fees, because there has been a debate about the fact that, on the one hand, child parent centres are relatively fee free and, on the other hand, the Kindergarten Union facilities are forced to charge fees, because the finances that are made available to them from other sources are not adequate to meet all of their costs. Two comments can be made in retort to that. First, why is it that the Federal Government's policy of bringing free pre-school education to the children of this country is nowhere nearer the light of day now than it was in 1980 when the proposal was first intimidated by the Federal Government; secondly, there is the comment that we should be doing what we can to reduce the need for fee charging by the Kindergarten Union rather than by imposing fee charging on other facilities.

I can say quite clearly that, from my visits to many of the child parent centres, the response I obtained from parents was simply that if fees were charged by the child parent centres, for them personally it would mean that they would have to withdraw their children. They would have no other option so, effectively, if enough parents did that, the child parent centres would become non-viable. People may say that that is a dramatic comment for those parents to have made but, of course, fees in many kindergartens per force have to be quite expensive. In some cases they go up to \$30 per term. That may not sound much to many people; but it is certainly a lot of money to many families who are having many financial problems trying to cope.

**The Hon. M. M. Wilson:** How does that compare with other States?

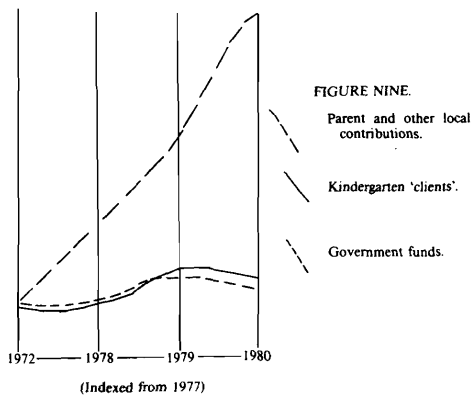
**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** It is cheaper than other States—that point has to be made. The point I made earlier about comparison with other States is that the other States deserve considerable criticism for their attitude to pre-school education. However, some people would still be disadvantaged by the installation of such fees at the pre-school level right throughout the sector. In fact, pre-school education costs more than the costs associated with primary or secondary school education. The voluntary fees, as they are known, paid by parents at primary and secondary schools are, indeed, less than they would pay for their children at pre-school. It is interesting to note that the actual costs faced by Kindergarten Union facilities still require significant amounts of funds to come from fund raising.

I am presently in the process of assisting again with the local kindergarten in a fete which it is organising to try to meet that gap in its funding. I have another graph which shows how operating costs in kindergartens have been met over recent years, matching the contributions from Government, fund raising and amenities fees. The table is purely

statistical, and I seek leave to have it incorporated in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

How are operating cost increases in kindergartens being met? Contribution from Government, fund raising and amenities fees? 1977-80



Source: Kindergarten Union of South Australia—Annual Report 1980.

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** Members will see from that table that there has been a dramatic increase in pressure on Kindergarten Union facilities to raise money from sources other than that which they receive from Government funds and from their own clients. I believe that will help us understand the fervour with which they approached the proposal towards the end of last year to make that supposedly small cut in allocation to Kindergarten Union facilities by means of budget operating grant allowances.

We are, by means of this feasibility study, considering why we should have separate providers of pre-school education and why we should have, on the one hand, Education Department facilities and, on the other hand, Kindergarten Union facilities. The suggestion has been put that it is inefficient and quite disparate. As I have said, that is a threatening comment when interpreted by such places as the Catholic and Lutheran pre-school centres, because they would surely see themselves as being under threat from such a proposition and may be subsumed into some united one-service provider for pre-schools.

The other point is in regard to choice and diversity in education. At the time when South Australia is the centre for the choice and diversity project under the Schools Commission, when it is co-ordinating the work done in this field throughout the country, we have a suggestion that the child parent centres move back into another forum of pre-school service provision. That runs contrary to that philosophy. I pointed out this afternoon that there is a difference in approach in many cases to pre-school education in the child parent centres compared with many Kindergarten Union facilities. It offers to parents a wider range of choice of which they can take advantage when choosing what is best for their child. Some children or parents will want the more secure comforting environment which has a closer on-going relationship with the parents in the facility offered by child parent centres. Other parents will prefer and, indeed, for other children it will be better, that they have that earlier cut-off from direct day-to-day involvement in the education of the parent.

Whatever the case may be, that is something we should leave to parents on which to make decisions, and not make those decisions for them. If we do phase out child parent centres, we will be doing significant damage to the range of diversity of educational choices available at the pre-school level. It is in that context that I have indicated that a Labor Government would not phase out child parent centres; we would not hand them over to any other service provider.

On the other hand, of course, we appreciate that there are important administrative points to be taken into account. We do not want the needless duplication of facilities, and therefore we would not propose the establishment of child parent centres in areas where there are already Kindergarten Union facilities.

Instead, we would seek to encourage the movement of kindergartens to primary school sites. We would seek to encourage, by means of incentive, that movement, so that if Kindergarten Union committees wish to they would find it easy to make that transition. There would be no competition by the establishment of new child parent centres where presently there are kindergartens because that would be economically unsound and would not be a good use of the limited resources we have available. We acknowledge that, even though we are the best in Australia in pre-school education, we still have some goals to meet.

The question of staffing ratios is still a goal at which we have not yet arrived. The 10 to 1 ratio suggested as being essential in pre-school education is something we have not yet achieved in our pre-schools. We have a ratio of 11.6 to 1. I acknowledge the serious cost implications of going to a 10 to 1 ratio immediately. However, we need to be conscious of it every time we consider a Budget, because we must inexorably move towards improvement in our facilities. For that reason, as funds become available, we should not seek to wastefully use them through the duplication of facilities. The motion calls on the House to express its support for all pre-school facilities and quite blatantly calls on members of the House to express support for each one of the providers, including, and in particular, child parent centres under the auspices of the Education Department.

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

## BURDETT REPORT

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury):** I move:

That this House calls on the Minister of Education to release the report known as the Burdett Report into early childhood education and indicates its preparedness to accept an editorial revision of the report presented to the Minister such that personal references considered not appropriate for public release be deleted.

The Burdett Report was commissioned some considerable time ago into the whole pre-school area. Indeed, it was commissioned last year and may well have reported in December or January—we are not entirely sure when. It made a number of recommendations (or may have made some recommendations) because at about that time, a number of Government actions took place in the early childhood services area. For example, the Childhood Services Council vanished into thin air. I acknowledge that there were many areas in the Childhood Services Council that needed closer examination and some alteration in the way in which it operated—significant areas, where it needed changes in the mode of operation.

Whether or not one cures a patient by chopping off his head is another matter, and I believe that that is the way that the Childhood Services Council's problems were solved. We then had the inter-agency inquiry under the chairmanship of the Executive Officer of the office of the Ministry of Education. A great many things happened when the Burdett Report was under way and supposedly finished, and there were alterations in the early childhood services area, in particular the pre-school education area. If, indeed, there is a phasing out of Education Department involvement in child parent centres, that would be a major move and would have a significant impact on many parents and children in this State.

It has been my contention for some time that if parents are going to be asked to consider such a proposition they ought to know the terms upon which this whole debate is being held. They ought to know what information was considered by Mr Burdett in his report, what recommendations he made to the Government, why the Government is or is not accepting those recommendations and what the implications are as foreseen by Mr Burdett. I have for many months tried in one way or another to have the Minister release that report.

The information I received on earlier occasions was that the report contained personal references that were not necessarily defamatory but could be embarrassing to some people in the pre-school education area. I do not know, I have not seen it. I am quite happy, and I hope the House is quite happy, to see that report revised editorially to the extent that any such references are deleted, so that the report that is finally tabled could not be considered to be embarrassing to any particular person in any area of early childhood services, because I agree that that would not necessarily be highly appropriate.

I hope that the Minister will, now that I have put this proposition, see the wisdom of that. On the day I moved my motion, the Minister, who was sitting opposite, said to me across the Chamber, 'Don't you already have a copy?' to which I replied that I had not. He then said that there were already people in the department working on the report and that it was being used widely in education circles, and he expressed, I believe, quite genuine surprise that I did not have a copy. Immediately after Question Time that day, I wrote the Minister the following letter:

Further to my notice of motion this afternoon requesting the public release of an edited version of the Burdett Report, and consequent upon your comments across the Chamber, I now request that a copy of that report be made available to me. As I understand your comments across the Chamber you intimated that the report is now being used as 'source material' by people within the education sector. You also expressed some surprise that I did not have a copy of the report. Dependent upon the nature of your making the report available to me, I would be prepared to reconsider my position with regard to the motion I have moved. That is to say, if the substantive and non-personal sections of that report are now available for public dissemination, then my motion would become redundant. I await your response.

That letter was delivered to the Minister on the same day, 20 July, nearly two months ago. I have not even had a pending acknowledgment, one of those *pro forma* letters we get saying that the Minister has received the letter, is looking into the matter and will write again. It looks as though this session will be finished before I get even the pending acknowledgment, let alone the report.

**The Hon. M. M. Wilson:** Perhaps someone was indulging in meditative contemplation.

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** Yes—yet another Minister on the front bench in meditative contemplation. Cabinet meetings must be restful indeed if the habit is spreading to other Ministers. I do repeat the comment made in the letter that this motion would indeed become redundant if the Minister took up his comments (or the implication of his comments) on that day and made the report available. He did not seem to express any horror in his attitude then that I should not have it because it would be entirely inappropriate. He did not express anything like that. He seemed quite genuinely surprised that I did not have it.

Let him resolve the matter, and let him provide me with a copy. I do not even care if he does not answer my letter of 20 July. If all I get is a copy of the report in a plain, brown paper wrapper, without a letter, that will do, provided it can be acknowledged as being publicly available for discussion. The Minister does not often send me stuff in brown paper wrappers but he might on this occasion.

I do not want to speak at great length on this matter, because it is not a matter for much debate: it is rather a matter for action. I know that the Minister is in his office in the basement listening to this debate, so I call on him again to give me the report, and if he does so this House need not proceed further with this motion.

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

#### ALSATIAN DOGS ACT (REPEAL) BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 1 September. Page 915.)

**Mr TRAINER (Ascot Park):** Two weeks have gone by since my earlier remarks in this debate and I have a few additional remarks to make in the 15 minutes still left to me. In that two weeks three disappointing events have taken place that are of some significance to this debate: one is the favouritism shown by this Government towards the dingo half-cross in the Riverland area, a subject to which I will return soon; another is the press coverage given yesterday to another dog attack that was reported on page 5 of yesterday's *News*, to which I will refer later; and the third is the Government's response to our request to it to bring this matter to a vote so that this farcical situation can finally be resolved. A letter directed to the Hon. Murray Hill, Minister of Local Government, by Mr Hemmings, shadow Minister of Local Government, on 14 September states:

September 1982 there be a vote taken on my private member's Bill, Alsatian Dogs Act (Repeal) Bill (No. 16). The reasons are as follows:

- (1) There has been reasonable debate on the Bill since it was introduced on 18 August;
- (2) The situation on Kangaroo Island is such that Parliament should either reaffirm the existing Act or repeal the said Act so that the courts would have some guidance to assist them in their deliberations.

I confirm that I have advised your colleague the Minister of Environment and Planning and the Government Whip. I would appreciate your earliest response.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) T. H. Hemmings,  
Shadow Minister of Local Government.

In response to that correspondence from the member for Napier, in whose name this Bill stands, the Government Whip advised us that the Government was not prepared to take a vote today. Ample time has gone by to debate the issues concerned here, and there is still sufficient time for other people to participate before the adjournment today, so that the pros and cons of the argument will be well and truly canvassed. In view of the Government's response, which quite clearly abrogates its responsibility, we intend to move a procedural motion calling on the House to put this matter to the vote.

The Government cannot claim that the matter has not been adequately dealt with in debate. Plenty of time has gone by and the case for both sides has been put. The Government's illogically based resistance to any repeal of the Alsatian Dog Act must surely be one of the longest running soap operas since *Blue Hills*. A refusal to put the matter to a vote later this afternoon will clearly signal the Government's position on the overall issue. The Opposition anticipates that it will lose that procedural motion; that is the almost certain fate of procedural motions or other motions from the Opposition.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member must debate the matter before the Chair. He is now discussing a future course of action which is not currently before the Chair. Therefore, I ask the honourable member to confine his remarks to the matter before the Chair.

**Mr TRAINER:** If I am permitted to say so, Sir, the Opposition does intend to put the Government on the record as to how it feels about the overall issue. Whatever may be the outcome of putting the matter to a vote later today, members of the German Shepherd Club and those who do not hold discriminatory views about German shepherds can rest assured that if the matter is unsatisfactorily resolved it will be put right by a Labor Government in the not too distant future.

I referred earlier to the favouritism that has been shown by the Government towards a canine creature in the Riverland area, and I refer to a dingo cross called 'Ding', which, under the Vertebrate Pests Act, was to be destroyed. However, the Premier was reported as having granted a stay of execution of that beast as a response to pressure from people in the Riverland. One can not object to that action being taken, but it would be rather nice if the Premier could show the same sort of fairness, kindness and compassion towards other animals of different breeds. Unfortunately, it would appear that the Government's policy regarding German shepherds is related to pressure within the Party from perhaps, the Minister of Agriculture and from some of the other rural-based members, such as the member for Eyre and the member for Mallee. In turn, the pressure from those members appears to be based—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I hope that the honourable member is not reflecting on the Chair.

**Mr TRAINER:** No, Sir. I do not think the member for Eyre is present in the Chamber at the moment, as long as you, Sir, are in the Chair. The pressure on some members, in turn, seems to be based on satisfying local pressures, and in the case of the Minister for Agriculture, pressure from a vocal and, in fact, a very tiny, rural minority on Kangaroo Island.

Without breaching any *sub judice* ruling in regard to that particular beast, I would briefly like to take up the background music of *Gone with the Wind*, namely, 'Tara's Theme'. I refer to the dog called 'Tara' which is under threat on Kangaroo Island. A letter to the Editor in yesterday's *Advertiser* expressed the point very clearly in making a comparison with the compassionate attitude shown by the Government in regard to the half-dingo breed in the Riverland compared with its attitude towards German shepherds and related animals. The letter is as follows:

It is highly commendable that Mr Tonkin has personally granted a stay of execution for the Berri dingo cross, Ding. Will he be equally magnanimous over the plight of Tara, the Kangaroo Island German shepherd dog? Its fate still hangs in the balance. Despite the receipt of an Australia-wide petition bearing thousands of signatures and national media coverage, his Government still obstinately defends an archaic law, making South Australia the only place in the world which persecutes the German shepherd dog.

Perhaps the Government's attitude is that South Australia is the only one in step and that it is the rest of the world that is wrong. The letter continues:

German shepherd dogs and sheep are just as compatible on Kangaroo Island as they are in pastoral areas on the mainland. The 1934 Alsatian Dogs Act was founded in myths and post-war hysteria against all things German. The owners of the estimated 15 000 German shepherd dogs in this State are very anxious to see an end to this discrimination.

The letter is signed by Sandra Williams, of the German Shepherd Dog Club of South Australia. I hope that the Government took notice of the figure of 15 000 to which Sandra Williams referred and the obvious implication concerning the large number of rather dissatisfied German shepherd dog owners in South Australia and the attitude that they may take towards the Government if it maintains its obstinate attitude.

Last month members would have received a very well composed letter from Mr West, President of the German

Shepherd Dog Club. In his letter, he listed several reasons for the current Act being in existence and he referred to the misconceptions of people relating to the beliefs that German shepherds are inherently vicious to people and to livestock, that they are likely to mate with dingoes and that they are related to wolves. Mr Williams goes on to point out with crystal clear logic that the Alsatian Dogs Act is now quite irrelevant, having been superseded by the Dog Control Act. He also points out that it is blatantly discriminatory and unjust and that the German shepherd, of all the different breeds of dog, is the breed that has probably contributed most towards helping mankind.

I refer first to his points regarding misconceptions involved in the Government's attitude towards this breed. Mr Williams points out that the German shepherd is not a vicious breed of dog and that it does not pose more of a threat to either people or stock than does any other breed of equivalent size. He points out that his club took a survey of stock losses due to dog attacks and that the German shepherd dog, despite the fact that it is numerically far more popular than any other breed, does not often feature in stock losses. That situation would apply in other States where the dog is not discriminated against; that survey covered not only South Australia but also, as I have said, other States. However, Mr Williams does point out (and this should be crystal clear to almost anyone) the following:

As a result of the biased attitude towards our breed the German shepherd dog was for many years, the victim of a press 'vendetta' and was very often blamed for attacks which were the work of other breeds.

It is quite clear that so often when so-called German shepherd dog attacks are reported, almost invariably the dog involved is a half-breed German shepherd dog; a German shepherd mixed with perhaps a whole Heinz variety of other types of dog. Nevertheless, it is the German shepherd dog claim that gets the headline, it is the German shepherd description that features most prominently. That situation applied, for example, in regard to a report in yesterday's *News*. On page 5 a fairly prominent article appeared titled '“King” to die after savage attack on boy', which stated:

A German shepherd will be destroyed today after mauling a boy, 11.

I am not speaking up on behalf of that dog, but the point I take up in regard to the article is that it starts right from the beginning referring to a German shepherd dog, and yet I was advised that it was made quite clear to the reporter concerned and to the police involved that the dog was not a German shepherd, that it was a mixed breed dog. However, the sub-editor insisted on leading that article off by referring to a German shepherd dog. At least we can be grateful that some progress is being made: at least the dog was not called an Alsatian; at least some people are now referring to the breed as German shepherd rather than as an Alsatian.

I have only a few minutes left and so therefore I cannot mention in detail all of the examples that Mr West gives of press reporting that has quite clearly distorted the actual situation. Mr West explains this quite well in his letter, listing various examples which involved a kelpie cross, cocker spaniel and an Australian terrier, but which were described as Alsatians. He refers to a rough coat collie that was reported to be an Alsatian, and in another case he refers to the report of an Alsatian allegedly terrorising a family. But an investigation was made wherein it was found that the dog had not really barked at or menaced anybody on the property and that the Italian woman who had seen the dog could only say 'Big dog, big dog.' He referred to the fact that two press reporters who visited the house told Mrs Haskett from the German Shepherd Dog club that they reported the incident as being the work of an Alsatian because 'Alsatians are news.'

Unfortunately, that seems to be the basis for so many of the stories that appear. Mr West goes on to refer to other details and points out that there has been no recorded instance of cross-mating, despite the C.S.I.R.O.'s attempts to have a German shepherd-dingo cross, and the fact that it is impossible was taken into consideration by the Federal Liberal Government in 1972, when it lifted the importation ban on German shepherds. However, there is apparently still a strong belief in it in many quarters, as was illustrated by the member for Mallee by way of interjection, not too long ago during an earlier discussion on this issue, that German shepherds do mate with dingoes. On 2 April 1980, I extracted some remarks from *Hansard* of 1934, describing a member of this House who apparently also believed that, and how he had been jokingly told by someone who was taking a dog into the northern area of the State that he was going to breed his dog with dingoes. The extract states:

Mr H. Brown was taking an Alsatian pup to a relative at Teyon Station via Marree. When passing through Coondambo he met Mr J. E. Pick. The latter saw the pup and asked Mr Brown what was he going to do with it. The latter jokingly replied, 'To cross it with the dingoes.' Mr Pick picked up the pup and bashed its head against a post before Mr Brown had time to intervene.

So strong was the hostility towards German shepherds and so strong was the belief that they mated with dingoes, that Mr Pick, on having his leg pulled by the owner of the pup, picked it up and bashed its brains out against a post. In every other country of the world the German shepherd is looked on as a respected breed. In fact, it would appear that the majority of seeing-eye dogs in the world are German shepherds, and the breed seems to be the most widely used as guide dogs for the blind, except in Australia. Another point quite clearly made by Mr West is that the Dog Control Act is far more suitable for controlling these animals than the Alsatian Dogs Act. He pointed out that there are a wide number of myths about the dog. I remember that two years ago the member for Eyre in debate referred to these dogs as running wild and ravishing sheep, and this conjures up interesting mental images.

If the member for Eyre can get German shepherds to ravish sheep, perhaps he can apply the same breeding techniques to animals other than the German shepherd and set up a new cottage industry by getting kangaroos to ravish sheep and breed woolly jumpers! Anyway, as I have commented before, we will attempt to bring this matter to a vote today. If we do not succeed, we will attempt a procedural motion to flush the Government out. If we are not successful, I assure German shepherd owners that we will apply our best efforts to repealing this Act as soon as we are in Government.

**Mr GUNN (Eyre):** Let me say at the outset that the honourable member who has just concluded his remarks spoke for just on 30 minutes and is now advocating that people on this side of the House should not have the opportunity to address themselves to this matter. Some of us have had experience in dealing with this piece of legislation for a lot longer than has the honourable member. I have been a member of this House since 1970, and this matter has been brought to my attention on a very regular basis.

Therefore, I think it is a very poor course of action to advocate that members on this side should be denied their right to make a contribution. I have my own personal views on this subject, and many of my constituents have very strong views on it. It would be a very undemocratic step to deny an opportunity to those people affected by this legislation, those who hold strong views on the matter, and the members who represent them, to make a reasonable contribution to the debate. I have seen the gag applied only once in this House. That was when Premier Dunstan moved

to stop Mr McAnaney speaking on a particular matter. If the Labor Party wants to use that particular tactic, some of us may feel inclined on other occasions to take the same course of action.

**Mr Hemmings:** Talk on the Bill.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr GUNN:** It appears that the A.L.P. or certain members of it are advocating double standards. It is very well for the member for Ascot Park to make all the reflections he likes to make, but as soon as someone sets out to put the record straight the spruiking member for Napier tries to draw a red herring across the trail. He has set out to create an emotional situation, trying to inflame people's passions, without sitting down and talking to those people affected by this legislation. I would think that all of us in this House would want, if it is at all possible, to arrive at an acceptable solution which will satisfy all sections of the community. I would think that, as a group of supposedly responsible and logical people, that should be a course of action we should take.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr GUNN:** Perhaps the member for Napier is not in that category.

**Mr Trainer:** He was just surprised to find you on the road to Damascus.

**Mr GUNN:** I could make some comments—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! We will come back to the clauses of the Bill.

**Mr GUNN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was endeavouring to make the point that, if this matter is to be satisfactorily resolved, it will not be resolved by endeavouring to put one section of the community against the other.

**Mr Hemmings:** That's what is happening on Kangaroo Island, though.

**Mr GUNN:** I will have something to say about Kangaroo Island in a moment. If this matter is to be resolved in a satisfactory manner, those groups and organisations concerned ought to sit down and discuss the matter in a logical and rational fashion. I suggest that the Local Government Association of this State ought to be involved. I suggest also that the people representing the German Shepherd Dog Association (or whatever one likes to call it) and the United Farmers and Stockowners Association—

*Mr Hemmings interjecting:*

**Mr GUNN:** That is not true.

**Mr Hemmings:** It is true.

**Mr GUNN:** No.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member, who has previously spoken, has the opportunity in summing up to make any points that may be necessary. I deny him the right to do it by way of interjection.

**Mr GUNN:** I am confident that the United Farmers and Stockowners Association would be happy to sit down and discuss this matter—

**The Hon. M. M. Wilson:** You would use your good offices.

**Mr GUNN:** I would certainly do so. As the honourable member ought to know, it was because of my representations that action was taken so that persons could own and have Alsatians or German shepherds at Coober Pedy, at Tarcoola, Leigh Creek, and in various other areas in my electorate. It is only under this Administration that that has been possible. I was involved in making those representations, sitting down with the appropriate people and arriving at what I believe to be a reasonably satisfactory arrangement. To say that we have done nothing is absolute nonsense. That course of action was taken soon after this Government came to power. I wish now to quote a letter that the Secretary-General of the Local Government Association of South Australia wrote

to the Hon. Ted Chapman, Minister of Agriculture on 15 September 1982, as follows:

Dear Minister,

**ALSATIAN DOGS ACT**

In reference to your question regarding the intention to repeal the Alsatian Dogs Act, I am to advise as follows:

1. The Local Government Association of South Australia would be opposed to the repeal of the Alsatian Dogs Act at this time.
2. It considers that, before any moves are made, a round-table conference should be called to discuss the relevant issues and merits relating to the repeal of the Act.
3. This association is concerned to preserve the widest possible range of options available to a local community to enable it to act in its own protection. In this instance, a council may choose to be covered by the Alsatian Dogs Act to deal with particular changing local circumstances.
4. The association would seek to preserve the integrity of the current legislation.

The State Executive of the Local Government Association is mindful of the particular problems in some rural districts, where sheep are mauled by dogs, and would desire the fullest possible consultation before any changes were made. At this stage, to my knowledge, there has been no such consultation.

I am therefore to advise you that this Association opposes the Bill to repeal the Alsatian Dogs Act.

Yours sincerely,

It is a pity that whoever has been promoting this legislation did not sit down and talk to the Local Government Association, because I believe that their cause would have been greatly enhanced. I read with some interest the comments of the member for Napier, and let me say from the outset that my district would be the area where the Alsatian Dogs Act would have the most application. It is true to say that many of my constituents are concerned about the effects of German shepherds or Alsatian dogs on stock. I think it is also true to say that any grazier has little time for stray dogs.

If anyone wants to see a person who is involved with stock get his blood pressure up quicker than anything else I know, he should watch that person inspecting stock and seeing stray dogs scattering ewes, lambs and ravaging sheep. I know that other breeds of dog are involved: the problem is not peculiar to Alsatians. However, it is believed that Alsatian dogs cause a particular problem. As I said earlier, we have set out to endeavour to isolate certain areas within the northern parts of the State to allow the citizens who live in those centres the opportunity to own German shepherds. I was involved in that matter. Contrary to what the member for Napier said, there is a fear in this regard. The honourable member stated (page 560 of *Hansard*):

Opponents have said that if a German shepherd mates with a dingo the end result will be a dog that will continually prey on stock. Today I would like to lay that claim at rest.

Only a few weeks ago one of my constituents came to my Ceduna office to discuss one or two matters with me. His property adjoins the dog fence and he has some land on either side of the dingo-proof fence. He indicated that he had dingo traps set on the outside of the fence, which I believe he is obliged to do. He heard a trapped dog bark, and dingoes do not normally bark. When this man arrived at the scene, he destroyed the dog, examined it, and saw that it was a dingo and an Alsatian cross.

I have only his comments to put forward, but I believe that other people can put other arguments to support what I have said. Therefore, I suggest to the honourable member that, before making those comments, he should consider the matter carefully and have discussions with people who are actually involved in the field. With due respect, I suggest that the member for Napier has had little experience of the grazing industry, and less experience of the pastoral area of this State. Therefore, he is not in a position to make any sort of judgment in relation to the grazing industry.

**The Hon. H. Allison:** He may have a sheepish look.

**Mr GUNN:** He may have that. The member for Ascot Park has had a considerable amount to say on this matter and his knowledge would be less, because I understand that he lives in a suburb that does not adjoin any rural areas whatsoever. A lot has been said about the Kangaroo Island issue. My understanding of the situation is that the person who took the dog to Kangaroo Island knew before he left that it was an offence to take an Alsatian dog to Kangaroo Island. He was advised by the people who operate the *Troubridge* and by Airlines of South Australia to that effect, so he set out to contravene the law by taking the dog to Kangaroo Island by fishing boat.

I suggest to the member for Napier and to other honourable members that the views of the majority of people of Kangaroo Island have been completely ignored. I would have thought that, if the people of Kangaroo Island were so concerned about this matter, they would have taken action to have the district council involved to make rulings. To my knowledge, that has not taken place. The personal references that were made to the Minister of Agriculture by the member for Napier were not only out of place but also blatantly untrue. The honourable member referred to wealthy farmers. The Minister of Agriculture, like most people on Kangaroo Island, is an average farmer, making a considerable contribution to the welfare of this State.

It is all very well for the honourable member to stick his nose into the affairs of Kangaroo Island, but I would think that the people of Kangaroo Island are quite capable of running their own affairs and of making the decisions that they want to make that affect their own community. If there was such concern in relation to the problems that are now occurring on Kangaroo Island, there would be a lot of petitions, and public meetings would be called on Kangaroo Island to have the decision overturned. Why has that not taken place? It is quite clear that, if we are to resolve this matter, there must be reasonable and sensible discussion. I have been reminded of the comments made by the United Farmers and Stockowners Association of South Australia Incorporated on this matter. On 25 August 1982, the Minister stated:

To add to it, the honourable member might note that on this day, 25 August 1982, the General Secretary of United Farmers and Stockowners of South Australia Incorporated wrote to me, having learnt of the honourable member's move in this direction. He stated:

As I believe there has been some suggestion of a private member's Bill being introduced into State Parliament to amend the above Act (that is, the Alsatian Dogs Act) I write to reaffirm our complete opposition to any proposal along these lines.

He also said, amongst other things:

... we believe the present Act must stand indefinitely.

I suppose one could say that the Opposition has taken a rather firm line. I believe that if the association was approached, it would be prepared, I am sure, to work towards a reasonable solution. The thing that amazes me is that we had 10 years of A.L.P. Government in this State, and during that time no attempt was made to repeal this Act.

**Mr Trainer:** It was going to follow from the Dog Control Act.

**Mr GUNN:** The honourable member was not here at that time. To my knowledge, there was no discussion. The Dog Control Act was certainly debated in this Parliament and was one of those matters that dragged on and on.

**Mr Trainer:** Like this Bill.

**Mr GUNN:** I refer the honourable member who has interjected to the report of the House of Assembly select committee and that of the Working Party on Containing, Control and Registration of Dogs, 1978, ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed on 24 August 1978. Recommendation No. 5 states:



The committee recommends that the provisions of the Alsatian Dogs Act, 1934-1965, should not be repealed but that section 5 only should be repealed so that the fees payable for an Alsatian should be contained in the new Dog Act and be identical with the registration fees payable for any dog. The penalty in that Act should be increased from \$20 to \$30 minimum and \$100 maximum. In addition to the provision of the Alsatian Dogs Act the provisions of the new Dog Act to apply to all Alsatian dogs.

I do not like minimum penalties and never have. I believe that that matter should be left to the courts.

**Mr Becker:** Who was on the select committee?

**Mr GUNN:** We all know that the select committee represented all shades of opinion in this House, if that is possible in dealing with the subject of dogs. It was an emotive issue and it would appear that it is one of the subjects on which one can never come up with a solution to please everyone. I say to the member for Napier that I am quite happy to make representations to U.F. & S. to suggest to them that there may be areas which should be looked at and that they ought to sit down with those organisations concerned with the matter and talk over the problems. I have been a member of that organisation for a long time. I know all the officers and the elected officials. I am confident that those elected officials and paid officers would be happy to discuss the matter with him or with the people representing the German Shepherd Dog Club or any other concerned group.

It is unfortunate that people set out, on what appears to be a purely political motivation, to bring the Bill into the House at this time because local government has a responsibility for the control of dogs in this State. It is clear from the letter I read into *Hansard* that there have been no discussions. It is all very well for the honourable member to set out to become the patron saint of the German Shepherd Dog Club but I would suggest to him that if he wants to see a solution arrived at—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr GUNN:** I will ignore interjections, as I could not hear them.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the honourable member not to incite interjections.

**Mr GUNN:** It has never been my intention to incite interjections. I have always attempted to make available to the House the information I have, based on my experience from living in the country and from having been associated with the grazing industry all my life.

I say, in conclusion, I believe that in the near future a practical course of action would be to incorporate the provisions controlling these dogs under the Dog Control Act. I believe that that is worthy of consideration and should be looked at. I do not object to looking at the matter. Further, I believe that discussions I have advocated ought to take place. They could take place in the relatively near future. I do not want anyone to think that I have a hatred of Alsatian dogs. I have had little to do with them. I have never owned one and I do not believe any member of my family has owned one. However, during my considerable doorknocking over a period of time, when I come to a house and a large Alsatian runs to the gate—

**Mr Trainer:** German shepherd.

**Mr GUNN:** German shepherd—I am not fussy. I hesitate before going into such a place. A few weeks ago I knocked on the door of a house and a large German shepherd came around the corner and stood on the porch and waited. I spoke very nicely to him.

**Mr Plunkett:** It was a Labor Party German shepherd—he didn't even bark at me.

**Mr GUNN:** The only dogs that have ever bitten me have had Liberal owners. I have only been bitten by Liberal dogs. However, I do not know whether that is relevant to the debate. In conclusion, I would be happy to support any

agreement that could be reached between the groups I have mentioned. I do not want to be accused of stopping people enjoying their recreation with their pets. However, I believe it would have been a wiser course of action and would have resulted in a long-term solution to this problem if those consultations had taken place. I am happy to do anything I can to assist with that suggestion. However, I believe the honourable member would have been wiser not to proceed in the manner in which he has.

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD (Salisbury):** I indicate my support for the Bill brought forward by the member for Napier. In listening to the member for Eyre I did not realise that we could rename our colleague St Terry for the terriers as the patron saint of dogs. Listening to the Minister when he was giving his statement about the official position of the Government a few weeks ago I realised at that stage how edifying the Minister of Environment and Planning had been late one night when we had been debating a Bill to amend the Alsatian Dog Act in the first session of this Parliament. On that occasion at 2 a.m. the Minister was reduced to being able to say no more than 'Woof, woof' every time he came across to this side of the Chamber to speak to us. At that time I thought it was inane but it was not as inane as the comments made by the Minister of Agriculture when he responded to the member for Napier.

I believe that my colleague's motives in bringing this Bill before the House needed much more serious attention than that. I have only two basic matters to cover in this debate this afternoon. I wish to read to the House and into *Hansard* a letter forwarded to me by a Mr Mason Clarke, who has had a lot of experience with German shepherd dogs. It is an edifying and interesting letter indeed. I can do no better than read that letter to members of the House. It states:

My admiration for the German shepherd dog—Alsatian—equalled only by my dismay at the continued discrimination against the breed by ill-informed members of the public and Governments of this country—has prompted me to offer you support in your admirable efforts to have the Alsatian Dog Act repealed.

The letter is addressed to the German Shepherd Dog Club. It further states:

I hereby forward this report of some of the experience gained during 30 years of observation, training and handling of this incomparable working dog, including almost 20 years as Commonwealth Police dog trainer and kennel-master.

**Mr Max Brown:** That is interesting.

**Mr LYNN ARNOLD:** It is most interesting indeed. It further states:

During this period I became regarded as the most successful police dog trainer and handler in Australia and pioneered the employment of the trained dog as a valuable adjunct to the Police Departments of the country.

In any assessment of the German shepherd dog it must be remembered that not only has the breed proved a faithful family pet and companion, but is the leading working dog in the world, unsurpassed in his service to man as seeing-eye dog, Army dog, customs dog, border patrol dog, sheep and cattle herding dog, avalanche rescue dog and police dog.

The canine recruit to a Police Department is required to undergo an exacting complex training course and subsequent tours of duty during service as a valuable aid to law enforcement. He is required to work among members of the public and with police officers and is subjected to criticism constantly by both public and police officers.

The police dog, therefore, must possess a stable temperament, the complex requisites of instinct, emotion and intelligence fitting him for his demanding role in the service of the policeman. Significantly, the German shepherd dog supplies over 96 per cent of the world's police dogs, a tribute to the stability and trustworthiness of the breed.

I first became interested in the training of police dogs during the Second World War. Taken prisoner in an attack on a German position at Tobruk, North Africa, I spent two years in European prisoner-of-war camps, before escaping with three companions and crossing the Alps to neutral Switzerland.

Just after entering Swiss territory we were 'picked up' by a German shepherd dog of the Swiss border patrol. My interest stirred as I watched the trained dog circling us, barking to alert the patrol of his 'catch'. During a year spent in Switzerland I interested myself in the training of these dogs for the Swiss army and police. The practical Swiss, like the practical Germans, had long realised and utilised the potential of the German shepherd dog, preserving the working qualities and stable temperament, employing and enjoying the breed, not discriminating against it.

I remind members of the House of the interesting information that came out in the speeches made in this place at the time of the Bill being introduced to amend the Alsatian Dog Act. With some modesty I point to my own speech and also to other speeches made in this House. The letter continues:

On my return to Australia I realised and appreciated just how archaic were our laws discriminating against this superb dog, and how far behind Europe we were in the utilisation of the magnificent working qualities of the German shepherd. For several years I trained dogs privately before joining the Commonwealth Police Force as trainer and kennel master. My training methods were successful, and we developed an excellent team of German shepherd dogs, efficiently patrolling, guarding, detecting, giving public displays at public functions and agricultural and royal shows.

I realised, however, that the required publicity, the pricking of public and Government interest in the employment of the trained German shepherd dog, lay in the area of tracking and search, the rescue of the injured or lost, and the capture or recapture of the criminally dangerous. I tested and trained again among these already tested and trained dogs until I found a superb, reliable, tracksure tracking and search dog, a young female, the magnificent Dawn.

I trained Dawn for several years, developing her talents until I was satisfied she could 'handle' any track or search situation. She would stay with a scent ignoring other scents and/or distractions, following the scent with single-minded purpose until a successful conclusion. I was satisfied, also, that I could read her, interpret her every action, reporting accurately her progress. Importantly, too, if she could not find a scent I could with confidence report that no scent existed, thus eliminating an area and a purposeless, time wasting search. On our last test, Dawn tracked a Commonwealth police inspector and a South Australian police inspector through the bush over an area of five miles.

Our chance to prove the need for the employment of trained dogs in search situations came in November 1959, in the Simmonds manhunt, the largest manhunt mounted in Australian criminal history. Kevin John Simmonds, with a companion, had escaped from Long Bay Gaol, broken into a prison farm and killed a warder, stolen his gun, then escaped into the bush. Now alone, this elusive and quite remarkable criminal had eluded over a thousand police and volunteer searchers for 30 days. With Dawn, another handler and back-up dog Chrissie, I was flown to New South Wales, into the manhunt and into criminal history. Given the chance, the remarkable Dawn tracked down the outlaw, bringing to an end a frustrating, costly manhunt. She tracked him for three miles in pouring rain to the spot where he had jumped into a river ahead of us in the darkness, then tracked him from the front seat of a car he had stolen during the night, through the town of Kurri-Kurri, across ground traversed by dozens of people, then along a railway line, then out of the town, leading me to the area of his final hiding spot. Simmonds's request to be photographed with his nemesis Dawn, was granted. We returned to fame, television interviews and headlines reading 'Heroes of capture return'. Heady stuff, but the walls of Jericho were not down, the ranks of the prejudiced were depleted but still existed; there was much to be done.

Dawn and I tracked on, winning the sympathetic public, fighting prejudice, proving the value of the trained dog and the quality and remarkable potential of the German shepherd dog. Dawn and I were driven to Mundoora, where she tracked a two-year-old-boy who had wandered from a farm. The parents publicly thanked us and the headlines in the Adelaide *News* read, 'Alsatian tracks boy, two'; more progress made. After two days of rain Dawn tracked the path taken by a young man lost in the rugged Wilpena Pound. His parents wrote a letter to the *Advertiser* newspaper, thanking Dawn and me.

Dawn and I were flown to Canberra into the search for 'a little boy lost'. The boy had been lost for two days and hope for his safety was low; he was considered drowned in the Molongo River. Again the superb Dawn performed a miracle, tracked the boy for miles. The return of the boy to his parents was my moment of greatest 'job satisfaction'.

At the River Murray town of Loxton a woman wandered from her home in the pouring rain of a bleak day. Dawn tracked her nine hours later for a distance of a mile across mudflats to the

river. Police and local searchers considered the dog was mistaken; the woman was thought to be in an area a mile away, down river. Dawn tracked again through the rain, across mudflats to the river, and indicated the same spot at the river's edge. The woman's body was found at that spot indicated by Dawn: doubters were silenced, I was delighted, relatives were grateful, Dawn had performed another near miracle and won new devotees and friends.

Dawn performed two other amazing feats, giving me great satisfaction and striking a tremendous blow for the police dog and the German shepherd dog. She twice tracked down sheep killing dogs, thus becoming the first police dog ever to track down outlaw dogs. A killer dog had been marauding for weeks in the Adelaide Hills and the cry of 'killer Alsatians'—

a cry that we hear so often—

had been heard from farmers and public and seen in the press, before Mr Roy Brabham, President of the German Shepherd Dog Club, asked me to bring Dawn into the hunt for the outlaw. Seven hours after the last attack by the canine killer, I was notified of the attack and told to report to the Myrtle Bank police station.

At the police station, Constable Jim Cahill informed me that the killer dog had slaughtered a number of sheep on the property of Mr Young near the Devil's Elbow. The farmer had fired at the dog and thought he may have hit the dog with small shot pellets. At the farm Mr Young showed us the torn carcasses of the sheep and in reply to my question regarding the breed of the killer-dog, he replied, pointing to Dawn, 'It was one of them big Alsatians.'

Dawn performed another of her miracle tracks, after picking up the trail of the outlaw from near the carcasses of his victims, across paddocks and along the busy Mount Barker Road she tracked, ignoring the farmer and police following us and the vehicles and the hooting horns, and the newsmen. Crossing the Mount Barker Road, she tracked into the property of a Mr Frank Thiem, across the rolling hills, finding more dead sheep, then leading us to the killer dog 'holed up' in bushes.

The farmer identified the dog as the killer, and the dog was shot. Pellets were found in the dog's hide, evidence of his guilt. I pointed out to Mr Young that the killer dog was a pure-bred Airedale and he had said the killer was 'one of them big Alsatians'. His reply, with a shrug of the shoulders, 'Ah! well it was a big, black and tan dog.' Dawn had done it again, this time a unique performance, a German shepherd police dog had stopped the marauding rampage of a killer dog, an Airedale.

She performed the feat once more, tracking a killer dog from the Weapons Research Establishment at Salisbury, across paddocks to Salisbury North. The dog fled when we drew close, I released Dawn and commanded 'Get him.' She attacked the dog, a collie-cross, and then drove it back to me and into the guns of the waiting Sheepmen.

Dawn tracked on until her retirement like all trained German shepherds, she constantly aimed to please, to perform her best in the service of mankind. It saddens me that ignorance, stupidity and prejudice still cause discrimination against the breed of dog she so ably represented.

That was a long letter, but I thought it was worth reading it into *Hansard* because it points out a commendable record on behalf of one working dog and also the ample experience of one person who has been very closely associated with the breed—certainly much more closely associated with it than has been anyone in this Chamber. I think, therefore, that members would do well to listen to the sentiments of the letter.

I make one last point. I have been telephoned by two constituents about this Bill. One strongly supported the Bill introduced by my colleague and urged me to do likewise—and I have said that I will, of course. I was not at home when the other constituent rang and left a message with my wife that she was strongly opposed to the measure. When my wife asked why, she said, 'I stayed at the motel on Kangaroo Island where the dog in question lives and I was bailed up by it. I believe the dog could have done some damage.' Apparently it did not actually do any damage, but she thought it could have.

The point I would have made to that woman if I had been at home to speak to her I make now. I do not support allowing any dog going around unfettered, molesting people in the streets or on property unreasonably (if they have no due cause to be on the property). I do not believe that there is any justification for that, but I believe that the Dog Control Act provides the means for handling all dogs that

are beyond control or are causing hazard and inconvenience to others. We do not need specific breed Acts dealing with errant dogs of every breed that there may be.

**Mr EVANS (Fisher):** I enter this debate in a way reluctantly, because it was through my negotiations that the Bill is being debated today. In those negotiations, it was agreed that there would be two speakers on the Bill from this side of the House. As Whip, I take responsibility for incurring the wrath of some of my colleagues if I reach an agreement and people do not wish to abide by it. With a Bill such as this, it is natural that people outside who have a keen interest in the area like to know when the debate will finish or when it will proceed. It is true, too, that the people who promote such measures take some pleasure in letting people know when they will be debated and suggesting that perhaps they know when it will finish.

Those of us who have been here a long while know that it is difficult to handle private members' business in the House because of the limited time for debate, and that it takes a long while to get an emotional type of Bill through the House, because many members wish to express their views on the subject. The suggestion made by the member for Ascot Park that the Government was not keen to talk on the subject I believe is shown to be inaccurate by the method that was used to enable it to be debated today.

It was No. 8 on Orders of the Day and by agreement it was brought to No. 1. It is a private member's matter, and we all know that in practice if Governments are reluctant to bring something up (and it happened during the previous Government) they do not bring it to the top of the Notice Paper. This Government was prepared to bring it to the top of the Notice Paper for two speakers today from either side of the House, and that has occurred. The attitude taken by the honourable member has disappointed me. A concession was made and let us make sure that it is known that it was a concession. The only time matters are moved up the paper on private members' day is when an agreement has been reached to do that.

**Mr Bannon:** That is because you wanted extra time to respond.

**Mr EVANS:** That is not the reason at all. If the Leader knew the negotiations that took place the last time private members' business was on he would know that the Opposition wanted to get other matters on to the Notice Paper and the member for Napier wanted to make sure that this measure was debated today, so he asked whether we would give him that opportunity and to allow at least two speakers to debate the matter. That is what happened, and I do not shirk from that.

A select committee which comprised members from both sides of the House examined the control of all dogs within the State. The Chairman of that committee was the Hon. G. T. Virgo, who was a member of the Labor Party, and I believe he was a good Chairman and that he handled the matter fairly. The committee, which had equal numbers from both sides of the House, as well as the Chairman, brought down a unanimous recommendation because we knew that it was not easy to handle dog control in the States where there are various views and where the largest number of neighbourhood complaints is about the control of dogs.

I think I should state my own position on this so that people do not think I am against dogs. I am a member of the Guide Dogs for the Blind State Executive, a member of the Lions Club that has put in much effort in establishing a hearing dog centre at Verdun, and I have owned several dogs which have been good to me and good friends to my family, but I have never owned a dog since I have lived in an urban community, because I believe that could be unfair

to my neighbours and to the dogs. Even though my family have wanted a dog I have not owned one because I believe sincerely it would be unfair to my neighbours, and more particularly it would be unfair to a dog, because I see a dog really desiring to roam and to be free more than it could be in an urban environment. Nevertheless, I do love dogs.

In 1978 the select committee, which comprised members from both sides of the House, and which resulted in the introduction, gave in its report the reason for its recommendation No. 5, as follows:

The committee recommends that the provisions of the Alsatian Dogs Act, 1934-1965, should not be repealed but that section 5 only should be repealed so that the fees payable for an Alsatian should be contained in the new Dog Act and be identical with the registration fees payable for any dog.

A change in penalties was recommended.

**Mr Bannon:** We have moved on—

**Mr EVANS:** I will come to that matter for the benefit of the Leader. The committee was concerned and Parliament accepted that concern, because it was difficult to repeal the Alsatian Dogs Act and bring it within the ambit of the Dog Control Act until such time as the Dog Control Act was operating fully and effectively throughout the State, and local government had picked up its responsibility. In many areas that has still not occurred, and members of Parliament know that. The recommendation was that we leave it as it is. I seek leave to conclude my remarks later.

**The SPEAKER:** Is leave granted?

**Mr Bannon:** No.

**The SPEAKER:** Leave is not granted. The honourable member for Fisher.

**Mr EVANS:** I am happy to continue, but it means that we will possibly sit until six o'clock. As a result of leave not being granted, I have to continue speaking for 15 minutes before I can seek leave to conclude my remarks again. However, I might say that this is the first time, to my knowledge, after agreement has been reached that we were to finish at 4.55 p.m. so that the House could get up at 5.25 p.m., that such an agreement has been broken. However, if that is the Opposition's attitude, I accept it and will continue for 15 minutes under Standing Orders or sit down. I do not wish to be denied my right to speak on this subject, and I will not sit down.

**Mr Bannon:** You have had enough time to prepare.

**Mr EVANS:** The Leader makes the point that I have had enough time to prepare my comments. However, his own colleague spoke today for 30 minutes and there was no move by the Leader to say to his own colleague, 'For the sake of getting this matter through by your own colleague, please sit down.' He did not do that. There have been more speakers from the other side than from this side, and now the Leader wants to force that sort of issue. I know that if the member for Hartley were here this would never have happened, and I know that the Deputy Leader is concerned about what has happened: I can tell by his expression. This has never happened before. What is the position of the select committee? It discussed and looked at the Alsatian Dogs Act as it then was and then considered the name 'German shepherd'. I believe that the majority of the committee members believed that that proper name should be used, but the committee recommended that no action be taken.

**Mr Hemmings:** That is not true.

**Mr Bannon:** Why did you oppose our amendment?

**Mr EVANS:** I am talking about the select committee at that time and its composition.

**Mr Hemmings:** We never discussed that. I was a member.

**Mr EVANS:** I know but, if the member went back through the evidence, he would remember that we decided not to play around with the name, even though we had sympathy

with the proposition. We left the situation alone until the Dog Control Act was fully operative. The Dog Control Act is not fully effective in its operation, as I said earlier. The matter now before the House is not in relation to the matter that the member for Salisbury was speaking about, that is, the merits or otherwise of Alsatian dogs or the German shepherd (and I will refer to them in that way as it is the simplest method).

No-one in this debate has discussed or suggested that this breed does not have high intelligence or is not a capable dog. No-one has suggested that it is the only or main breed that can go off beat and become a killer. I live in an area where there is much marauding of domestic pets and farm animals by dogs.

I know from reports that come back to me and from the type of dogs that are shot that the breeds are many and varied. That is true. The last one shot at Happy Valley was valued at \$2 000. It had been specially bred for killing pigs; it was a huge and powerful animal and its owner used to take it to Queensland. Indeed, he trained it for pig killing in parts of New South Wales. That was his sport, and he was most irate with the farmer who shot that dog. To my knowledge it had no German shepherd in it at all, yet it was one of the worst killers they had ever had.

There has been no argument about the breed of the dog or the type of dog as far as its attitude in a working life or as a domestic pet is concerned. Due to their size at times German shepherds are used as guard dogs, but there are other dogs used for that purpose as well. However, its usefulness is not simply due to its size, as German shepherds are also very intelligent and their ability to be trained is an advantage. However, the situation really is that, in regard to an area such as Kangaroo Island, the local council for that area believes that it would not like the law to be changed to enable the German shepherd dog to be able to be readily admitted to its part of the State.

I want to refer to some comments made by the member for Napier, who introduced this Bill, a short time ago. I refer to the words that he uttered on 2 April 1980 (page 2113 of *Hansard*). The member for Napier was speaking about the Bill which contained provisions to allow dogs to be taken into certain towns, such as Coober Pedy, and into other parts of the State. I point out also that the initiative taken at that time was not taken by the A.L.P. or a private member; it was an initiative taken because a member went to the Government and indicated that there had been a request from people who lived in a particular area. The member indicated that he wished to talk it out and talk to the people concerned, and after negotiations were conducted in the proper way a Bill was introduced. The member for Napier's comments, which were a little bit different from what he has been saying in this debate (he has been saying that there should not be any concern), were as follows:

If this Bill passes, and I am sure that it will, can the Government guarantee that we are not going to see a sudden influx of dogs of that breed into the mining townships?

What was the member for Napier's concern? If he was not concerned about the matter, why was he asking about problems concerning a sudden influx? Until 1 April 1980 the member for Napier had a prejudice himself. He further stated:

We see a real problem if that were to happen. There should be some means of monitoring the number of German shepherd dogs entering that area.

Why should the number of German shepherds going into the Coober Pedy township and other towns be monitored? The member for Napier himself said that there is absolutely no risk associated with the dog. I accept that point of view, and yet the member for Napier is now trying to force this Bill through before people have had time to make speeches on this subject and follow the matter through. The comments

I have read out are exactly what the honourable member said at the time. He went on to say:

Whilst there is no positive proof that German shepherds, if mated with dingoes, become killers, there could be real concern by members of the pastoral industry if miners at Coober Pedy or Andamooka suddenly decided to have a German shepherd dog as a security guard. I hope that, in Committee, the Minister will be able to reassure the Opposition and the pastoral industry in the Far North that some monitoring will take place.

Therefore, the member for Napier to some degree is grandstanding. I do not know of an occasion in the past when the sort of happenings that have occurred today have taken place. The Leader of the Opposition is maintaining that we should put the matter to a vote and that we should test it here today, yet he and his colleagues know that all those who wish to speak on the subject have not been given the opportunity to do so. There was no guarantee—

**Mr Hemmings:** They didn't put their names down, and you know that.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr EVANS:** On this issue—

*Mr Mathwin interjecting:*

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

**Mr EVANS:** As Whip, I gave a personal guarantee in this matter, and the A.L.P. is playing on that to the detriment of my credibility with my colleagues. I am hurt as a result of that and want members opposite to understand that. This is the first time in the 12 or 13 years that I have been in this place that I have had an arrangement with an A.L.P. Whip or manager that has been broken. That has some significance. I hope members opposite understand that, because it means that it will be difficult to come to similar arrangements in the future. The last time that a similar issue was debated involving the change of name of this species the debate proceeded for many more hours than has this debate, although it had much less significance. However, we are now trying to shorten this debate because a member was foolish enough (even with all his experience) to tell people that this matter was to be dealt with today and to invite those people to come and hear the debate (as some of them may have done), and now he is embarrassed about it. The member for Eyre and I believe that this matter can be resolved by proper negotiation, and by another method. That proper negotiation has not yet taken place. The member for Napier was the mayor of a city—

**Mr Keneally:** And a very good mayor.

**Mr EVANS:** He may have been a good mayor, but he has not been a straight shooter in matters in this place. I should have thought that he, as a former mayor, would understand that local government needed to be consulted when a proposed change to the law would affect it.

**Mr Keneally:** How?

**Mr EVANS:** For the benefit of the member for Stuart, who has just arrived back in the Chamber, I will read the letter that I read previously. It will therefore appear in *Hansard* twice.

**Mr Keneally:** I will read it in *Hansard* tomorrow.

**Mr EVANS:** Very well, then I will not read it, but I ask the honourable member not to interject. If he is not prepared to sit and listen to a debate, he should not then interject and make a nuisance of himself. The local government communities on Kangaroo Island ask that the German shepherd (it was called 'Alsatian' before the name was changed) be excluded from their area. If members of the Kangaroo Island community came to any member and stated that they were prepared to see the repeal of the legislation banning the German shepherd from Kangaroo Island, and they now wanted the German shepherd to come to Kangaroo Island, that would be an entirely different argument. However, if we are to be democratic, as the local member suggested we should be, there needs to be negotiation with members of

that community. However, he is denying them that opportunity. That honourable member is saying that, because he and other members have received requests from people on Kangaroo Island (and I do not know whether 10, 20 or what the figure is) for German shepherd dogs to be allowed on that island, the Parliament should automatically accept that proposition without taking further evidence and without further research being undertaken to ascertain whether there is a better way to handle the situation.

That is really what the member is saying. I believe that the member should be conscious of what he is saying. The member said in his previous speech, referring to Coober Pedy, that it was good if we gave the local people, local government some say. However, if we give local government some say, if we repeal the Act, it will have no say in this area. At the moment local government has the opportunity of making a request that their area be covered, whether it be the Adelaide City Council, or wherever it may be, but if the member—

**Mr Hemmings:** The control legislation gives them that.

**Mr EVANS:** It does not give them the sort of power they may want in the case of the Kangaroo Island community. I would support the concept that has been put up by the member for Eyre in that particular area, where the local community—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr EVANS:** Is it not marvellous how members start to play around with things in that area. When the member for Napier himself sat on the select committee, not long ago, he did not see the need to repeal this Act. He was the man—

**Mr Hemmings:** It wasn't in the terms of reference of the committee.

**Mr EVANS:** I will read it again:

The select committee had the power—

**Mr Keneally:** What is before the Chair now is what is relevant.

**Mr EVANS:** Just so that we know what we are talking about, the committee had the power to recommend, and the committee recommended, that the provision of the Alsatian Dogs Act, 1934-1965, should not be repealed. The member for Napier did not lodge any objection. That was in 1978, and it was his Government, his Minister. Is it for political purposes that members opposite are trying to force a vote today? Is it for the sake of guaranteeing that the measure be defeated? Is that why they want to move it today? They want to guarantee its defeat before members on this side have finished speaking, and the vote will not be—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr EVANS:** Is it because they want to guarantee its defeat? We are being denied the right to speak—and some of our members want to speak. If they do not have the opportunity to put a point of view their constituents do not know—

**Mr Hamilton:** It didn't worry you during Question Time today, did it—three questions.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr EVANS:** We know why it is being forced through today. I hope the owners of the dogs know, too, but the risk is being run that the matter will not go through under those circumstances. They are trying to gag the Government in forcing a vote at this stage. The Opposition knows the Government has the numbers—

*Member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! A great deal of latitude has been given to members on both sides of the House: one member has already suffered a warning and others are running perilously close to suffering the same fate.

**Mr EVANS:** I want to know why the move is being made today to force the vote. Private members' time is into about its third or fourth week; it runs for many weeks, and it is not normal practice to take votes so early in private members' time (and members can go right back through the records). Why are we being forced to a vote? Why put the thing at risk by forcing a vote at this stage?

**Mr Trainer:** How is it put at risk?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr EVANS:** I say that there are people on this side who still want to speak on the subject. Members opposite know, in putting it to a vote, that if the Government does not wish to have the vote carried today it will be lost. The sole purpose of the move is to make it appear that the Government is going to oppose the matter in total. That is the purpose of the move, because somebody let somebody else know that perhaps it is a good opportunity to come and see what happens. It is solely a political move: it is not a matter of whether the Alsatian Dogs Act or the German shepherd is recognised, the same as other dogs. That is not the reason at all.

The reason is to gain a political point; there is no other reason whatsoever. We all know that. When I, out of kindness, a fortnight ago said that this matter could be moved up the list from wherever it was to No. 1, and that there were two speakers on this side, I was never told that the move was to force a vote today. That is the cynical, nasty part of it; that I was used as a political tool, and there was no other reason. That is what has happened. Opposition members clearly know that. That is why I believe the Leader of the Opposition has left, because he now understands the seriousness of the situation.

**The Hon. R. G. Payne:** He had somewhere else to go; you know that.

**Mr EVANS:** There is somewhere we all should go, to the school of being honest with one another when agreements are made. The state of the Act at the moment is not totally satisfactory. I believe that the Alsatian, as it has been known in the past (or the German shepherd as it is now known) is a great dog and has been of service in the community in many areas.

I recognise that there is disquiet in the community and that, before the provision is removed, negotiations should occur to remove the disquiet, so that people can understand the change in provision. I do not believe that this matter has been handled in a way that will ensure that. It is not only a matter of democracy occurring in the eyes of those who move the provision in this place, it also has to appear to occur to those outside, whether they be owners or supporters of German shepherd dogs, or whether they be people who still hold some fears, such as the fears that the member for Napier held in April 1980, as evidenced by his own words recorded in *Hansard*.

These people in the community, whether on Kangaroo Island or elsewhere, do not have at hand all the resources that the member for Napier had to change his mind between that date and now. The member for Napier and others should think about the Government members who still want to speak and the people in the community who do not have all the evidence and material available to them.

At the moment I do not support the provision and I do not believe that there has been enough negotiation. I support looking at the overall situation, so that there is not discrimination, but it should be done by a better method than the one being used at the moment. For that reason, I oppose the provision as it stands.

**Mr HEMMINGS (Napier):** I move:  
That the question be put.

The House divided on the motion:

Ayes (19)—Messrs Abbott, L. M. F. Arnold, Bannon, M. J. Brown, Crafter, Duncan, Gregory, Hamilton, Hemmings (teller), Hoppood, Keneally, Langley, Payne, Peterson, Plunkett, Slater, Trainer, Whitten, and Wright.

Noes (22)—Mrs Adamson, Messrs Allison, P. B. Arnold, Ashenden, Becker, Billard, D. C. Brown, Chapman, Evans (teller), Glazbrook, Goldsworthy, Gunn, Lewis, Mathwin, Oswald, Randall, Rodda, Russack, Schmidt, Tonkin, Wilson, and Wotton.

Pairs—Ayes—Messrs Corcoran and McRae. Noes—Messrs Blacker and Olsen.

Majority of 3 for the Noes.

Motion thus negatived.

Mr RANDALL secured the adjournment of the debate.

### MARKET GARDENING INDUSTRY

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Lynn Arnold:

That, pursuant to Joint Standing Order No. 1, a joint committee be established as a matter of urgency to inquire into all aspects of the market gardening industry in South Australia with particular regard to:

- (a) wholesaling and retailing of produce, including the question of growers' markets; and
- (b) the need for technical assistance to the industry, including the proposal for a vegetable research institute.

(Continued from 1 September. Page 909.)

**The Hon. W. E. CHAPMAN (Minister of Agriculture):** I commend the member for Salisbury for his consistent and persistent interest in this matter, which he brought to the attention of the House recently and, indeed, I commend the member for Goyder, our colleague on this side, for his acting on behalf of market gardeners in his district, especially in that part of his district that extends south of the Adelaide Plains.

I assure the House that the Government and I, too, in the period that we have been in office, have worked very hard to satisfy the many needs of this industry. Since the Government came into office I have received many deputations from market gardeners, packers, wholesalers and merchants, all of whom have a deep involvement in the marketing of fruit and vegetables in South Australia. It is rather ironical that only today in Question Time we dealt with a matter directly associated with the marketing of fruit, in particular, the welfare of a prominent and well-known group in our community. I seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

### ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

The Legislative Council intimated that it had agreed to the House of Assembly's resolution.

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Hon. E. R. GOLDSWORTHY (Deputy Premier):** I move:

That the House do now adjourn.

**Mr BECKER (Hanson):** At the moment I am very concerned about a couple of areas affecting the community. One area about which I am concerned is consumerism and the attitude of retailers towards consumers. All the powers

that we have in relation to consumer affairs are not helping one little bit. Today there is a trend that if a consumer goes to a store and purchases something, and it is found that it has a fault, the retailer tells the consumer to see the manufacturer. I have several examples of this practice being adopted by wellknown retailers, for example, Hubbards, which sells at discount prices, and other retailers are doing the same thing in the white goods area. I refer to a recent situation which involved one of my constituents and Hubbards.

The consumer purchased an electric stove from Hubbards, which delivered it to the consumer's home. When the stove, having been delivered by Hubbards, was removed from its packaging the consumer noted that it had a ripple in the metal. The consumer contacted Hubbards and was informed that it was not Hubbards's fault because it came out of a sealed package and that the consumer should contact the manufacturer, Simpsons. After some haggling back and forth for almost nine months the top of the stove was replaced. Why must the consumer go back and forth to the manufacturer? Why must he grovel to the manufacturer to get it to replace something under guarantee? What is the retailer's role and responsibility? The retailer is in it to obtain a fast dollar and, once the product has been sold, he wipes his hands and gets out.

One may think that it is unlucky for Hubbards, as they sell thousands of articles each year. It is a massive organisation and it does not happen to anyone else. Believe it or not, the same consumer went back to Hubbards and bought a washing machine. The washing machine was delivered and the consumer and her husband spent some two hours trying to get it to work. They telephoned Hubbards the next morning and, having again been told to contact the manufacturer, they waited 24 hours for the manufacturer to come down and look at the machine. The mechanic checked some of the parts and found that it was not properly wired. In other words, a faulty machine had been sold as a brand new one, and the consumer had to go to the manufacturer.

As the mechanic for the manufacturer repaired the wires so that it would work, he said, 'Madam, your washing machine bowl is rusty. I should not tell you this, but really the bowl should be replaced. I will report it to the manufacturer.' He did so, and the manufacturer's representative came and took the washing machine away for 10 days. In that case, the consumer was without a product, which had been paid for, for 12 working days. One can imagine any household being without a washing machine: it is an inconvenience. Fortunately, these people still had their previous washing machine. When the new machine came back from the manufacturer, it had a new bowl. It worked successfully for about a week, but then broke down again. The manufacturer was contacted and was there within 24 hours (certainly much quicker), and a new motor had to be put in the machine. So, this machine has had a new bowl and a new motor. Hubbards would not know what was going on and could not care less. That is the attitude with retailers today.

If the white goods manufacturing industry is experiencing problems and retailers are experiencing problems with consumers not spending, I blame the retailers and the manufacturers for putting out poor quality products. Certainly, there appears to be little, if any, quality control. No washing machines should ever leave a manufacturer not wired, let alone not properly wired. No manufacturer should sell or have distributed as brand new a piece of equipment that is rusty. There must be a responsibility on behalf of the retailer, also. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people in this State and in the Commonwealth of Australia, are being virtually ripped off by the poor quality and standard of Australian manufactured goods. It annoys me when we get these com-

plaints to have to stand up and defend the free-enterprise system and the rights of these people, when this is the standard and quality of their product. It is not good enough. It is high time someone had the courage to tell the manufacturers and retailers to smarten their game or go out of business.

When we say that, the Opposition says that there is a record number of bankruptcies at the present moment. I do not take much notice of the bankruptcies and liquidations that have been going on for the past three or four years. I investigated, when the Party to which I belong was in Opposition, the situation in regard to the economy of the State. I can assure members that many of the liquidations and so-called bankruptcies have involved straw companies that have been floated for tax-dodging purposes. Someone ought to do some homework and ascertain how many companies were formed, taken over or liquidated on 30 June. There is no excuse for the attitude of retailers today.

It is evident not only in the white goods industry but also in the carpet industry. I have had complaints from constituents who have bought rolls of carpet and had it laid. Having seen a mark across the carpet they have been told, 'It is the end of the roll. The mark will wear out in six months time.' It is a sad story. If we are to create and maintain employment levels (and certainly the white goods industry has suffered tremendously in South Australia), some of the blame must be sheeted home to the retailers and manufacturers. The job situation is in their hands.

**Mr Russack:** How are the retailers involved?

**Mr BECKER:** They could not care less as long as they sell their products and make their profit. Retailers are not even interested if the consumer has any problems once the product has been sold because the responsibility is covered by guarantees and, therefore, the manufacturer has to service and honour such guarantees. The inconvenience, the time involved, the hassle and the fact that consumers have to grovel to manufacturers even to get their representatives to call must be considered.

Instant service or 'on the hour' service is almost gone. There is 24-hour or 48-hour service, but there is a lowering of standards in the community. If people want to carry on in that way in business they will not last, and I have no sympathy with them whatever.

The next matter I wish to raise deals with the question I asked this afternoon concerning rock concerts in South Australia. I make it clear that I have enjoyed some of the music played by entertainers who have visited South Australia and entertained our young people. Some of the rock music is good.

**The Hon. D. J. Hopgood:** But you were not in the front two rows.

**Mr BECKER:** No, but if I had been in the front two rows for Cold Chisel I probably would have ended up in a brawl. I have attended many concerts with my family, especially at Football Park, which have been extremely enjoyable, and I have never had any reason to believe that young people cannot conduct themselves in a proper manner, which they do. Generally, it has been a situation where patrons who are unable to gain entry to the venue, because seats are sold out, have behaved in a manner that leaves much to be desired.

This was highlighted in February 1981 (page 3205 of *Hansard*) when I asked the Premier a question about rock concerts, behaviour and control. It was promised that the promoters would be approached and something done in that regard. During the Cold Chisel concert last weekend we unfortunately experienced problems with noise.

When I say 'noise' it is probably insulting to performers to describe it that way, but it is the level of sound coming from their amplification that is causing the problem. Amazing

as it is, people at Lockleys and one person at West Beach rang my home on late Saturday night, and other people generally in Lockleys, Henley Beach South and then into the district of the member for Peake, including Brooklyn Park, Mile End and Thebarton, have expressed concern about the noise. Today, the residential environment is something that everyone is extremely conscious of. People have the right to enjoy themselves and not to be annoyed by their neighbours or any commercial function that destroys that residential environment.

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

**The Hon. D. J. HOPGOOD (Baudin):** In entering this debate this afternoon, it is necessary that I bring two charges against the Minister of Environment and Planning. They arise out of both the answer that he gave to a question to me earlier today and from other knowledge that I have been able to glean. It relates, of course, to the projected sale of Penfold's Magill Winery.

My two charges against the Minister are, first, massive inaction in connection with this matter and, secondly, that this afternoon he gave an answer to the House which, if not a downright untruth, was calculated to mislead Parliament. What are the facts? There is a projected \$2 500 000 deal between Penfolds and two South Australian property developers, Mr J. J. Roche (the former Lord Mayor) and N. L. Stokes. This 190-year old 16 ha property used for viticulture is to be divided into 150 housing allotments. Mr Spalvins, for the company, claims that the development will realise about \$200 000 an acre.

When this matter was written up in the *Advertiser* of 26 August three mitigating factors were listed; three factors which should cushion the blow for South Australia. These were: first, that Penfolds would actually retain the winery itself; that the Burnside council would get 12½ per cent of the area as a reserve; and that the Grange Cottage would go to the National Trust. I point out that in each of those cases there is no sacrifice involved so far as the company is concerned. I understand that Penfolds need to retain the winery, which at present it uses for blending purposes. Further, under the Planning and Development Act something like 12½ per cent of a developed area must be retained as an open space, anyway, so it is not a gift but something that is required by law and, thirdly, by transferring the Grange Cottage to the National Trust the company no longer has to be involved in expenses of upkeep, for what, after all, is a very old building. Its upkeep and maintenance will come from some other source.

I do not think that those factors I have outlined are mitigating factors in the sense that the company is in any way being generous or giving anything away. What about the people of South Australia and of the metropolitan area? As a result of the development they will get a dress circle suburb for 150 relatively wealthy property holders. Whether we think that that in itself is a good thing or a bad thing, I am not too sure. But at least that consideration must be set alongside other factors: first, there will be the loss of the only metropolitan vineyard left that is greater than 10 hectares in area; and secondly, the development would mean the loss of a significant open space area. I know very little about viticulture and I do not drink, so the second matter, naturally, weighs rather more heavily with me than does the first. Cities need lungs; they need open spaces. This area that abuts the hills face zone, visually, is a very important adjunct to the city. The development would mean its disappearance, both as a visual aspect and as an open space area, to the detriment of the amenity for those currently living on the western boundary of the property, people who

are the constituents of honourable members opposite—not people who live in Labor electorates.

Having set the scene, I now refer to the Minister because, after all, he is the main topic of my comments. This afternoon I asked him in the House what advice he had obtained from the Heritage Committee in relation to this matter and what action he had taken as a result of that advice, or alternatively, what advice had the committee of its own volition tendered to him. I further asked what action the Minister had taken as a result of that, and, in either case, what were the reasons for the action or lack of action. The Minister replied that he had requested the committee's advice and that the committee had tendered to him certain advice on which he would be acting shortly. It is very difficult to know what sort of action the Government can take at this stage. I notice that in answer to a question in the House a while ago from the member for Fisher the Premier replied that he was very concerned that the cottage should be listed on the register and that, if that had not yet happened, it was important that it should happen.

It may well be that that is the action that the Minister has in mind, but it falls very far short of what people, particularly in some of the eastern suburbs, are asking for. The important thing is that the Minister said that he had taken an initiative in this matter, that he had received certain advice and that he was going to take further initiatives. What are the facts? I happen to know that at its February meeting, seven months ago, there having been no request from the Minister, of its own volition the Heritage Committee recommended to the Minister that the whole area be listed.

So much for the Minister either taking any initiative in this matter or being concerned to see that this problem was resolved. Where has that recommendation been for the past seven months? Has it been in the 'too-hard' basket on the Minister's desk? Has it been somewhere clogged up in the bowels of his department? Has he ever referred the matter to Cabinet for a decision? Was he bowled over in Cabinet on his recommendation on behalf of the committee that it be listed? We do not know the answers to those questions. We are not told.

Rather, the Minister seeks to give the impression that he recently, as a result of this matter floating to the surface because of media comment on it, took an initiative, has received certain advice and intends to act on it. Baloney! Hooey! The matter was decided, so far as the Heritage Committee was concerned, at its February meeting (I believe on 17 February). The recommendation was for the listing of the whole of that area. That recommendation went to the Minister, and there has been massive inaction on his part since.

This is a very serious matter. I do not know that there are many people in the community who realise how long it is since a high level advisory body from this Government made that recommendation, yet nothing has happened. I am also aware that certain people are very disappointed with the Premier over this matter. The Leader, through the news media, first raised the possibility that these vineyards could be at risk. At that time the Premier was reported as saying that it would be a tragedy if the Grange were lost. Also, it would be a shame if the vineyard were lost. In the Parliament, the Premier enlarged on that remark in response to a question when he said:

We would like to see the whole area retained, including the Grange vineyards.

It appears now that the Premier has approved what is to happen. It is interesting to read what was said by the society's President, Dr Angove, about the Premier and the Minister, as follows:

I believe now that they have abrogated their word. They have let the side down.

A lot of people are upset about this matter. Mr Paul Lloyd quoted a famous Australian in this morning's paper when suggesting that people maintain their rage. That statement was first made in rather infamous circumstances. I am sure that Mr Lloyd thought that it was quite appropriate because he considers that these are also infamous circumstances. It is up to the Government to rescue something from this mess.

Motion carried.

At 5.48 p.m. the House adjourned until Thursday 16 September at 2 p.m.